FAC members/alternates attending and their institutions:
Abbas Aminmansour (UIUC)
Sonya Armstrong (NIU)
Daniel Beach (at-large, Dominican University)
John Bennett (at large, Lake Land College)
Paul Bialek (Trinity International)
Darcel Brady (Olivet Nazarene University)
Dan Cortese (GSU)
John D’Anca (at-large, Oakton College)
Diane Dean (ISU)
Marie Donovan (at-large, DePaul)
George Fero (McKendree)
Luissette Hernandez (Daley College)
Andy Howard (at-large, IIT)
Matthew Hurt (Parkland College)
Lisa Knecht-Sabres (Midwestern)
James Marshall (Illinois College)
Lucy Park (UIC)
Devi Potluri (CSU)
Steven Rock (WIU)
Shawn Schumacher (DeVry)
Aida Shekib (GSU)
Steve Vivian (South Suburban College)
Christopher Whitt (Augustana College)
Susan Wiediger (SIUE)
Renee Wright (Triton)

Representatives/Institutions not present:
Vicki Childs (UIS)
Terry Clark (SIUC)
Steve DePasquale (at-large, Kankakee Community College)
Hope Essien (Malcolm X)
Stan Hatfield (Southwestern Illinois College)
Lisa Hollis-Sawyer (NEIU)
Irene Jacobsen (EIU)
Marjorie Johnson-Hilliard (Northwestern)
Dawn Munson (Elgin)
Sara Ray Stoelinga (University of Chicago)
Raymond Torralba (Truman College)
Kevin Weston (Rend Lake College)
The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am. Triton Dean Deborah Baness-King was introduced and talked about Triton’s Scaling Up Student Support Services (TRiO) program. This program targets and assists 160 low income, first generation, and disabled students. Triton is on the second cycle of a grant and there have been some revisions in the program to improve results. She highlighted pilot projects for the use of peer mentors and tutoring. The program’s objectives include reaching goals set for rates of persistence, good academic standing, four year graduation, and transferring. This fits into Triton’s five year strategic plan. They are working on implementing a first year experience program.

In response to questions, the Dean noted that the grade replacement program was successful for the TRiO students. Faculty are involved in advising and career mentoring; students are matched with faculty based on interests. The same person could be both a mentor and an advisor. They track both two year and four year graduation rates for the students.

Marie noted that some FAC members do not seem to be receiving emails from our fac@ibhe.org address. Even after investigation, it is not clear what the problem is; Shawn is the point person to contact for this. Candace Mueller joined us by phone and noted that the House is scheduled to meet on December 2; the Senate is not meeting until January. The legislative calendar for the spring session is out. The expectation is that a budget agreement won’t happen until then. IBHE is working on implementation of legislation approved last spring including the Commission on the Future of the Workforce (all three sectors of higher education will be represented on this; interested parties can contact Candace). FAC recommendations for replacement of Allan Karnes on the Board have been sent to the Governor’s office.

Gretchen suggested we look at the “What’s New” section of the IBHE web site. Gretchen and Amanda Winters attended a CAEL (military prior learning assessment) meeting along with Marie. Anyone attending the December FAC meeting that still needs a hotel room can contact Gretchen; she may be able to extend the state hotel rate. The meeting is at the Illinois Association of School Boards, where we met last December. Shawn will be distributing information on our December meeting; we will be responsible for our own breakfast and lunch. Devi suggested we cover the lunch for the IBHE staff. The December IBHE meeting is at DePaul; caucuses can suggest issues Marie could bring forward. Marie submitted testimony to a legislative committee about teacher licensing (edTPA) and is working on issues surrounding alternative accreditation.

Caucuses are asked to consider our draft mission statement. There was also interest in the FAC participating in the University Dialog series sponsored by the Association of American Publishers. It is described as “Roundtable discussions that bring stakeholders together to increase awareness on the role of publishing and technology in reducing higher education costs and improving student success.” Perhaps a couple of hours from an upcoming FAC meeting could be utilized for this.
Caucuses met. Andy indicated that the Privates worked on ideas for the mission statement. Who is the intended audience? It is suggested that in pursuing the idea of the University Dialog series, we invited someone from the American Association of Publishers to our January or February meeting. John reported that the Community Colleges discussed persistence, reverse transfers, including publishers at an upcoming FAC meeting, and our mission statement. For the Publics, Devi had some mission statement changes, suggested devoting a morning session at our March meeting for a University Dialog, bringing in Chicago Tribune reporters to our February meeting and use some of the January meeting to prepare for this.

The minutes from our October meeting are still be reconstructed. Devi took us through our new web site, hosted by CSU. It is not fully complete and needs a logo. Sonya, Renee, and Danny volunteered to work with Devi. Kevin Weston will assist with the logo. The address is: www.csu.edu/ibhe-fac. Some ideas were shared for a news and events page; Devi was thanked for his work. The three caucus chairs were asked to meet during lunch to work on the mission statement. If you need a FAC-IBHE identification card, let Marie know. If you are taking Amtrak from Chicago to our December meeting in Springfield, let Marie know.

Following lunch, suggested revisions to the draft mission statement were discussed. A committee consisting of Sue, George, and John D. will work on this.

We were joined by State Representative Kathleen Willis from the 77th District, who is in the middle of her second term. Previously, she worked at Elmhurst College and was a member of her local school board. She is on five committees including higher education and school policy/curriculum and also serves on several task forces. She outlined the current budget situation and the desire to get MAP funds released. Some legislators do not understand how MAP grants benefit the state; it give us a role to educate them. 71 votes are needed this fall to pass any legislation in the House; this drops to 60 votes in January (still 71 to override vetoes). By January, legislators will know if they will be in contested elections. Perhaps an 18 month budget will be considered. Willis was unaware of the IBHE report on low enrolled programs but suggested a slow approach on this. As for PARCC, she is not a fan. Why does the testing money need to go out of state? She is concerned with two different types of tests and the frequency. We need to find a way to restore affordability to higher education. She suggested we talk to committee members, send ideas for new legislation, build a relationship and give credit to good legislators. On the edTPA issues, it is now in the information gathering stage; there is room for compromise and maybe slowing it down. It has doubled the price of testing. Legislative caucuses are often where bipartisan legislation bubbles up from.

Triton Dean Kevin Li gave a presentation on the non-cognitive aspects of student success. It is a way to better understand students and see how factors such as self-discipline and persistence contribute to student learning. He explored the correlation between various factors and GPA and retention. He described an ETS test (Success Navigator) used to measure student skills. He considered the key role of classroom behavioral ratings on academic success. The interaction between a student’s effort level
and math readiness on passing a course was noted. He concluded with the implications of the findings, including focusing on factors that we can control (such as student motivation and inspiration). [note: Shawn has recently distributed the slides from the presentation.]

Thanks were extended to Renee and Triton for hosting. The meeting adjourned at 2:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Rock,
FAC Secretary