

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Mississippi/Illinois Room
September 4, 2025 – 2:30pm
APPROVED MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 2:31 pm on Thursday, September 4, 2025 in MUC Mississippi/Illinois Room by President Wai Cheah.

Present: **President** Wai Cheah, **Past President** Marcus Agustin, **President-Elect** Susan Wiediger, Undrah Baasanjav, Leah Baecht, Olga Bezhanova, Igor Crk, Jacob Del Rio, Stephen Duda, Carole Frick, Isabel Gay, Ruben Gomez, Mary Kaemmerer, Tim Kalinowski, Marie Klopfenstein, Julie Zimmermann for Susan Kooimann, Erik Krag, Ramana Madupalli, Adriana Martinez, Cassandra Maynard, Mark McKenney, Lynne Miller, Steve Morrese, Sorin Nastasia, Barbara Nwacha, Jon Pettibone (ex officio), Beidi Qiang, Ken Rawson, Mark Ruscin, Jeffrey Sabby (ex officio), Dan Segrist, Chrissy Simmons, Rebecca Swartz, Gloria Sweida, Jenna Tebbenkamp, Melissa Thomeczek, Kevin Tucker, Saad Ullah, Jessica Ulrich, Cinnamon VanPutte, Andrew Wesemann, Chin-Chuan Wei, Sophia Wilson, Amy Winn, Duff Wrobbel, James Wulfsong

Absent: Jennifer Hooksfra, Sungho Kim, Tianyu Li, Nima Lotfi, Marion Prats, Kamran Shavezipur, David Sherrill, Jason Stacy

Guests: Elza Ibrosheva

Consideration of Minutes:

There was an error May 1, 2025 meeting minutes, with Wai Cheah's name spelled incorrectly. Once corrected, the minutes were approved as amended.

Announcements:

A. Appointments

- i. Academic Suspension Appeals Committee – Dr. Thomas Foster
- ii. Director of Government and Community Relations Search Committee – Professor Michael Stumbras
- iii. Director of Institute for Community Justice and Racial Equity Search Committee – Professor Rodrick Whetstone
- iv. Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance Search Committee – Dr. Scott Sellnow-Richmond

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Elza Ibroscheva, Associate Provost for Accreditation, Assessment, and Academic Planning, spoke to Faculty Senate as Provost Cobb's substitute due to a family emergency. Dr. Ibroscheva discussed the following matters:

- A.** Overall enrollment at SIUE rose 7.7%, exceeding 12,800 students. Undergraduate degree-seeking enrollment increased 5.7%. The university experienced significant growth in Nursing, Engineering, and Business programs, meeting regional workforce needs. Retention rates improved, especially among African American students, due to stronger advising and engagement. Challenges persist, primarily with international student enrollment and

retention, intensified by visa uncertainty. Sustaining a global learning environment requires strengthening international partnerships.

- B.** We had 64 faculty attend Convocation. Your support makes it more meaningful by connecting students with mentors who will guide them throughout their studies.
- C.** We welcomed 23 new faculty at SIUE this Fall.
- D.** Regarding Academic Program Prioritization:
 - a.** Phase I agreements have been reached with unions and faculty in Chemistry, Art History, and Physics. Discussions continue with Music and Foreign Language & Literature.
 - b.** Please see **Unfinished Business, E.** for a summary of Program Prioritization, Phase II.

Unfinished Business:

- A.** Update on approval to changes to Policy 1Q8 (Implementation and Administrative Responsibility Policy) – still waiting on approval from the Provost and Chancellor
- B.** Update on approval to changes to Retired/Emeritus Faculty Policy – still waiting on approval from the Provost and Chancellor
- C.** Update on approval to changes to Policy 1C1 (Guidelines for Course Categories, Class Scheduling and Publications) – still waiting on approval from the Provost and Chancellor
- D.** Update on approval to changes to Policy 1H1 (General Education Program) – still waiting on approval from the Provost and Chancellor
- E.** Program Prioritizations: Phase II – The administration and two faculty unions have entered an MOU outlining a Phase II process. The University will distribute a memo to departments raising questions or concerns about programs and curriculum. Departments must review and develop a detailed plan to address these concerns by February 1, 2026. Recommendations will be made to the Provost by April 15, 2026.

New Business:

- A.** Open Meetings Act – New Faculty Senate members must take the Open Meetings Act training. Additionally, each Council must designate one person to take the training each year. Please email a copy of your OMA training certificate to mtadloc@siue.edu. The training can be accessed here: <https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/open-and-honest-government/pac/pac-training/>

Reports from Standing Committees:

IBHE Faculty Advisory Council: see attached report.

UPBC: Will meet tomorrow at 9:30 am for the first time this Academic Year.

Reports from Council Chairs:

Faculty Development Council: see attached report.

President: See attached report.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm

Submitted by Michael Tadlock-Jackson, University Governance

IBHE-FAC report for the SIUE Faculty Senate meeting on 4 September 2025

The IBHE-FAC has met twice since the last Senate meeting in May. For new senators, the Faculty Advisory Council to the Illinois Board of Higher Education is unusual in the country – we have representatives from each of the twelve public four-year institutions, twelve from private and proprietary four-year institutions, and twelve from community colleges. We meet ten times a year, are advisory to the IBHE, and discuss a range of topics. The FAC website is <http://www.facibhe.org/>.

The IBHE-FAC met on 16 May 2024 at the Illinois Association of School Boards in Springfield, with a limited Zoom option.

Shawn Schumacher, FAC Chair, had met with Jill Gebke to discuss the impact of revised Carnegie classification on RAC rotations, and contacted Dr. Nora Lee Heist (IBHE public faculty representative) to welcome her. *Mike Philips, FAC Legislative Liaison*, reported on the legislative visits FAC members carried out the day before. Some of the legislators expressed more interest in meeting with the FAC, as they mostly hear from lobbyists or administration and value hearing faculty (and student) views, and there was discussion of whether that risks conflict if an IBHE relationship exists. *Jill Gebke, Assistant Director Academic Affairs for IBHE*, reported that IBHE is very busy with an unusually high number of program reviews and is continuing to work on staffing issues. *Dan Hrozencik, FAC Vice-Chair*, reported that the higher ed funding bill appears unlikely to pass this year and the mood at coalition meetings was much less optimistic; the issue is lack of state funding to implement the formula.

During the business meeting, minutes were approved, and an update on the elections process provided. During public caucus, the discussion focused on the issue of baccalaureate degrees being offered at community colleges (CCs) and the relationships between community colleges and the four-year institutions. One issue regarding lack of relationships could be the niche character of some degrees desired by the CC. One of the broader areas is nursing, but the pay differential between urban and rural pay for degrees could lead to rural flight, unless the student is placebound.

Pranav Kothari, IBHE Chair, discussed a range of topics with the FAC: Working with ISAC (Illinois Student Assistance Commission) and ICCB (Illinois Community College Board) on one click admission, so that students get offers without needing to fill out the CommonApp. All public universities provided equity plans as part of the strategic plan (A Thriving Illinois); IBHE has reviewed them and a team of national experts are also reviewing them. A lot of workforce data and information about trends needs to be considered in higher education. Student basic needs supported by the benefits navigator position. Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois program is not suspended; this program is in Illinois law, but some institutions have chosen to cease participating. IBHE supports Pritzker's proposal related to CC baccalaureates. There was a general discussion about AI in higher education coursework and the importance of reading, writing, and speaking.

The IBHE-FAC met on 25 June 2025 in conjunction with an IBHE meeting; the morning was at University of Illinois – Springfield, and the afternoon was at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, both with a limited Zoom option.

Dan Hrozencik, FAC Vice-Chair, reviewed next year's list of meeting hosts. [The Coalition Transforming Higher Education](#) is now focusing on the veto session. *Jill Gebke, Assistant Director Academic Affairs for IBHE*, reviewed some budget highlights: increases in funding to IBHE and ICCB to support the one-click application process in hopes that will increase Illinois retention; and MAP increased 10 million (total now 721.6 million). *Mike Philips, FAC Legislative Liaison*, shared bill updates. Of particular interest are creation of the Public University Direct Admission Program Act (HB 3522) and amendments to the Dual Credit Quality Act (HB 2967) and the Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act (HB 3385), all of which awaited Governor action at that time. For up-to-date information, see www.ilga.gov. Election results for next year's officers were reported. Working groups and caucuses met and reported out, mostly about goals for next year.

Jennifer B. Barnett, Associate Director of Workforce Analytics, IBHE, presented on “Aligning Higher Education with Workforce Needs”. She talked about using data to detect gaps and align programs to better retain talent, support graduate success, and develop a stronger economy. One example is life sciences, which is often geared toward graduate education...but if people stop with a bachelors, there is 25% unemployment and persistent unemployment or out-of-field employment 5 years out. In Illinois, most mismatch is at degree level rather than field, leading to people overqualified or underqualified for the jobs that are available. A [regional snapshot report on the Quad cities region](#) took a year and is 200 pages ([press release](#)). Reports for all ten economic regions are planned and the hope is that replication will be more efficient.

She emphasized that data is always backwards-looking and do not consider economic shocks such as Covid or AI. There are a range of databases and tools that they use, but need predictions require art, science, and insight. Demographics can provide ideas of what might be good populations for recruiting efforts or upcoming areas of need. For example, general and operations managers tend to be a little older, as experience is a factor, so should programs try to provide opportunities for students to build experience; bookkeeping, accounting and auditing is an aging field so may be facing high demand soon due to retirements; registered nurses tend toward younger and demand is high despite little growth due to transfer and leaving.

They are looking at CIP to SOC crosswalks – the connections between degree and occupation. They can track talent and degrees by whether they stay in the state or not. There is a [workforce dashboard](#) available; virtual walkthroughs are being planned for how to use it. She encouraged programs to talk about the many job options that students may not be aware of, so that they consider the range of options for their degree rather than only what they came in knowing about.

The next IBHE-FAC meeting will be September 19th, at University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign.

With regards, Susan D. Wiediger, representative for SIUE to the IBHE-FAC. For more information about any of these items, please contact me via email at swiedig@siue.edu. SIUE's alternate representative is Shelly Goebel-Parker, egoeb1p@siue.edu.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

EDWARDSVILLE

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL Report to Faculty Senate 09.04.2025

Prepared by Christine Simmons, Chair FDC

I. 2025 SIUE Excellence in Teaching Awards

- a. Recommendations for the awards were presented to the Office of the Provost in May by TEAC
 - i. Congratulations to Dr. Sinan Onal (SOE) and Elizabeth Cady, PharmD (SOP)
 - ii. <https://www.siu.edu/news/2025/07/IndustrialEngineeringChair.SinanOnal.PhD.andSchoolofPharmacysElizabethCady.PharmD.ReceiveSIUEs2025ExcellenceinTeachingAwards.shtml>

II. Center for Faculty Development and Innovation (CFDI) Fellows

- a. CFDI added new 'Fellow' roles in New Faculty Support, IMPACT Pathways, and Changemakers
 - i. Thank you to those that served on the hiring committees over the summer!
- b. CFDI is currently looking to add two additional fellows in Professional Leadership and Compliance and Technology
 - i. Applications being accepted through September 5th, 2025
- c. Current CFDI Fellows
 - i. Learning Strategies and Connections Fellow – Dr. Maurina Aranda
 - ii. New faculty Support Fellow – Dr. Candace Hall
 - iii. Changemakers Fellows – Drs. Shannon McCarragher and Pamela Williams
 - iv. Teaching Excellence Fellow – Dr. Allison Sauerwein
 - v. IMPACT Pathways Fellow – Liz Stygar, M.A.

III. Continuous Improvement Conference (CIC) – Spring 2026

- a. Save the date for the Spring 2026 CIC – February 27th, 2026!
- b. More information to follow!

President's Report to Faculty Senate

September 4, 2025

Meeting with Drs. Gireesh Gupchup and Khalid Meksem (August 22, 2025)

- A. 2025 Faculty Collaboration Award
 - The award winners will be introduced at the Board of Trustees meeting scheduled for September 18, 2025, to be held at the East St. Louis campus.
- B. Faculty Advisory Committee
 - The role of co-chairs was highlighted.
 - The agenda for the new academic calendar year was discussed.

Meeting with Mr. Steven Green, Staff Senate President (August 21, 2025)

- Discussed potential collaborative efforts between Faculty Senate and Staff Senate.

Meeting with Chancellor Minor (August 12, 2025)

- A. Faculty Senate Agenda
 - Potential ideas were exchanged.
- B. Academic Program Prioritization (Phase 1)
 - Our respective reflections were discussed.

Constituency Heads Meeting (June 3, 2025)

- Attended on behalf of Dr. Marcus Agustin.

Other Faculty-Senate Related Activities

- 1) Partook in the 2025 New Student Convocation as a member of the platform party on August 15, 2025.
- 2) Appointed Dr. Scott Sellnow-Richmond to serve on the Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance Search Committee in July, 2025.