

July Senate Report

The FAC met at UIS in Springfield on June 17, 2011. We had 5 guests:

Representative Naomi Jacobsen, Chair of the Higher Ed Committee and a member of the Higher Ed Appropriations Committee.

Mark Jarner, Higher Ed Committee staffer.

Mike Andrechak, Associate Provost of Budgets.

George Reid, Executive Director of IBHE.

Alan Phillips, the new Deputy Director of Budget and Planning at IBHE, and

Bob Blankenberger, Deputy Director Academic Affairs at IBHE.

It was clear from the conversation with the Representative and her staffer that she was happy about the “pretty good budget” received by higher ed and the prospect of performance funding. In the future they would like to hear how education enriches the lives of all citizens and how decent appropriations for higher education in Illinois can set Illinois up to pass other big states (California, Texas, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Florida) in terms of the educational attainment of the population and better position the state to attract employers.

Much of the discussion with the Board staff dealt with how performance funding would be implemented. A steering committee will meet in late July to begin the process of determining the metrics.

There has been a shakeout at ISAC, over the investment policies of the College Illinois pre-paid tuition program. In May, Don Mcneil was replaced as Commission Chairman and last Friday, a reworked commission severed ties with Andy Davis, ISAC’s executive director. ISAC is the agency that administers the MAP program and other Illinois financial aid programs.

One other item of note: The Board is in the process of rulemaking to amend the process of gaining approval of institutions and new programs that will require the submission of additional data and a continuing reporting process that will allow a tighter scrutiny of institutions and programs that may not serve the best interest of the students who enroll.