

**Faculty Advisory Council-Faculty Senate Report
December 2007**

The FAC met last week in Springfield with the Executive Director Judy Erwin, Executive Deputy Director for Budget Mike Baumgartner, Associate Director for Academic Affairs Debby Meisner, and Deputy Director for Academic Affairs Gary Alexander.

Judy Erwin spoke mainly about the P-20 Council, which under recent legislation is scheduled to begin in July 08. There is a little confusion about what the council will do. It has no real power, no budget and no staff. Hopefully it can help the various entities that do have power, like the Board of Education, the Community college board and the IBHE produce consistent policy. One of the biggest problems facing higher education is the lack of college readiness of incoming students. We in higher ed need to work with K-12 to bring up the standards and help them change their curriculum to prepare students for college work. Hopefully the P-20 council can act as a catalyst for change on this issue.

Budgetwise: The state's revenues are not up to projections. This could be bad news-State agencies could be in for a rescission, but it is too early to tell.

Affordability:

In 2000 the National center for Public Policy and Higher Education gave Illinois an A for college affordability. By 2006, the same group gave the state an F. Here are a few numbers driving the failing grade as reported by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

From FY 1997 to FY 2007 in constant dollars:

1. Attendance costs-Increased 47%.
2. Tuition and Fees-Increased 69%
3. Family income-Increased between 2 and 8%, depending on income level.
4. Map awards-decreased

State Appropriations for public universities for FY 2008 is 6.3% less than what it was in 1993.

The net result is the state has slowly but surely shifted the burden of higher education from the state as a whole to the student. It is like a user fee. Demographics show the proportion of college students from the higher income families in the state is way up. In general, high income students are not going at a higher rate-but lower income students are going at a lower rate. And the numbers explain why.

First quintile family income-2005, \$16,570-Expected family contribution and remaining need--2007-\$11,360, or about 69% of total family income.

Second quintile family income-2005, \$39,812-Expected family contribution and remaining need -2007-\$12,378, or about 31% of total family income.

Third quintile family income-2005, \$61,729-Expected family contribution and remaining need -\$16,328, or about 26% of total family income.

Obviously these amounts are pretty stiff for most families making these amounts and may preclude a higher education for many of those families.

In current budget news: Speaker Madigan has proposed a gaming bill that would authorize a huge land based casino in Chicago, 2 more riverboats, expanded capacity at the existing riverboats and slot machines at racetracks. This is all supposed to bring in over a billion each year (split 70% capital and 30% education), plus about a billion in year one (each slot has to be bought at \$50,000). This may make it, but it all has to be combined with a capital bill and something to bail out CTA. Will it all get done, who knows.