

Appendix 3 to the Faculty Senate Minutes of December 8, 2009

December 2009 Report to Faculty Senate

Since the last senate meeting, I attended FAC meetings at Dominican University in River Forest and in Springfield.

In River Forest we met with Chapin Rose, a Republican from Charleston who is a member of the house higher education appropriations committee. He of course blamed all the mess on the democrats. Once we got beyond that he did indicate that massive cuts to higher education and social service agencies would hurt his district. He indicated that higher education has to give the House something, something that can differentiate higher education from all other state agencies and providers who will be lobbying to be spared the big cuts coming. He indicated a tuition for appropriations deal would be looked upon favorably.

In Springfield we met with the Executive Director Judy Irwin. Just two days before we met, the governor appointed the P-20 Council in compliance with a statute that directed the governor to do so four years ago. The governor's office indicated the P-20 Council would enable Illinois to compete for 400 million in federal Race to the Top dollars. She indicated that was not the case. The state was able to do so without the P-20 Council, but she was still happy it got done.

She also addressed the budget situation and the lack of cash flow from the state. For this year-the state simply does not have the cash. In some respects we are lucky-We have an income fund with which we can manage cash flow. At the same time, the state knows that-So we kind of get placed low on the list—at least until we get to a crisis point. So in effect, we change the order we spend funds-Normally it is appropriations first and income fund second-which allows us to cash manage and earn income on the income fund. By forcing us to switch the order of spending, we end up earning less interest.

For next year-It is bad. Even an income tax increase will not provide enough funds-there will still be cuts.

We debated a resolution calling for an appropriations for tuition increase limit. The idea was to differentiate higher education and also put us on the side of our students-who can't afford ever higher tuitions. Unfortunately we were unable to come to a consensus on the idea. A few of the publics did not want to limit their ability to increase tuition and the privates were more interested in MAP increases. We will try again in January.