

December Faculty Senate Report

The Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE met in Springfield with Acting Executive Director Don Sevener, Executive Deputy Director for Planning and Budgeting, Mike Baumgartner and the Deputy Director for Academic Affairs, Robert Blankenberger.-

Sevener first talked about the new website developed by Board staff to connect with legislator, other stakeholders in higher education and the general public. The site is 1Illinois.org. It has 8 videos they hope will go viral and try to link up the goals of the public agenda with what we need. The board plans to gradually attract traffic to the website by email, twitter and facebook. The site is well done and the videos do lay out the case for strengthening higher ed.

Sevener also talked about the search for a new Executive Director. The Board has made an offer and a new director should be in place by January 1.

Mike Baumbartner talked about budgetary matters. First-FY 10 payments-the tobacco bonds should enable the state to make good on all FY 10 payments. FY 11. No MAP funds have gone out for 2011—To the Schools. No indication of when this would happen. Chicago State is having trouble making December 15 and 31 payrolls. Not likely the state will allow them to default. FY 12. Governor's office wants to use the David Osborn approach to budgeting—Which is we have X dollars available—Each function of government should be prioritized and given its prioritized share of the available dollars. A good thing about that approach—Education is the highest priority according to the governor's office. Baumgartner's best guess-We would be extremely lucky to get a flat budget. Legislators keep talking about additional efficiencies in higher education. When pressed about what do they mean, all three individuals responded that we have been more efficient-Look at how appropriations have gone down, but that they probably mean a reduction in program inventory. In other words, before we give you more money you have got to show us you will be better stewards by eliminating some things that are redundant in the state or not done very well by your school, or that have low numbers at your school.