



Illinois Community College Faculty Association

Friday, February 14, 2025, 8:30 – 10:00 am, Via Zoom

Members Present: Mary Rojas-Carlson, Carla S Presnell, Joseph Przybyla, Jean-Marie Taylor, Jeremy Bachelor, David Lewis and Hong Fei

I. Call to Convene.

II. President's Report by Mary:

Conference Update:

We reserved block rooms at the Best Western Hotel near the College of DuPage. It has a convenient location that is close to shopping and the conference.

Mary is working with design students, involving them in designing or improving our media materials.

Mary asks input about choosing a speaker. We prefer local candidates. We have a person from the Triton College, a very good speaker. Her topic will be "Why consider sending your children to community colleges?". It is an innovative topic that faculty will be interested in. Members had some comments and questions. Q: Was this speech recorded and online? A: No. Comments: This topic is very important and interesting because we sometimes forgot that parents are stakeholders. It is also because it reminds us of all the reasons for which we do what we do. Today, both faculty and parents need to be the rock in a young people's life.

Other keynote topics include AI and mental health.

We will start to promote the conference and the speaker (if decided) right away. We are using multiple marketing tools including social media, the website, and possibly brochures and flyers. Q: What will be the theme? A: Teaching and Learning Excellence.

III. Vice President's Report by Jeremy:

General discussion about direction as an organization:

Talking about topics that would of importance to faculty, I know a lot of faculties felt burnout, in their roles every day. Perhaps we can do something with the keynote or strategy with theme of finding our passion again. It is just for throwing out ideas for theme or keynotes - re-engaging.re-energizing.

Together with Jean-Marie, we are following a newer senate bill SB1960 introduced last week. This is the re-introduced Dual Credit. There are a lot of similarities with the HB 5020, but with changes and improvements.

David: Currently, with the international political development, it is critical to do something for supporting Ukraine students or supporting students in general.

Fei: We should consider making a statement whenever a pressing issue comes around, such as the protection of refugee students, supporting the Ukraine students.

Mary: We can do a Lunch-and-Learn Zoom meeting for these topics.

IV. Treasure's Report and Scholarship Report by Carla:

Only two small expenses in February, including the cloud fee, Carmen's fee of \$1000 and reimbursing students' mileage. The balance as of 2/13/25 is \$81154.68.

Invoices were sent out through USPS, hoping that it will improve return more than email. Purchased envelopes and labels that can also be used elsewhere.

Joliet is requesting that we set up a system to accept credit card payments. Carla will contact Sammi (our US Bank liaison in Bloomington) to see if we can do that. Joliet didn't pay last year for that reason. It may be something we have to set up at our end and could be used at our conference to accept payments for registration, T-shirt sales, etc. Jeremy: Some website hosts let you select a basic service and a business service which would allow processing of credit card payment. It will function as a store that can link sales with a bank account. Have we looked into it? A: Carla would have to give her social security number, which we do not prefer. We will reach out to Carmen see if Google Cloud will host a web store.

Heartland made contact (Thanks to Jeremy!), and now include ICCFA dues in their annual budget. Harper College and Sandburg have notified Carla that their payments are being processed and will be on the way shortly.

Melissa has contacted the ICC Foundation office and, as of earlier this week, had not received a response yet about their chosen student. We are waiting to hear back. SWIC Foundation has been notified.

We tried to understand our financial history with ICCSF. Why must they write scholarship checks while it is our account paying for it. The Foundation changed leadership recently. The new leadership disclosed that we have a \$76300 temporary account since 2004 located in their system. We unanimously expressed our wish to use this fund for students, as scholarships. Carla will travel to Springfield to settle the matter.

The ICCSF website has links for donation, including donation to the scholarship. But there has never been any activity.

Jean-Marie: What is the role of ICCSF? A: Involves funding and finance aspects of the Illinois CC system. The scholarship change-of-hands is a continuing practice and a waste of time. Jean-Marie: Having been in the Illinois CC system for 30 years and have almost no inkling about the ICCFA until 1.5 years ago. By studying documents like ICCB meeting minutes, looks like ICCFA used to appear in their agenda, but not anymore. The student organization is on their agenda. Student representative spoke at the meetings. What happened to the relationship with other sister organizations like the Trustees, the administrators? How come that we are so disconnected? How will we re-establish relationships?

A: We can only answer what we do coming forward. We were invited to the March 21 ICCB meeting. The challenge is that the meetings are in the morning. Faculty sometimes have class. Travel is also a hardship. Julia and Mary went to quite a lot of meetings in the last year. Julia had to ask them to include ICCFA statement in their minutes. The faculty member of ICCB was not willing to come to our meetings.

Jeremy: By our constitution, the ICCB faculty representative is automatically one member of the ICCFA. He or she is required to participate at least our meetings. Everyone says it is true in theory. We have no way to compel the person to come. But hopefully, with the incoming new member, we can establish a better relationship. We perhaps want to prepare a running agenda to speak out at the ICCB whenever there is a chance. Perhaps, we want to update our Constitution so that the ICCB faculty liaison is a member of ICCFA EC also.

V. Secretary's Report and Faculty Grant coordinator's Report by Fei:

Will approve the meeting minutes next time.

Sent out the second letters for grant application. There will be many reminders before the deadline.

VI. Legislative Affairs Report by Joe:

The general assembly reconvened. About 1500 senate bills and 2500 house bills were filed. They are assigned to committees to be looked through, ending March 21. May 7 is the ICCTA lobbying day. We should pay attention to the ones that will gain attraction. Feb 19 will be the governor's state of state budget address.

Jean-Marie: When the bills are out of the committees and gained attraction, it is too late to affect the bill. Some bills will affect faculty such as the mental health ones. Committee will pick what's important for them, but not necessarily good for us faculty. We cannot monitor every bill. But we should look for what is out there because they could impact

us. By searching for education key words or particular member who is into education, we can survey the bills.

A: How many things we want to put our energy into? Perhaps in the next meeting I can put forward some relevant bills.

David volunteers for helping with Joe's bill analysis. David also suggest we put the CTE Mark information of the website for it would affect Carrier and Technical Education faculty.

VII. Adjourned