



Illinois Community College Faculty Association

Friday, March 28, 2025, 8:30 – 10:00 am, Via Zoom

Members Present: Mary Rojas-Carlson, Jeremy Bachelor, Terri Birch, Christine Brooms, Julia diLiberti, Melanie Eddins-Spencer, Carla S Presnell, Joseph Przybyla, Jean-Marie Taylor and Hong Fei

I. Call to Convene.

II. President's Report by Mary:

1. Craig Bradley, the current faculty member of ICCB, was not able to be present, as promised.
2. We had used the Google collaboration to draft the statement to ICCB. It worked well. It is free. It will be the platform we will use.
3. The logo and website optics the COD students designed are very impressive. It is one of our re-branding efforts.
4. Carla's presentation at the ICCB meeting was very well received, with a positive vibe all around. Some ICCB meeting participants expressed approval and encouragement. The next ICCB meeting will be on June 6. Jeremy and Jean-Marie will go. Fei is available, ready to be useful if necessary.
5. One pressing issue right now is finding a way to reach the faculty on a broad basis, letting people know of our organization. We should explore different methods. We should also consider commercial tools such as Constant Contact, or Google Survey. We must build an outreach network based on email, social network, website, or survey.

Members volunteered to draft a survey. We want it to be short and simple, asking what topic is important to you. What are your concerns as a faculty member? What would you think our goal should be?

Q: What will we do with this information? Would the survey taker know our goals? Some members volunteered to study the survey results.

A: We the members will follow up the result. We are at a stage of re-branding, re-grouping, and re-organizing for the next 3 to 6 months. It is a good time to reach out. It has been a problem of long running. A lot of faculties, even those who are at the same college as our EC members, do not know ICCFA.

By the next meeting, we will probably have something on the Google document for us to view and comment on.

We also hope to have a state-wide email account of ICCFA.org that has all faculty members included with an opt-out clause.

All these proposals need legal guidance, e.g. the guideline for mass-email.

6. Due to the insurance problem, this year's conference will not be in-person. We are exploring the virtual possibilities. We are also exploring other formats, such as lunch-and-learn, as a way to exchange ideas and teaching & learning experiences.

7. Vice President's Report by Jeremy:

We have just developed the manual for submitting a position paper (the white paper). We hope it gets widely known. We hope there will be some papers coming in from the faculty, not just from us EC members.

8. Secretary's Report by Fei:

Jeremy moved to table the minutes on April 28th due to some corrections needing to be made. The motion passed. The minutes draft is tabled pending inspection of an updated version.

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

1. Carla shared a running balance sheet. We incurred small expenses such as Carmen's fee and stationaries. The additional scholarship to William Lyon of ICC has paid out. The balance at the end of February is \$81154.65.
2. There were 11 due checks cashed, making the balance on March 27 being \$89637.57.
3. There are 14 more checks received by Patrick at ICCB, totaling \$11000 staying in the Springfield office.
It is a problem to have ICCB receiving the due checks for us instead of sending them directly to us. Carla is concerned about the dues policy and missing checks. Two checks were missing last year, though re-issued after much trouble. Carla also received checks made out to other offices. She has caught the mistake before depositing. Those checks were returned to ICCB or the issuing college after contacting them to verify.
4. The Scholarship Report: ICC has received the award and check for their scholarship recipient for 2024. They will present the scholarship to the recipient next week and will take pictures to send to us. Carla will write up a blurb for Mary and Carmen to use. As stated above, SWIC faculty have now chosen their recipient. They have submitted the qualifying materials to me and will also take pictures of the recipient to send to us.

The usual procedure is to send out the first calls for scholarship applications in April. This is followed by further calls in June, August, and September, with the final deadline scheduled for October 1st, 2025.

10. Faculty Grant coordinator's Report by Fei:

1. We have 6 weeks before the grant deadline. We received 4 applications so far. In experience, most will come in during April.

But, due to our re-grouping effort currently underway, the committee decided to postpone the grant award for a year. Therefore, this grant season is cancelled. Fei will send out letters to those who have submitted, telling them that their effort is recognized and appreciated, and that their applications will be held over to the next year.

The committee decided not to send notice to all faculty, which was what Fei proposed.

2. For the proposed adding of a creative category. Fei posed Melissa's opinions on this matter on chat. Fei shared the following thoughts on this matter.
 - 1) The committee seems to always emphasize student participation when it comes to the grant. People liked to ask: Where is the student involved in this proposal? Please keep this guiding spirit. At the same time, recognize some faculty specific issues that are often popular subjects for the conference, such as self-care, work-life balance, and social justice. This should have a chance to be funded. But, we do not want it to be for faculty to write a book, create a painting, not related to teaching or involve students.
 - 2) It should be inclusive for all academic disciplines, not just for arts. In the past, I recall some excellent synthesis projects that could very well be in this category. E.g. A local railway history map recording big events along the way.

11. Legislative Affairs Report by Joe:

Joe showed a legislative report on various bills status. Major information will be updated on the website.

Bills are moving forward, or re-referred to the rules committee, which is a way for the bills to change or die. Most of the ones we watch are in this category.

Among the moving along ones, include the instructor AI and the one for easier credit transfer to 4-year universities.

HB3300, Amends the Board of Higher Education Act, is "Held on Calendar Order of Second Reading - Short Debate". It will not affect us greatly.

The dual credit and the community college baccalaureate ones are stalled. Amendments were sent to the committee.

12. Adjourned