



Illinois Community College Faculty Association

Friday, April 12, 2024, 8:30 – 9:30 am, Via Zoom

Members present: Julia DiLiberti, Carla Presnell, Mary Rojas-Carlson, Joseph Przybyla, David Lewis, Jane Bryant and Hong Fei

I. Call to convene.

II. Introducing New Members.

III. Treasurer's Report and Scholarship Report by Carla:

Some colleges had paid on time last year but have not paid this year, including COD and Heartland. A reminder letter will go out soon to urge payment.

The current balance is \$88421.21. Our expected expenditure in our budget will include up to \$10000 for faculty grants, \$8000 for scholarships, and \$10000 for the conference, including a \$1000 down payment to the I-Hotel and the \$1500 speaker fee.

Julia reminds us that we do need a separate Zoom account because using college resources as a political advocate might be a problem.

The scholarship information, including the past recipients and ways to apply, is up on the website and social media.

IV. Faculty Grant and Secretary Report by Fei:

Joe moved to approve the March minutes. It is approved.

We have four applications that are in Dropbox. This year, we will try not to extend the May 17 deadline, even if we fund less than four.

V. President Report by Julia and VP Report by Mary:

Published our statement and analysis of Bill5020. Although ICCB negotiated as "neutral", it was a condition that some of the most damaging items were not included in. At the ICCB meeting, Julia and Mary emphasized the importance of listening to faculty, for our voice have a way to reach ICCB. Since the faculty member of ICCB was not named through a democratic process, it is doubly important that he/she come to our meetings. They reiterated our request for him to be part of ICCFA.

Published the first newsletter with great success. It is of professional quality. Now we for the first time in years have two platforms to showcase what we do, what we have achieved, what we advocate, and what are our positions on issues concerning higher education.

Collected a lot of short videos from scholarship recipients and conference participants. It was suggested that the grant winners' abstract for the conference talk be presented on the website, to show the research and workshop carried out as a result of our grants. It is also suggested that we do a rolling presentation of video materials.

We reserved 20 rooms for the conference, with no charge until the conference date. We are asked for ideas for the summer workshop.

VI. Guest Speaker Glenda Gallisath Report on the IL BHWC Initiative:

She is working for IBHE on talent and workforce development. Her interest is in behavioral and mental health professional workforce development. Her title of this speech is BHWC – Educational Pipelines, Pathways, and Partnership.

Now IBHE formed an executive committee, plus an advisory council, involving seven IL public universities, to jump-start a BHWC certificate pathway. They tried to include this effort with education, training, continuing education, professional development, workforce planning, and recruiting. Community Colleges are where most students start their career choice and career path. They want to do the same with us and start to talk with stakeholders.

She talked about “state-wide behavioral health needs”. It is supposed to be “deliverable in five areas: policies, pathways, data, retention, professional development, infrastructure”.

She talked about the needs and stackable with degrees such as nursing, social work, and psychology. It can apply to substance abuse, occupational therapy, pain management, and mental health in general.

Currently, they are concentrating on two areas: Building a diverse and equitable behavior health workforce, and career awareness. In the future, they will work on policy issues and affordability.

Q: Are there new employment opportunities also identified, so that students will have a drive to achieve those requirements for a job, or is it only another certificate students have to get for the same job such as a therapist?

A: Repeating all the above.

Q: Is it one more work group we faculty need to participate in, in other words, where is the decision-making in this pathway we faculty can have input?

A: Faculty is of utmost importance in every decision-making. Faculty is not a token. It is not just a show. The workgroup worked out good ideas such as the make-up of the work team – how many practitioners and how many educators.

VII. VP for Legislative Affairs Report by Joe:

ICCFA did a great job in maintaining and updating a legislature site. It contains all the bills from both chambers. The second reading of 5020 is currently going on. Two more members of the House joined as co-sponsors.

VIII. Adjourned.