**Illinois Community College Faculty Association**

 Friday, October 15, 2021 1:00 – 3:00 pm

 *Via Zoom Conference*

Members present: Leo Welch, Carla Presnell, Julia DiLibert, Jake Winters, Steven DePasquale, Keith Sprewer and Hong Fei

1. **Call to convene.**
2. **This is a closed session, approved by vote:**

Julia reported that the ICCB had admitted the one faculty representative who was not recommended, considered, or introduced by and to ICCFA. We were speculating that not even ICCB had influenced the decision of the Governor’s Office. We were disheartened by the fact that our concern and recommendation was not responded. And the important appointment that will affect the relationship between ICCB and ICCFA was from a not transparent process. We were informed of a decision, not part of the decision process.

Then we discussed ways through which we can prevent such a top-down decision-making process being so often made for faculties by office holders. We should redouble our effort to communicate with ICCCA, ICCB, and IBHE with the fact that we share common interest such as the funding, to form a coalition. We should talk more with legislators. We should do more at the grassroot level e.g. connecting the regional community college district with local legislators.

Julia also hoped to raise the issue of gaining release for full time faculty who participate in ICCFA business. We hoped for helpful one course release or a Friday off. Steven mentioned that IBHE is bound by law to support FAC (faculty advisory council) with logistical help.

End of the closed session

1. **Leo moved to table the minutes until a future meeting. Approved.**
2. **Conference Program:**

Julia implores us to recruit student participants, who are free of charge.

Since we only sold 17 tickets, Julia implores us to redouble our effort in marketing the conference, including efforts to interest local legislators.

Call for modulators and several people volunteered. Will need some speakers to act as modulators.

Secure enough Zoom links: It is best for each modulator to host with own Zoom. The problem is still not solved.

Will send evaluation forms after conference, modifying from the previous ones.

Nomination forms had been sent out. Will also send out a survey for issues concerning him/her most.

1. **President’s Report by Julia:**

The major take-away from the recent ICCB meeting is still the lack of shared decision making in naming the faculty member of ICCB.

Julia proposed to hire an IT person to run our website.

1. **Treasurer’s Report and Scholarship Committee Report by Carla:**

The balance is at $20000 level. One grant check was lost again. Will ask for a secure mailing address.

Have received two finished scholarship applications and two work in progress. It must be postmarked by October 22.

1. **Report by ICCB Liaison Melvin Harrison:**
2. A consortium for early childhood education is under way to be established. It is to address the early childhood educator shortage in IL. Significant investment is being made to beef up the program in all community colleges and the four-year colleges in form of student scholarships. Students are encouraged to go on for a BA degree. By law, credits for this area must be accepted into a four-year program.
3. A piloting program is also being implemented to guaranine cost and time. ICCB is testing if it can be scaled into bigger programs.

Keith: Who owns this piloting program? A: Not clear, but it is a ICCB and IBHE joint effort.

Keith: Is it womenemployed.org? A: Yes.

Keith: There is a (disreputable)) history with this organization. We worry that an org comes in with admirable goal that no one would oppose. But in reference to experience, it could end with a scenario that students passing through their program with not enough basic academic with withal or credence, ending up being casted into a rule of lifelong care aides with no hope of upward mobility.

Julia: Will ICCB ever consult us faculty member in program development and decision process? A: I hear you. This program involves mainly curriculum. So we worked closely with IAI panels that are composed of faculties.

Melvin also did not have a clue as to how the new ICCB member was nominated.

1. **Legislative Report by Leo:**
2. Ten faculty members from Madison County had just filed lawsuit contesting the Governor’s mask and vaccine mandates. Previously, various educational organizations have supported the mandates. The issue stands as we speak and worth following closely.
3. IL General Assembly will be meeting during Oct 19 to 21, and Oct 26 to 28. Two bills Leo wants to comment on. One is to expand abortion services in IL to women who got pregnant due to assault. It is dabbed as “anti-Texas Bill”. There is no vote at this point. The other is called Frie Arm Liability Bill. The seller would be liable for the purchaser’s criminal activity. Both are hot button issues with lots of interests. They could be voted on in the next couple of weeks or could be no vote.
4. Was at a town hall meeting with the AFT president. One issue discussed was the student loan forgiveness. Students eligible must be current employee. Additional information is on AFT website.
5. Leo as a member of the SURS advisory committee, will discuss issues related to retirement at the Nov 4 meeting. SURS was under attack in the past, which was temporarily defeated. But the attack could come back again.
6. American College Promise Act – the nation-wide free community college: In the current language, state must approve this agenda. If supporting, federal government will pay 75% of the cost, with state pay the rest. Over time of 5 to 6 years, state will resume 100% of the cost. Condition is subjected to change at the federal level. It is not an easy sell. We should be, as a faculty organization, advocating it as good for education and the United States. Economic impact of community college was studied, with a 20 page long report. We should do more of this selling. Public is easy to pay attention to the tax bill instead of benefit. We need to let people see the positive effect on economy and society.
7. In summary, members expressed strong feeling about not being consulted enough by ICCB. We conclude that we should establish more contacts. E.g. we could invite members of House and Senate to talk with us once a year.
8. **Adjourned.**