

The Sentinel

Voice of the ECC Faculty Association
Local 3791/IFT www.eccfaculty.org



December 2011

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President's Report:

Sarah Dye



As we reach the end of the fall semester, there is not a lot to say, but for us teachers, there is still much to be done. Many of us are swamped with papers, projects, and exams to grade. And then we also have to get those final grades submitted, hoping all the time that technology does not fail us as we post and submit those grades

through AccessECC. Please do remember that the grades are due no later than Monday, December 19, 2011, by 8:00 AM. I personally have a fear of failing to get my grades in on time and having to prepare a grade change form for every one of my students.

The other duty we need to remember is that Friday is grading day, another one of our contractual responsibilities for fulltime faculty at least.

You should have received in your email a notice about a change of venue for our semi-annual End of the Semester gathering which the ECCFA hosts. This year we have moved the event to our own ECC SPARTAN TERRACE on Thursday, December 15th where the open bar for wine and beer begins at 5:00 PM and the food will be served at 6:00 PM. A perennial favorite, our colleague Arturo Vasquez's band will entertain us beginning about 6:00 too. We do hope that this on campus location will allow more employee friends and colleagues to join us if only for a short bit of time. We are appreciative of the financial support for this party from President Sam, Vice-Presidents DiGerlando and Konny, and Interim HR Director Few.

No later than December 19th, the ECCFA will be packing up and moving its office to ITR 146 for the Spring

2012 semester and perhaps into July. Once the renovation of the old library space on second floor of SRC is completed, we will have a new office there. SSECCA will also be located close by in the new space.

We believe that our April election cycle can be conducted in a reserved conference room in the new library. That should make it more centrally accessible for all faculty to come and vote rather than having to locate the polling place in a somewhat hidden office suite in the ITR Building.

The only thing left to say is to have a good holiday break, get rested, stay safe, and get ready for a new academic semester. It will be here all too soon.

Community College Council

Susan Ford, ECCFA Representative

The CCC met on November 18 and 19 in Oakbrook and Westmont for a series of meetings as part of the IFT Higher Education Constituency Council. During the various meetings, two principle topics of concern were discussed.

SB 512—the bill in the Illinois senate that would significantly alter our SURS pension plan payments and benefits. And, most importantly, the provisions in it will not eliminate the funding problem. So far the bill has not been called for a vote by the General Assembly because there is not enough support to pass it—elections are coming. Governor Quinn will not sign a bill that is unconstitutional.

The IFT believes that the mobilization of members, their families and friends, through phone calls and emails to our representatives in Springfield played a major role in the fact that it was not called for a vote in the recent Veto Session. Our leadership warns that this fight is not over. We shall be called upon again to remind our state representatives that this bill

does not present a fair and reasonable plan to solve the pension issue.

They were also urging those present to come up with ideas we can offer to the state rather than continuing to “just say no” to various proposals from lawmakers and business groups. This received a mixed response from those present. Many believe we should just say no because the financial difficulties the state is having is not of our doing. Others did have ideas that may “fix” the problem, for example modifying the RAMP formula, but those ideas are summarily rejected by primarily Republican lawmakers.

Talks continue and information will be posted on Leadernet (IFT Website) and through our email.

The second issue is Performance Based Funding—retention and completion percentages will/may affect state funding to colleges and universities. So far, no actual funding, or lack thereof, has been tied to this new law--yet. A committee of IBHE has been working on principles and metrics to present to the legislature to implement the new law.

Illinois Community College System Performance Based Funding Principles and Metrics

The Illinois community college system has adopted five guiding principles for performance based funding.

1. Performance based funding is not about money, but about performance. However, performance based funding, when tried in other states, has been most successful when the state added funding to the budget for performance incentives. All higher education leaders are pledged to the success of performance based funding; and

therefore, the needed new funds must be added to the FY2013 budget.

2. Universities and community college should have separate funding and metrics for the performance initiative. Dr. George Reid has stated at many public meetings that performance funding would recognize the different missions of Illinois' four-year universities, research universities, and two-year public community colleges.
3. Community colleges should not compete against each other for their performance based funds. The 39 community colleges differ widely in available resources per student, diversity, and student academic preparedness prior to enrollment, as well as in the characteristics, socio-economic status, and labor markets of the districts they serve.
4. To determine performance within specific metrics, each district will be measured against changes from year to year to establish district performance. That performance increase or decrease should not be compared to other districts statewide to allocate funds. Performance based funding is about enhancing the performance of each college.
5. If no new state funds are appropriated for performance, the community college system believes that performance metrics should be implemented without financial impact.

The six community college performance measures are:

1. **Degree and Certificate Completion:** Students completing a degree or certificate.
2. **Degree and Certificate Completion of "At Risk" students:** The community college system, for this metric, is defining "At risk" students

as those who are academically or financially at risk of not achieving their educational goals. The metric will measure student completion for students receiving a Pell grant and/or students who were enrolled in remedial education.

3. **Transfer to a four year institution:** Full-time and part-time students who transfer to another institution of higher education within three years for full-time students and five years for part-time students.
4. **Remedial and Adult Education Advancement:** Remedial students who advance to college-level courses and adult education students who advance to remedial or college-level courses.
5. **Momentum Points:** First-time/part-time students completing 12 credit hours, first-time/full-time students completing 24 hours in the first year, and adult education students moving a "grade" level based on pre- and post-test performance. For purposes of this metric, completion of remedial courses is included and adult education grade levels are based on NRS standards.

The IFT, and those present at the meetings, noted that quite a few variables are not addressed in the above document, all of which would skew the data collected for measurement—student intent/goal, broader demographic for ethnicity and "at risk" students, traditional students (recent high school graduates) vs. returning adult students (25 and older), first generation and ESL students, university transfer students in the summer—and there is no measure of student satisfaction. Such measurements must accurately reflect the mission and culture of each institution. Ultimately, it is another unfunded mandate that drains college resources with no promise of remuneration.

Senate Information

ECCFA OFFICERS

President: Sarah Dye
1st Vice-President: Luis Martinez
2nd Vice-President: Dan Kocher
3rd Vice-President: Cassandra Watson
Secretary: Lori Clark
Treasurer: Linda Hefferin

ECCFA APPOINTEES

Communication Liaison: Gary Christenson
Sentinel Editor: Bill Demaree
Membership Chair: Connie Orbeta
Parliamentarian: Dan Kocher
Chair, ECCFA Scholarship: Bev Augustine
Webmaster, Tammy Ray
Facebook Liaison: Jessica Carpenter

ECCFA SENATORS

Frank Aleman, UAF2
Mary Arndt, HP
Rick Bonnom, UAF2
Michelle Brynelsen, HP
Lori Clark, CABS
Carl DeCarlo, UAF1
Julie DeLong, UAF1
Linda Hefferin, BUS
Cindy Hutman, CABS
Dan Kocher, UAF2
Dave Lawrence, UAF2
Marcia Luptak, UAF2
Luis Martinez, MSE
Loretta McCallister, UAF2
Pat O'Brien, CABS
Chad Pearion, UAF2
Joel Peck, LVPA
Miroslav Rezac, MSE
Joyce Ross, UAF2
Howard Russo, LVPA
Cathy Tomasik, UAF2
Armando Trejo, LIB/COUN
Glenn Turner CABS
Scott Vazsily, UAF2
Vicki Walker, UAF1
Cassandra Watson, UAF1

Sentinel Schedule

Sentinel Schedule 2011-2012

Spring 2012

Spring 2012

Due Date: Mon., 13 Feb.
Publication Date: Wed., 15 Feb.
Due Date: Mon., 13 Feb.
Publication Date: Wed., 15 Feb.
Due Date: Mon., 12 March
Publication Date: Thurs., 15 March
Due Date: Mon., 12 March
Publication Date: Thurs., 15 March
Due Date: Thurs., 12 April
Publication Date: Mon., 16 April
Due Date: Thurs., 10 May
Publication Date: Mon., 14 May
Due Date: Thurs., 10 May
Publication Date: Mon., 14 May

ECCFA/Senate Meeting Dates for 2011-2012

FALL SEMESTER 2011

December 14, 2011(W) 3:00-5:00 PM Senate Meeting UBC 103

December 16, 2011 (F) Grading Day AND Graduation

(NOTE: Classes end TH 12/15)

December 19, 2011 (M) 8:00 AM, Grades due

SPRING SEMESTER 2012

January 12, 2012 (R) TBA ECCFA General Member Meeting & Luncheon UBC Dining

January 13, 2012 (F) 9:00-10:00 AM New Faculty Intro/Welcome to ECCFA Meeting ICT 203

January 13, 2012 (F) 1:00-2:00 PM Instructional Coordinator/ECCFA Meeting ICT 203

January 18, 2012(W) 3:00-5:00 PM Senate Meeting UBC 103

February 1, 2012(W) 3:00-5:00 PM Senate Meeting UBC 103

February 15, 2012(W) 3:00-5:00 PM Senate Meeting UBC 103

February 29, 2012(W) 3:00-5:00 PM Senate Meeting UBC 103

March 14, 2012(W) 3:00-5:00 PM Senate Meeting UBC 103

(NOTE: Spring Break 3/28)

April 4, 2012(W) 3:00-5:00 PM Senate Meeting UBC 103

April 18, 2012(W) 3:00-5:00 PM Senate Meeting UBC 103

May 2, 2012(W) 3:00-5:00 PM Senate Meeting UBC 103

May 16, 2012(W) 3:00-5:00 PM Senate Meeting UBC 103

May 17, 2012 (R) Grading Day (NOTE: Classes end W 5/16)

May 18, 2012 (F) Graduation

May 21, 2012 (M) 8:00 AM Grades due



All *Employees* are invited to join their colleagues at
ECCFA's End-of-Semester Holiday Gathering

When?

This Thursday, December 15, 2011

Cash Bar 5:00 pm / Food 6:00 pm

Where? NOTE: Change of venue to

ECC's Spartan Terrace

(in the CAC Building off the lobby of the VPAC Building)

Hosted by the ECC Faculty Association with thanks for the financial support from Dr. Sam (President's Office), Ms. DiGerlando (TLSD), Ms. Konny (Finance), and Ms. Few (HR)

The ECCFA has sponsored a food drive for the *Northern Illinois Food Bank* which ended last Friday. Nevertheless, cash donations still will be accepted at the party too. Make checks payable to the *Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB)* and give to Linda Hefferin, ECCFA Treasurer.

