



# Illinois Community College Faculty Association

Friday, February 19, 2021 1:00 – 3:30 pm  
*Via Zoom Conference*

Member present: Parul Raval, Stefanie Davis, Lauren Kosrow, Jennifer Alexander, Carla Presnell, Leo Welch, Keith Sprewer, Jake Winters, Steve DePasquale, Linda Hefferin, Julia DiLibert, John Jackson, Hong Fei

- I. **Call to convene.**
- II. **Breakout Group Discussion:** “What is the biggest issue you consider facing community college faculty?”

One Group raised the following: The legislative process concerning educational law had not brought faculty in consultation. We hope to have a chance to be involved in the process, to be listened to. We hope that there are less political maneuvers such as the passing bills in the 11<sup>th</sup> hour in a lame duck session. An example would be that not for U of I spoken up about the need for Dev Ed, it would be completely unsupported. Some view the Dev Ed as contributing to lack of equity but we educators knew it is very necessary.

Another group raised the following: It would be the reduced enrollment. It has severe effect on public universities. The effect is being felt by faculty. Some faculty and staff were terminated as a result. Even if there was sufficient enrollment, college still tend to hire adjuncts rather than full time faculty, due only to the reduced cost. Funding source resolution to keep adjuncts at 50% level came apart. It is not the case best for students.

Other topic was “What topic at the conference would interest you”. But there was not enough time to discuss it in detail.

- III. **Conference Report by Linda Hefferin:**

She went through files. Worked with the I Hotel in Champaign and a down payment was made. We were refunded last year and the fund rolled over this year. She stressed importance of continuity, often planning two years ahead of time. The hotel industry now has 50% occupancy limit. So we will have six meeting rooms holding 95 and two ball rooms holding 50 people per room. We will expect fewer people. The meals will be pre-packaged and there will be no vendors and no exhibition. Need to hold 35 guest rooms. In the past, ICCCA provided registration system and the evaluation system, which we are lucky to be able to use. Jake referred to the timeline of the previous year. Steve asked about discount for fewer occupancy and the answer was no.

- IV. **Conference Strategy by Julia diLibert, President**

Jake moves to plan an in-person conference, with online option as a back-up. Ten voted to approve and two oppose. Further discussion assumed. Asked: When will be the latest time to decide? A: the deadline for I Hotel contract. Jake pointed out that making money should not be the primary goal. Suggested: Move to cancel the previous motion and explore the

remote option. Stated by member: Due to the new variant of Covid 19, it makes sense to plan online option now, not later. "If I have to decide right now, I will not go in person". Some pointed out the State University Annuitant Association conference was in-person. Some said to table it to be decided in May. But Julia pointed out that we need to decide now for a contract with Linda. Otherwise, it would be unfair to her. Gradually, a consensus seemed to emerge that we plan the online conference with a potential to flip into a in person format. We will call for presenters for an online format, but with a potential of being changed into face-to-face. The language of the contract incorporated an online option, noting that the change will be explained to Linda in case she is not comfortable or willing to do an online conference. It was also noted that the ICCCA board would need to see the updated language.

John moves to rescind the previous motion. Lauren seconded. Motion passes.

Keith moves to plan for an online conference, to re-visit in May for option of changing into in-person meeting. Approved by 11:1 vote.

Immediate past president Jake Winters, and diLiberti ask the committee about hiring Linda Hefferin to write a conference planning guide. Leo Welch stressed important of using someone who knows the history of the organization and the conference doing this. recording history. Leo moves to approve contracting with Linda for a guidebook on conference planning and including provisions for an online conference. Stefanie seconded. It was approved unanimously.

Steve moves to grant Julia the authority to negotiate on the behalf of ICCFA Executive Committee. All seconded.

- V. Introducing and welcome new members: Dr. Parul Raval, Education, Elgin Community College; Stephanie Davis, Rhetoric, Danville Area Community College, and Lauren Kosrow, Librarian, Triton Community College.
- VI. Steve moves to approve the minutes from the September and December meetings. Jake seconds. Motion carries.
- VII. Julia raised question of incorporation. Jake pointed out that it was explored by Krista Winters when she was president. The consensus was that our organization is too small to warrant the cost. The committee wondered if dues collection might be hampered since being chartered by ICCB guaranteed us the dues. ICCB may want to remove us from the rolls by having us incorporated. Julia said she would talk to Brian Durham, Executive Director of ICCB about this.

Steve and Stephanie pointed out the need to add disclaimer in grant contracts to resolve us all liability such as human subject studies. Stephanie offered to consult lawyers on liability issues.

- VIII. Report by VP of Membership and Delegate Affairs:

The position is open, with Julia as the interim; she is willing to continue in this role for the time being.

- IX. Julia raised the issue of bringing a consulting firm led by Dana Saal for professionally coaching us for higher visibility and becoming a more robust resource for the faculty across the state. Some members liked the idea and some expressed cynicism about such consultants. Decided to invite Jim Reed, Executive Director of ICCTA to see if he would be willing to speak on the topic and give us his perspective on the value of the seminar with Saal.
- X. Treasurer's Report by Carla Presnell: We will need to switch the accounts from one bank to a different branch closer to Carla. Carla will meet with previous Treasurer Krista Winters to see what next steps are needed in terms of transferring the account.
- XI. Report of Legislative Affairs by Leo: There are numerous bills to consider; many impact public and Community Colleges. E.g. the sixty day notifying of course assignment for adjuncts. Issues of consolidation of community college district was opposed by trustees and presidents.
- XII. IBHE Issues by Steve and Julia: IBHE is accepting written submissions for the Strategic Plan: a website is open particularly for comments and feedbacks. We should all be encouraging faculty to give comments.

Various ideas were discussed with IBHE such as advocating Dev Ed, participating in work groups, student completion as standards for success, and the competency survey.

- XIII. Jake's series of teaching videos is looking for volunteers. It was determined that a discussion of Developmental Education was needed; Keith Sprewer agreed to be on a panel which presented issues, myths, and possible changes for Dev. Ed. that could make it more equitable.
- XIV. Meetings will generally be every fourth Friday from 1 to 4 pm. Meeting times and dates are posted on the ICCFA website at <http://www2.iccb.org/iccfa/> Until further notice, all meetings will be held via Zoom.
- XV. Adjourned.