

IHEAA

Illinois Higher Education Art Association

Spring Meeting Judson University - Elgin, IL October 14, 2016

Treasurer's Report

Balance brought forward from last report:	\$ 526.31	April 7, 2016
Receipts:	<u>300.00</u>	
Subtotal:	826.31	
Expenses: \$ 6.00 – fee for checks	-6.00	
\$ 200.00 – (donation to host: Parkland)	<u>-200.00</u>	
Balance this report	620.31	October 12, 2016

Minutes from the Spring Meeting Parkland College – Champaign, IL April 8, 2016

Topic: "Survival in a Time of Budget Constraints"

Denise Sief, our Parkland host, introduced Julie Weishar, Fine Arts Chair at Parkland who warmly welcomed everyone to campus for the IHEAA meeting. Denise then introduced Nancy Sutton, Dean of Arts and Sciences, who extended a sincere welcome and introduced the topic, "Survival in a Time of Budget Constraints" and acknowledged that it may not be a fun topic, but it is very important and timely.

Brief Update: Nothing has changed in 9 months regarding the budget impasse: only mandated services are getting \$ with minimal funds to selected areas and especially difficult for higher education is the loss of MAP (Monetary Award Program) grants.

Many institutions self-funded the MAP grants for their students for the Fall 2015 semester, but very few are continuing that practice for the Spring 2016 semester. Thus planning for no state support next year has become the strategy which includes measures such as no longer filling open positions and voluntary retirements, layoffs, and cutting all budgets such as supplies and faculty support. Lots of speculation including anywhere from 0 to 50% of previous budget may eventually be made available. There is no real strategic plan in the state of Illinois.

At Parkland, FY17 and 18 planning is assuming that there will not be any state funding. Which begs the question: If the state gives no \$, why do we have to follow state rules? The 2-year community college system was created by the state and they can take away support. If so, where are the first places to cut? The Arts? Athletics? Community projects? Sometimes yes and sometimes no...

The arts are change-agents for community development. This is our value; the arts are connections to donors. Such as the gallery being connected / tied to other sources. Think about the mutual benefit across campus and combining resources.

Two year schools have three funding sources: tuition, property taxes, and the state—a tripod that now has become stilts. One strategy is to raise enrollment to shore up the lack of state funding. Recruit / partner / retain – while not a new strategy, is becoming a higher priority. Can there be any expectation for budgets / funding from the state in FY17? Moving to independence from the state as a funding source is the direction institutions of higher education are pursuing. With this strategy comes program review to maximize limited resources.

A question was voiced by G.E. Colpitts, Is legal action a possibility, such as a class action suit by the students who were promised grants and then the state defaulted? (An interesting idea, yet it would be very complicated and costly.)

The attendees were divided into three small groups, each being charged with one of the following questions to discuss: Q1: How has your school been affected by the state (lack of) budget? And how are they dealing with it?

Q2: What are the essentials of the art program that need to be maintained?

Q3: What are the potentials for collaboration or new approaches in light of this situation?

Speaker Call to Kevin, Director of Finance at IBHE (Illinois Board of Higher Education)—summary—reaching into overall higher education—36 billion, 10% in higher education, 3.6 billion to higher education with 1.2 to public universities, 400 million to community colleges and 400 million in MAP grants. Performance based dollars 16% reduction. Chicago State has 900 layoffs as of April 30th; fund sweeps to fuel some dollars back to public schools; and real crisis in several institutions. Plus the governor is likely to veto legislative measures. Many questions remain about how the dollars might flow if a FY16 budget is passed due to waiting bills everywhere. Then what will happen next to FY17 budgets?

Possible lawsuits? This is the first he has heard of that idea. Whether students have standing would be a big question there. Appropriation never successfully made for MAP grants this year. What is the obligation of a school if no funding comes from the state? Good Question: this situation is getting us all into a lot of new territory. Each school has its own Board of Trustees to address this question at their institution.

Accreditation jeopardy is another concern from schools currently in the middle of that process. The Higher Learning Commission is separate from the Illinois Board of Higher Education so they have their own process. Yet looking at long term, not just the current impasse, is still quite concerning.

Back to local discussion: Prorated instructors—getting to that magic number to maintain a course instruction. At Parkland the magic # is 12 for lecture courses and 18 for studio classes due to the extra contact hours. (There is a formula at each school to determine the “break even” point.) Institutional average for seat count is 15. Some measures mandated by the state. Community colleges must have an absolute split between transfer and occupational courses. Justifications very important: “We have to run that class because...(if good enough reason attached).”

Some schools, like Judson, are having big fundraisers to support the gap in funding due to MAP grant problems.

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) in checking on solvency and no state budget—we’ll face insolvency at most schools. Standing would depend on the wording of the awards themselves: a suit against a school maybe easier than suing the state itself. Chicago inner city schools are the most stressed. More cobbling together of credits from several schools to make it work is happening. Recommendations: Hone-in on what each school is good at; develop a workforce verses well rounded citizen (a job/worker versus an educated thinker. A thinking citizenry is being crushed. Some schools are already doing “program readjustments” to eliminate faculty lines in “resource shifting.”

Curriculum: Figure Drawing question—will it continue? Two plus two collaboration between schools, such as COD and NIU for early commitment and tracking to the 4-year institutional requirements. COD and UIC tag in engineering, architecture, and art. U of I / Parkland pathway (2+2 with Parkland). School of the Art Institute Chicago is formalizing their common practices. COD and Columbia (aggressive about agreements) COD seeing reverse credits—students can jump anytime and have credits from a 4-year going back to a 2-year for finishing an Associate in Art degree. Recap: New approaches (2+2 pathway agreements)

Can dual credit classes be at the community college instead of the high school? Because the art school atmosphere cannot be created at the high school. Thom Beggs has Adobe Suite software class for HS dual credit and then they can go straight into Graphic Design. The whole dual credit arena is fraught with issues. IAI transfer regulations inhibit innovation—media specific courses may not be so separated—how to make a case for that? Technology is a problem for Graphic Design—the software applications don’t do it all for you like they think. Bahaus and Digital—we need to own the digital as a tool among many tools. Make students do research on their phones (just another tool to use). Students are data gatherers, show them how to organize, use, and combine the data. Change is coming.

Drawing I as a general education course? That would be a good thing. For example, COD has contemporary life skills—classes outside your major as a general elective, drawing I and intro to studio art for non-majors is also a feeder to actual studio course work.

Lunch Break followed by Business Meeting:

Minutes and Treasurer’s report approved – Al Schull motioned and Michael McAvoy seconded

Schedule for upcoming meetings:

Fall 2016 Judson University, tentative date is October 14, 2016

Spring 2017 Heartland Community College, tentative date is April 7, 2017

Fall 2017 Western Illinois University, Oct 2017

Spring 2018 possible location is Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield

A dues reminder was announced by Veda.

Topic suggestions for fall meeting articulation—review of core curriculum sample syllabi

Some discussion regarding the IAI (Illinois Articulation Initiative) Art Panel: no travel budget for Melinda, but they will try a conference call because they need to review design and drawing classes. A suggestion for a panelist checklist was made. Charles Boone will create a WordPress for a blog based discussion of the 5 core courses of use in advance of the meeting at Judson in the fall. Expect an email with the link to the WordPress site.

Announcement: FATE (Foundations in Art Theory and Education) is meeting in Kansas in March of 2017 with panel submissions due this Sunday.

Motion to adjourn came from Al Shull and was seconded by Michael McAvoy.

This meeting was followed by a tour of new facilities (2nd year in use) and art gallery at Parkland and the IAI Art Panel meeting.

Attendance: 20

Officers: Chuck Boone, College of DuPage; G. E. Colpitts, Judson University; Thomm Beggs, McHenry College; Cindy Hellyer Heinz, Northern Illinois University; Al Shull, Lincoln Land Community College; Veda Rives, Illinois State University

Members & Guests: Jamie Long, Kishwaukee College; Gisele Aterberry, Joliet Junior College; Jennifer O’Connor, University of Illinois at Chicago; Denise Seif, Joan Stolz, Melinda McIntosh, Matthew Watt, Lisa Costello, Chris Berti, and Peggy Shaw, Parkland College; Meda Rives, Eureka College; Michael McAvoy, Heartland Community College; Charles Wright, Western Illinois University; Tony Crowley, Illinois State University; Nate Mathews, Northeastern Illinois University