

**Illinois Board of Higher Education Faculty Advisory Council's  
Response to The Board's Request for  
Input Regarding Faculty Productivity Issues  
December 9, 2003**

**Preface**

At a luncheon meeting immediately after the October 7, 2003 meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Board and its Chairman, James Kaplan challenged the Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) to offer input on the issue of faculty productivity. Specifically, the FAC was asked to offer input on two issues:

- How should faculty productivity be defined and measured, and
- How faculty productivity can help to address the state's dire financial circumstances.

The Council was asked to share its response with the Board by the December 9 meeting. Since October, the FAC utilized an ad hoc group of members to study the issues surrounding faculty productivity. That ad hoc group prepared a series of reports examining faculty service to a university and examining productivity at various institutions in several states. That series of reports were combined into this report. This report presents information on faculty activities and responsibilities, the economic impact of higher education in Illinois, and the effects of prior budget cuts on Illinois higher education. Also included are some ideas for increasing faculty productivity over a period of several years and for long range funding. Some of these ideas are provocative, but they should not be dismissed out of hand. They should be considered in the broader context of financing higher education and the diverse roles of individual institutions. Some of these ideas may be politically challenging and should be discussed by the public and legislators who are looking for new ways of providing educational opportunities and financing institutions. The entire FAC has met twice since the October meeting, offered input to the ad hoc group, and approved this document prior to today's meeting of the Board.