

IFC Report for Meeting of February 9

The IFC Subcommittees on Assessment and Accountability, on Faculty Personnel Policies and on Administrative Policies met and gave short reports on their progress. The Subcommittee on Faculty Personnel reviewed a draft document on faculty leave policies. This document is currently being revised for more general discussion on the campuses. The Subcommittee on Administrative Policies continued its discussion of college costs, focusing on the issue of textbook costs, bookstore revenues, and ways to help students deal with the escalating cost of books. The subcommittee is looking into the uses of bookstore profits on each campus.

Ken Hutchinson informed us that there will be a change in the Flex pre-tax health account that will allow expenses for January and February of 2008 to be reimbursed using funds remaining in the account at the end of 2007.

Nicki Krawitz discussed A21 compliance and asked for ideas for making grant recipients more responsive to requests for required information, particularly the effort verification form. We considered an online effort verification form and training to make the process easier for faculty to complete, and easier for the administration to track.

Most of the meeting was consumed with a long discussion of House Bill 389 which includes a number of controversial provisions that affect higher education, including the MOHELA funding for capital projects, restrictions on tuition increases, and greater power for the CBHE. There was also a follow-up telephone call with Curator Wallsworth on Feb. 13, to further discuss the bill. Although the faculty on the Columbia campus and the members of IFC have strong reservations about supporting this bill, it seemed clear that the Board of Curators will support it.