

TALKING POINTS

OPPOSITION TO MR. JOHN BAMBENEK APPOINTMENT AS FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE ON IBHE

- ✓ Mr. Bambenek does not serve as a Professor and does not have the qualifications for a professorship. His title is Lecturer. He does not hold a terminal degree in his discipline and has very minimal experience in the university setting.
- ✓ He teaches one class at UIUC in cybersecurity. He has lectured for 3 years.
- ✓ Mr. Bambenek has no experience serving on faculty committees. Faculty are required to engage in service activities at their universities. This requires serving on curriculum, advising, admissions and other functioning committees providing input and expertise in the tradition of shared decision-making particularly relating to student outcomes. Mr. Bambenek has none of this experience in the university setting.
- ✓ Mr. Bambenek is not eligible to serve on the UIUC faculty senate. He does not meet the minimal qualifications necessary to be defined as a “faculty member” yet he is being nominated as the “faculty representative”.
- ✓ Historically, candidates selected to serve as the Faculty Representative on IBHE were selected from those suggested by the IBHE Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) subject to approval by the State Senate. We have been informed by the IBHE FAC that they did in fact recommend two nominees.
- ✓ Mr. Bambenek's on-the-record positions relating to higher education governance are contrary to the interests of faculty. He does not believe in tenure. He questions academic freedom. He supports "intelligent design" over scientific evolution. This is not an individual who speaks for faculty.
- ✓ Because Mr. Bambenek is being nominated as the Faculty Representative on the IBHE, these issues are critical and relevant.

[CONSTITUENT LETTER]

Dear Senator [Representative] _____,

I live at _____, in your legislative district. I am a member of the faculty at the University of Illinois at Chicago. It is imperative that I bring an important and critical issue to your attention. Governor Rauner has appointed Mr. John Bambenek from Champaign to serve as the Faculty Representative on the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). Unfortunately, Mr. Bambenek is *NOT QUALIFIED* to serve as the Faculty Representative on the IBHE. Mr. Bambenek is currently awaiting confirmation by the Illinois Senate Executive Appointments Committee.

To summarize some of my concerns, Mr. Bambenek does not hold a terminal degree in his discipline and has very minimal experience in the university setting. He teaches one class at UIUC in cybersecurity. He has lectured for 3 years. Mr. Bambenek has no experience serving on faculty committees. Typically, faculty members are required to engage in service activities at their universities. This requires serving on curriculum, advising, admissions and other functioning committees providing input and expertise in the tradition of shared decision-making particularly relating to student outcomes. Mr. Bambenek has none of this experience in the university setting. Further, Mr. Bambenek is not eligible to serve on the UIUC faculty senate. He does not meet the minimal qualifications necessary to be defined as a "faculty member" yet he is being nominated as the "faculty representative". Mr. Bambenek's on-the-record positions relating to higher education governance are contrary to the interests of faculty. He does not believe in tenure. He questions academic freedom. He supports "intelligent design" over scientific evolution. This is not an individual who speaks for faculty. Because Mr. Bambenek is being nominated as the Faculty Representative on the IBHE, these issues are critical and relevant.

Another concern is procedural. Historically, candidates selected to serve as the Faculty Representative on IBHE were selected from those suggested by the IBHE Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) subject to approval by the State Senate. We have been informed by the IBHE FAC that they did in fact recommend two nominees. In order for an individual to be viewed as a legitimate representative by those he or she represents, there must be a process whereby those represented have input into who will represent them. That process was not followed in this case.

I respectfully request you oppose the nomination of Mr. John Bambenek as Faculty Representative to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Instead, there should be a vetting and recommendation process incorporating the IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, representing faculty from all institutions within the state. I would further ask you to reach out to your colleagues on the Senate Executive Appointments Committee to voice your concerns heard through your constituents.

Thank you for your interest and support on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

[LETTER TO MEMBERS OF THE ILLINOIS SENATE EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE]

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