

**Report from Committee on Teacher Education
IUPUI
2002-2003**

Activities Related to SOE Strategic Goal 1: Continue IU's Commitment to Strong Pre-Service Teacher Education

Action Items:

1. 21st Century Teacher Projects in social studies, science, elementary mathematics, secondary English, and introduction to middle school enabled IUPUI faculty to collaborate with public school colleagues. Comments about these projects have been uniformly positive. Funding for the projects expires at the end of this academic year; schools will be expected to fund future cross-disciplinary development work.
2. Charles Barman and colleagues in science education began work on a grant to follow the first ten science graduates of the Transition to Teaching program to see how they fare in their teaching jobs and what their experiences suggest about needs for program improvement.
3. As part of the Great Cities Schools initiatives in which IUPUI faculty are involved, rubrics are under development to help evaluate the effectiveness of colleges of education in preparing teachers for work in urban settings. The purpose is to help teachers become more effective in coping with problems in urban classrooms and in applying research on teaching and learning to help students learn more effectively.
4. To address an anticipated need for the SOE at IUPUI to become more selective in admitting students to teacher education, a draft admissions policy has been developed. While no students have been rejected so far, the policy favors students who began their studies at IUPUI and have earned GPAs of 3.0 and above. The impact of the policy on the numbers and characteristics of students admitted will be monitored and the draft refined as needed.

Discussion Items:

1. Preparation for and outcomes of the successful NCATE visit in November.
2. The need to work with community and legislative leaders on the changes in teacher education that will be needed in order to implement the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation.

3. The implications of the proposed admissions policy for SOE students at IUPUI. Some members are concerned that high grades may not be the best predictors of success as a teacher and that we might be screening out candidates at a time when critical shortages exist in some fields, especially science and mathematics. The committee is considering the possibility of conducting a predictive validity study to identify those characteristics that are most effective in predicting success.

Activities Other Than Those Related to SOE Goal 1

Action Items:

1. IUPUI has compiled an inventory of campus initiatives that involve the public schools.
2. SOE faculty have used federal funding to establish a web portal, the New Urban Teacher Collaborative (NUTC), to support beginning teachers. NUTC provides professional development resources and opportunities for online discussion for new teachers in the community.
3. A new COTE Planning Subcommittee has been formed to subsume the responsibilities of the Agenda and Interdepartmental Communication subcommittees. The committee will plan COTE meeting agendas and consider matters involving SOE policy as it affects curricula and student advising in other IUPUI schools.

Discussion Items:

1. The federal No Child Left Behind legislation. This has been discussed extensively over the course of the year, with COTE members voicing a number of concerns, including the exclusive reliance on testing; the focus on closing test score gaps for minorities as opposed to promoting excellence in education generally; the lack of consideration of needs for improving teacher education; and the financial impact of the legislation, which provides too little funding to cover required testing or appropriate professional development of teachers. COTE members have suggested that the committee become involved in educating other faculty, students, and the public about the implications of NCLB in relation to research-based findings that suggest what is really needed to improve student learning.

2. Ways in which the committee might be able to influence relevant state and federal legislation, especially to provide support for the implementation of NCLB in such areas as ensuring that every child can read, write, and think critically, in addition to mastering content knowledge.
3. Committee membership. Discussions have considered such issues as rotating members and including public school teachers and SOE students.
4. Smart Desktop, a project that is providing assistance to teachers in 144 Indiana Schools this year.
5. The possibility of seeking funding from the Carnegie Corporation of New York for partnerships involving colleges of education and arts and sciences and public schools in urban settings.
6. SOE planning for a proposal to the Carnegie Corporation to expand NUTC efforts by making stipends available to faculty serving as mentors for beginning teachers.
7. Liability insurance for students pursuing their education off campus in field settings.