

**Annual Report of the
Recruitment, Admissions, and Financial Aid Committee (RAFA)
2005-2006**

Chair: Anne Stright

Members: Curt Bonk, Gretchen Butera, Stephanie Carter, Suzanne Eckes, Michelle Honeyford, Martha Nyikos, Sandy Strain, Peg Sutton

Ex-Officio: Mary McMullen, Ghangis Carter, Patty Mitchell

Recorder, Ex-officio: Rachelle Winkle Wagner

The committee met monthly and focused on 2 major projects this year. First, improvement in the recruitment and retention of underrepresented minorities was addressed by developing a proposal for a Teach for America program. Teach for America is interested in forming a partnership with the School of Education. Teach for America is a national teacher recruitment program that asks exceptional college graduates and seniors to serve as teachers for 2 years in urban or rural schools. Over 50% of Teach for American alumni are under-represented ethnic minorities. Our proposal recommended that the School of Education make a commitment to recruit into our graduate programs Teach for America alumni. Ghangis Carter developed the proposal and after revisions by RAFA, the proposal was submitted to the Dean's Cabinet.

Second, the committee identified student financial support as a weakness and began working with ETS to develop a system for making it easier for graduate students to apply for assistantships. The Graduate Enrollment Management System (GEMS) is beginning to be created and tested through ETS. Centralizing graduate assistantships and the centralization of graduate student fellowships will both be included in this process. The GEMS system will include an inter-net and an intra-net so that students can access different aspects of the system as they apply, enroll, and matriculate into degree programs. Students would be able to centrally apply for all assistantships. The hope is that the new system will be up and running by Fall 2006 or at the latest, Spring 2007.

Charge for the 2006-2007 RAFA Committee

- Teach for America partnership: follow-up on the proposal submitted to the Dean's Cabinet in spring 2006.
- Centralizing graduate student assistantships: follow-up on students applying for assistantships and fellowships on-line
- At the beginning of the year, review the admissions data from 2006-2007 (the students who were admitted for the fall semester 2006) to assess student demographics.
- Focus on developing a system to follow students from entry to alumni status monitor student funding, student progress, etc.
- Survey students regarding their perceptions of the application and recruitment process at IU.
- Meet with department chairs regarding their commitment level to funding students that are being recruited to graduate programs within the School of Education.

- Updating and revising the School of Education website to make it more user-friendly in the recruiting process.
 - Consider ways to include faculty in the process, particularly regarding the content, without making them responsible for the maintenance of the website.
 - Have text that is unlikely to change on the website.
 - Make the website more user-friendly.
 - Perhaps include the Instructional Consulting Office in this process, particularly regarding the existing video streams which already exist.
 - Include something that can be downloaded onto I-Pods or Palm Pilots.

- Beechler Pre-proposal/Master's Thesis Awards.
 - Consider criteria and ways to assess quality across departments.
 - Consider ways to distribute the award across departments.
 - Publicize the award to all departments.
 - Do not have students include resumes/CVs.
 - Consider the possibility of having students' submit online.

- Organize the bundling of smaller privately funded fellowships