

Draft Guidelines
Granting Release Time to Faculty for Supervision of Student Teachers
IUB Faculty and Budgetary Affairs Committee 2003-2004

At the request of the IUB Dean's Office, the Faculty Affairs Committee has examined the issue of granting course release time to faculty for supervision of student teachers. The committee members discussed this issue during several meetings during the spring 2004 semester, and during one meeting David Flinders discussed his experiences supervising student teachers as part of the Community of Teachers program. FAC also received brief written input from the Committee on Teacher Education when they forwarded the issue to FAC for consideration.

Historically, faculty participation in student teacher supervision has varied considerably from year-to-year and program-to-program. Currently, supervision responsibilities are concentrated in two departments, and programs within those departments vary in their degree of responsibility for supervision. In addition, junior faculty are becoming more involved in supervision, making protection of their time an important concern.

Committee members noted the many advantages of involving faculty in student teaching supervision. At the same time, faculty are already very busy with teaching, research, and service commitments, and faculty involvement in student teaching supervision leads to faculty not being able to spend enough time in other necessary activities.

Regardless of these advantages and disadvantages, faculty are supervising student teachers. Committee members believe current policies allow for release time to be granted by department chairs for student teaching supervision. As a result, FAC does not believe a new policy is necessary to deal with this issue. At the same time, committee members agreed on the merits of having release time granted consistently across departments and programs. With that in mind, FAC recommends the following guidelines:

- (1) To implement the current workload policy that gives chairpersons flexibility with respect to this issue.
- (2) To specify guidelines that might be implemented, given the existing workload policy:
 - granting one course release to a faculty member no more than once every two years for supervising 8-10 student teachers.
 - faculty should document time spent in the field and the number of student teachers supervised.

Note on Practicum Experiences:

There was some discussion within the committee about practica experiences. In many ways, practicum supervision raises many of the same issues about faculty release time. However, the committee members noted that student teaching is directly revenue generating, whereas practica supervision most often is not directly income producing. Policy Council may feel that faculty

release time for practica experiences is also deserving of further investigation, but FAC recommends that this be handled separately from faculty release time for student teaching.

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