

Ad Hoc Committee on web-based annual reporting

For the 2003 annual faculty merit review process, the School of Education became among the first academic units in Indiana University Bloomington to initiate use of a web-based system for administering annual reports. The change has raised a number of questions among SOE faculty including privacy and information security; use of information for purposes unknown to those reporting it; and the epistemological structures imposed on assessment by this system. These questions deserve thoughtful and wide-scale discussion by the faculty. Defining standards and procedures concerning faculty promotion, tenure and merit review are a fundamental responsibility of the faculty. Moreover, the questions raised here are likely to be of growing interest to colleagues throughout higher education as such forms for assessing the quality of work of faculty become more widespread.

The Policy Council, therefore, is appointing an ad hoc committee to investigate and report on the new system. This will be a Bloomington-only committee. IUPUI has completed two years of web-based reporting; the experiences there may be of interest to the committee. We ask that the committee reports briefly on its mission at the Spring SOE faculty meeting and that it will provide a full report and recommendations to Policy Council in its October 2004 meeting, in time for these recommendations to inform the 2004 review process.