

TO: Policy Council Agenda Committee

Dear Colleagues -

This email is to inform you that the School of Education Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) voted unanimously (6-0) at their November 8, 2005 to re-open the question of IU's role in sponsoring charter schools. The committee made this decision for several reasons: 1) because activities in the State related to charter schools have changed since the original position was taken in Spring 2002; 2) because school superintendents who are important stakeholders in the School of Education have asked for this reconsideration, 3) because our responsibility as faculty is to thoughtfully address innovations in State education, and 4) because we believe such an important issue is best addressed through organized inquiry and with a measured response, which can only occur with formal deliberations.

Because we are aware that our decision to re-open the question of IU's role in sponsoring charter schools may have many and major implications for our faculty, we asked for faculty input about the process that should be used to address this issue through an email invitation to the IUB and IUPUI faculty listservs, providing a period for input from November 15 to December 2, 2005. We received 6 responses from faculty during that time, in addition to the input we had received from department chairs previous to our November 8 meeting.

The Long Range Planning Committee met again December 5 to discuss the feedback we have received to date from departments and individual faculty, and based on our discussions, have come up with the following recommendation for the process that should be used to address the question of IU's role in charter school sponsorship. We present our recommendation to the Policy Council agenda committee in the text below, and ask that the agenda committee will bring it to the Policy Council during the December meeting.

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Indiana University  
School of Education  
Long Range Planning Committee

December 8, 2005

**RECOMMENDATION FOR PROCESS TO ADDRESS IU POSITION ON CHARTER SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP**

The Long Range Planning Committee recommends that a Task Force be constituted by the School of Education Policy Council to gather information and make a recommendation about what position of Indiana University should be regarding the sponsorship of charter schools in the State of Indiana. The sections below outline who should be the members of the task force, as well as timelines and activities for the process.

**TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP:**

The Long Range Planning Committee recommends that the task force be constituted of the following members:

- 1) Representative of IU's Center for Evaluation and Education Policy – Jonathan Plucker
- 2) Representative of IUPUI's Indiana Urban Schools Association – Chuck Little

- 3) IUPUI Representative (and faculty member engaged in charter school work) – Jose Rosario
- 4) IU Regional Campus Representative – Stuart Green
- 5) School of Education Administrator (to consider overall impact to school) – selected at discretion of Dean Gonzalez – Diana Lambdin
- 6) Member of previous task force (and faculty member with expertise on economics of charter schools) – Neil Theobald
- 7) Member of previous task force (and faculty member proposing a center on charter schools) – Charlie Reigeluth
- 8) Language Education Department Representative (Joby Copenhaver)
- 9) Graduate Student Representative (this person should have expertise in charter schools) – To be named
- 10) Policy Council / Long Range Planning Committee Representative – Barbara Korth
- 11) Requested to be on task force committee and involvement with school superintendents - Leonard Burrello

## PROCESS AND TIMELINES

The activities of the Task Force should include the following, within the specified timelines:

- 1) Task force members invited by Policy Council [December 20, 2005]
- 2) Task force engages in information gathering [January – February, 2006]  
During information gathering phase, task force should collect information from individuals such as:
  - Lowell Rose,
  - Indiana school superintendents,
  - Indiana Department of Education representatives,
  - Mayor of Indianapolis,
  - Ball State University
  - State Teachers Association
- 3) Task force develops report [March 2006]  
Report should include:
  - Documentation of method used for information gathering
  - Description of opportunities and threats to IU from charter school sponsorship
  - Report on pros & cons with recommendations for IU position on charter school sponsorship and rationale for recommendation
  - If recommending, guidance regarding administrative structure and support for the initiative
- 4) Report disseminated [April 1, 2006]  
Report should be disseminated simultaneously to:
  - School of Education Policy Council Agenda Committee,
  - School of Education department chairs,
  - School of Education faculty
 \*Faculty should be invited to comment on report with a two-week period for responses.
- 5) Long Range Planning Committee collects faculty feedback on report [April 14]
- 6) Long Range Planning Committee presents report and feedback to Policy Council [April 21]
- 7) Policy Council makes determination on whether to pass report to Trustees of Indiana University [April 21]

In summary, the Long Range Planning Committee has outlined in this document a recommendation for constituting a task force to address the position of IU's role in charter school sponsorship. This recommendation includes guidance for selecting task force members as well as process milestones for the task force.

These recommendations are respectfully submitted to the Policy Council Agenda Committee for consideration at the December meeting of Policy Council.

Long Range Planning Committee  
Barbara Bichelmeyer, Chairperson  
Mary Fisher  
Enrique Galindo  
Brian Horvitz  
Jane Kaho  
Barbara Korth  
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