

**MINUTES
POLICY COUNCIL
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

March 28, 2007

1:00 P.M.

School of Education

IUB Room 2140

IUPUI Room 3138E

The following are summaries of speaker contributions

Members Present: Dilworth, Eckes, Helfenbein, Levinson, Lewison, Williamson. **Alternates Present:** Appelman, Thompson. **Dean's Staff Present:** Gonzalez, Kloosterman, Lambdin, McMullen, Murtadha. **Staff Representative:** **Student Representatives:** Smith **Visitors:** Reigeluth

I. Approval of the Minutes from the February 21, 2007 Policy Council Meeting
(07.26M)

A motion was made by Eckes and seconded by Williamson to approve the minutes from the February 21, 2007 Policy Council meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Announcements and Discussions

a. Dean's Report

Dean Gonzalez stated that the State Budget has not been finalized and is currently being reviewed by the State Senate. One of the concerns that IU has with the budget passed by the House is a proposal to cap undergraduate tuition. Reaction from the Senate has indicated that the budget may change before the end of the session. The Trustees had earlier signified that they will be taking an aggressive tuition stance, following relatively slow growth in tuition over the past biennium. Now, given the concerns in the State about increasing costs of higher education, the trustees may have to moderate their stance on tuition. With regards to graduate tuition, the School has made proposals to increase tuition substantially over the next two years. Dean Gonzalez has not received any negative comments about this, or about whether the Trustees will approve these increases.

Dean Gonzalez announced that the School recently received the preliminary results of the *U.S. News and World Report* data for this year. While the official report of the data will not be available until Friday, the early report shows that the School of Education will be ranked seventeenth in the country, which is the same as last year. Five individual programs also ranked in the top ten in the country. Dean Gonzalez commented that he is particularly proud of the research accomplishments and external funding received by IU faculty.

Dean Gonzalez reported that he is continuing to monitor the Core Campus proposal that the President has made to the Trustees. The proposal is based on the study that the President commissioned to study system schools and the Core Campus. The study supported and suggested improvements to the Core Campus, and the report pointed to the School of Education as an academic unit that has developed a strong federation system. The President has made recommendations to the Trustees in which he suggests that IU divide the system schools, so that each school becomes a part of a federation, while strengthening the Core Campus. One of the proposals he makes is to eliminate the title "University Dean." Thus, one dean would be responsible for operations in both Bloomington and Indianapolis. The proposal also encourages strengthening the processes that define Core Campus schools, such as tenure and promotion, degree origination, and personnel appointments. The President has asked various schools to take actions in response to implementing those recommendations. The School of Education has been asked to submit a report by June 2008, indicating how we will strengthen the Core Campus and achieve the goals that he has proposed to the Trustees. The Trustees are expected to take action on the proposal at their May meeting. Dean Gonzalez will be meeting with a group of faculty at IUPUI in the near future to talk about implications of the report. Although the Long-Range Planning Committee created a report a few years ago about Core Campus issues, Dean Gonzalez recognized that the institutional climate has changed since that time, and we probably need to re-evaluate the previous report and build on its findings.

Dean Gonzalez reported that Bob Osgood was presented with the Excellence in Service Learning Award at Founders Day. Additionally, Vasti Torres will be inaugurated as president of the American College Personnel Association on Monday in Orlando.

Dean Gonzalez reminded members that the Spring Faculty Meeting is scheduled for Friday at 12:00. Among issues that will be discussed are the Policy Council initiatives, diversity, and recognition of retiring faculty members.

III. Old Business

a. Discussion of the Charter Schools Report (07.25)

Levinson reminded members that the Charter Schools Report was originally prompted by a group of urban school superintendents about the level of interest from the School of Education in regards to sponsoring charter schools. Furthermore, he noted that the Trustees would make the final decision about sponsoring one or more charter schools.

Williamson asked what responsibility the School of Education would have for problems that might develop in a sponsored charter school. Lambdin replied that people who want to open a charter school would apply to IU. Using developed criteria for evaluating these applications, we would accept or reject their application.

We would be responsible for oversight to ensure that the school is doing what its charter proposed. Dean Gonzalez said the role of a sponsor is to evaluate proposals, award the charter, and monitor the schools. A sponsor does not have the responsibility of hiring administration or other operations. These activities are coordinated by a board created to oversee each charter school. Charter schools are allowed more flexibility with some regulations that impact traditional public schools. However, charter schools are still required to give state assessments, report AYP, and be responsive to needs of special education students. Charter schools may be allowed to hire unlicensed teachers and permit teachers to be hired without collective bargaining. Eckes reported that in her work with charter schools, she has seen charter schools that extend their school day, hold classes on Saturday, and require teachers to have a cell phone on them at any time in order for students to call them with issues.

Lambdin pointed out that faculty members at IU can work with curricula, professional development, and research at charter schools without IU being the sponsor of those schools. Gonzalez agreed and added that we are already in the process of partnering with existing charter schools by placing students in the schools for field experiences. He pointed out that sponsorship is a legal status, and that our faculty and students can engage in charter schools without IU sponsoring such schools. Reigeluth added that the Task Force believed that the urban superintendents' rationale for wanting IU to sponsor charter schools was their hope that IU would provide support and guidance for the schools. Lambdin added that the Task Force discussed that they did not want such loose criteria for granting charters that we would feel obligated to grant charters to schools that we would not feel good about supporting. Helfenbein commented that some of the charter schools have great plans when their charter is approved, but when they are confronted with their day-to-day operations, they are unable to implement the vision of their charter.

Gonzalez said that our sponsorship of charter schools could create a perception of conflict of interest. For example, the Center for Evaluation and Education Policy has been commissioned to evaluate several charter schools in the state of Indiana. This could bring some to question whether we could objectively evaluate schools that we sponsor.

Appelman suggested that we could help develop charter schools, rather than sponsoring them. Dean Gonzalez added that the P-16 Center is envisioned to do such work.

Dean Gonzalez commented that this report will allow him to respond to the Trustees or the President if they were to show interest in sponsoring charter schools. The report successfully responds to faculty opinions and needs relating to the sponsorship of charter schools by IU.

A motion was made by Levinson and seconded by Lewison to enter into the minutes a special note of thanks to the Charter School Task Force for their work on this report. The motion passed unanimously.

Dean Gonzalez added that he plans to report back to the group of superintendents that the report has been completed and reviewed by the Policy Council.

IV. New Business

a. Conflicts of Commitment (07.28)

Levinson commented that the Conflicts of Commitment Policy was recently passed by the IUB Faculty Affairs Committee. The Agenda Committee felt that this policy should be a joint IUB-IUPUI policy. The IUPUI Faculty Affairs Committee was given the policy for review, but due to time constraints, they have not yet approved the policy. Kloosterman commented that the Conflicts of Commitment policy responds to a campus-wide request from the Bloomington Faculty Council. The BFC passed a conflict of commitment policy and charged each unit to develop their own policy. The Faculty Affairs Committee revised the BFC document to make it specific to the School of Education. The policy is designed to ensure that faculty members understand what conflicts of commitment are, and if there are potential conflicts of commitment, they are addressed with the chair of the department. Murtadha added that a similar campus-wide conflict of commitment policy exists at IUPUI.

A motion was made by Appelman and seconded by Dilworth to approve the Conflicts of Commitment policy.

Murtadha asked whether the policy could be passed as a Core Campus policy, rather than an IUB-specific policy, because it reflects the same issues that are addressed in the policy that all campuses have passed. Levinson asked whether the IUPUI faculty felt comfortable passing the policy without approval of the IUPUI Faculty Affairs Committee. He noted that the title of the policy implies that it applies to the entire school, and is not IUB specific. Murtadha stated that she had no problem supporting the policy without the approval of the IUPUI Faculty Affairs Committee.

Levinson suggested that the first sentence of the preamble be amended to state “two basic principles” instead of “four” that was stated in the original version of the policy.

It was determined that the Executive Associate Dean’s office will be responsible for sending out annually the notice that corresponds to this policy.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. Environmental Campaign (07.29)

Smith presented a response from the Dean’s Advisory Council regarding the environmental campaign that originated from Policy Council discussions earlier this year. Smith thanked Suzanne Eckes for assisting with the efforts that the Dean’s Advisory Council have proposed. Smith stated that the students discussed whether

during the AI training, or whenever else possible, the AIs could be instructed to use E-reserves as opposed to printing articles and assignments.

Smith also announced that the Dean's Advisory Council recently was presented the George Taliaferro Award by Big Brothers/Big Sisters for its work with First Friends.

A motion was made by Levinson and seconded by Dilworth to resolve that the Policy Council congratulates and commends the Dean's Advisory Council for its extensive service efforts, including its work with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day activities, and heartily endorses their environmental campaign plan in the School of Education. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.