Policy Council Nominations and Elections Committee (2008)

The Nominations and Elections committee met twice, first on February 14 to review nominations and propose a slate for the Policy Council election, and second on March 17 to count votes from the election to determine the Policy Council representatives and alternates for next year.

Members of the committee are: Diana Lambdin (chair), Charlie Barman, John Bean, Tom Duffy, and Tarajean Yazzie-Mintz, and Jane Kaho, staff liaison.

First meeting: February 14
Following the guidelines provided by Jane Kaho (from the SOE Constitution), we prepared a slate of candidates for the election. We used the number of votes obtained by each faculty member during the nomination process as a guide, but also considered demographics of the faculty to ensure a representative slate. Three nomination ballots which were signed on the back of the envelope, but illegible, were disregarded. Two nomination ballots where more than 10 names had been circled were also disregarded. After determining the election slate, we set a timetable for the election: 1) send out ballots (approx. Feb. 18), 2) ballots due (Feb. 29), 3) meeting to count ballots (March 17).

After preparing the ballot, and scheduling the election, we discussed two issues:
1) Organization of the nomination ballot
The initial (nomination) ballot was organized by "department" according to the IUB departmental structure, though IUB and IUPUI faculty were mixed on the ballot, with IUPUI faculty listed under the "department" that most closely fit with their own primary area of responsibility. Jane reported that a few faculty had raised questions about why the ballot was organized that way. We considered alternative ways to organize the ballot, noting the restriction each voter may nominate no more than 4 persons from his/her own department. This is why it is helpful to list faculty by department. However, we could see how using the IUB departmental structure might be confusing or ambiguous for voters from IUPUI, or for anyone choosing to vote for IUPUI faculty. We were particularly interested in Charlie's opinion about this perceived problem, since he represents the IUPUI faculty. Charlie thought the ballot was organized in the best way possible under the circumstances. We decided that listing faculty by "department" on the nomination ballot should continue in the future.

2) We discussed how the voting ballot will be organized (by seat, #1-#6, with 3 names listed as candidates for each seat – but with no indication of departmental or campus affiliation provided by the names). The ballots will be distributed in hard copy, with return-addressed campus mail envelopes, and the envelopes must be signed on the back, with the voters' name also printed.

We recommend that the 2009 Policy Council election be conducted electronically, with each candidates' name on the ballot hot-linked to his/her faculty profile. This would enable voters to check on the campus, department, and professional interests of the candidates – particularly helpful in the case of new faculty who may not recognize all the names on the ballot. We encourage the SOE administration to alert ETS early to this request to organize an electronic

voting process. The voting process must be able to keep track of who has voted, in the same way that signing the envelope does now.