

MINUTES
POLICY COUNCIL
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
February 22, 2012
1:00-3:00 p.m.
IUB – Room 2140
IUPUI – Room 3138E

What follows is a summary of speaker contributions

Members Present: D. DeSawal, S. Eckes, E. Galindo, R. Helfenbein, A. Leftwich, T. Ochoa, C. Thompson, E. Tillema; **Student Members Present:** M. Benetti; **Dean's Staff Present:** J. Alexander, T. Brush; **Staff Present:** J. Lawrence; **Visitors Present:** T. Frick.

I. Approval of the Minutes from November 9, 2011 Meeting (12.30M)

Chalmer Thompson motioned to vote to approve the minutes. Enrique Galindo seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved with one minor correction.

II. New Business

Proposal to move Adult Education Masters & certificates from Continuing Studies to SoE (12.32)

Ted Frick presented information about the move of the School of Continuing Studies Adult Education program to the IST Department at IUB. Last summer it was announced that the School of Continuing Studies was going to be closed, and IST faculty approached Dean Gonzalez with the possibility of moving the Adult Education Distance Master's program into the IST Department. The School of Education Dean's office discussed the possibility with President McRobbie's office and the Office of the Provost to determine if they could help make it happen financially. The President agreed that the IST department in the School of Education would be an appropriate home for the Adult Education program and has committed funding to help support the transition. The Adult Education Master's degree is an already approved program and nothing in the program or curriculum will change during this transition. As the School of Continuing Studies is closing on June 30, 2012, the target date for the switch is set to July 1st. The programs moving to IST are the Adult Education M.S. degree and professional development certificates in Distance Education and Career Advisor Certification.

Joyce Alexander asked if schools of education typically host adult education programs. Ted Frick responded that it is typical in many schools, adding that IST already works with adult education.

III. Announcements and Discussions
Dean's Report

Executive Associate Dean Joyce Alexander presented the Dean's report. She announced that Dean Gonzalez was attending the funeral for Edward A. Otting, who passed away on February 19th. Ed Otting and his wife Mary Lou have been very supportive of the School of Education, establishing the Otting Chair in Special Education and the Otting Special Education Scholars Fund.

Next, Dr. Alexander reiterated President McRobbie's request to encourage more faculty to attend the undergraduate graduation ceremony that is now being held on a Saturday. Since a separate ceremony for graduate students began, there have been fewer faculty in attendance.

Continuing on to legislative issues, she discussed Senate Bill 182, which was passed a few weeks ago. Yesterday, the House has passed their version of the bill. The bill will now go to the governor for approval. Bill 182 creates a common numbering system for all general education courses at all state universities. The bill also includes a measure that states that students who graduate from Ivy Tech and continue on to a bachelor's degree at a state university must be considered finished with all 30 general education courses and cannot be asked to take any more. These general education credits do not necessarily count towards teaching licensure and further discussion of this issue is necessary. The Senate version of the bill also places a limit on the maximum number of credit hours a college or university can require for completion of a bachelor's degree at 120 credit hours. The IU School of Education currently has the highest number of bachelor's degrees that require more than 120 credit hours. Further discussion as to how to lower the number of credit hours is also needed.

Dr. Alexander continued to discuss the other School of Education initiatives, reporting that the grade inflation report is underway and a report should be ready next month. The construction of a tech sandbox will also begin this summer. This creates a space where faculty can try out new types of technology, including different types of instructional platforms (Smart Boards, etc.) or video game systems. This is the result of a series of field visits to classrooms to see what types of technologies new teachers should be prepared to use. A report from these visits is forthcoming, but a lack of teacher preparation in technology use has become obvious.

To combat this issue, more Smart Boards have been added into science education classrooms and will next be added to mathematics classrooms. Along with the incorporation of new technology comes a reduction in capacity to make classrooms easier to move around in and collaborate in. The Faculty Development committee created the Bloomington Classroom Report which discusses changes they would like to see in the next five years. This includes the removal of chairs, media carts, teacher desks, and coat racks. The rooms will also be painted, and more lights, white boards, and movable chairs and tables will be added. Any broadband issues will also be addressed. A collaboration with UITS seeks to create four or five technology-rich classrooms with the latest types of instructional technology.

Rob Helfenbein asked to see the field report to inform decisions at IUPUI. Dr. Alexander said that the report will be distributed once it's finished.

Agenda Committee

Suzanne Eckes announced that Jacqueline Blackwell, Gayle Buck, and Joel Wong were elected members of the Nominations and Elections Committee.

Suzanne also reminded the Policy Council to send ideas about future diversity topics to a member of the agenda committee. There have been few ideas raised recently.

IV. Old Business, Diversity Topic – Suzanne Eckes

Suzanne discussed the new guidelines that came out of the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Education (Office for Civil Rights Division) in December 2011, regarding diversity and admission in higher education. These guidelines provide guidance on the voluntary use of race in school admissions to promote diversity in K-12 schools and higher education. These new guidelines take the place of those created by the Bush administration. The guidelines look at the major U.S. Supreme Court cases and statutes that deal with the issue of race in admissions, primarily *Grutter v. Bollinger* (2003) and *Gratz v. Bollinger* (2003). The result of these cases was that student body diversity was a compelling state interest and that universities could consider policies that take race into consideration when admitting students if such plans were narrowly tailored. Specifically, race could be considered very flexibly – as one of many factors in admitting students in higher education programs (it reaffirmed that racial quotas are illegal).. The new guidelines interpret these important cases differently than the last administration did and allow universities to think of race a bit more flexibly. These guidelines are helpful to faculty members involved in student admissions.

It is important to note that a new U.S. Supreme Court case regarding affirmative action in admissions in higher education, *Fischer v. The University of Texas*, will be heard this fall. The decision in this case is likely to further impact these guidelines because the composition of the Court has changed since the *Grutter* and *Gratz* decisions..

Suzanne asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Anne Leftwich motioned and Danielle DeSawal seconded.

****The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. ****