

MINUTES
POLICY COUNCIL
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
October 15, 2014
1:00-3:00pm
IUB—Room 2140
IUPUI—Room 3138B
IUPUC—Room 155D

What follows is a summary of speaker contributions

Members Present: B. Edmonds, C. Guarino, B. Maxcy, C. Bonk, P. Carspecken, D. DeSawal, R. Martinez, K. Pepler, D. Hossler; **Alternate Members Present:** S. Parades-Scribner, J. Conner-Zachocki; **Student Members Present:** B. Jarrard (undergraduate), A. Stuehling (graduate); **Staff Member Present:** T. Niggle; **Dean's Staff Present:** G. Gonzalez, J. Alexander, E. Boling, R. Kunzman, P. Rogan; **Guests:** H. Ross

- Minutes from the September 17, 2014 Policy Council Meeting (**15.09M**) were unanimously approved.

I. Announcements and Discussions

Dean's Report: Dean Gerardo Gonzalez

Dean Gonzalez announced that George Kuh, Chancellor's Professor Emeritus, received the President's Medal for Excellence at the recent Academic Excellence dinner. The President's Medal is widely considered the highest academic award bestowed by the university.

President McRobbie's latest State of the University address was delivered on the IUPUI campus on October 14. The Dean was in attendance and, afterward, emailed to the faculty links to President McRobbie's comments and the university's draft of the bicentennial strategic plan, which McRobbie outlined during his address. McRobbie's goal is to have the strategic plan finalized—with input from faculty—by November 22nd and then to present the plan to the Trustees in December. The final plan will guide the investment of resources and other actions by the university leading up to IU Bloomington's bicentennial anniversary in 2020. One of the highest priorities McRobbie communicated in the strategic plan is to ensure that the School of Education continues to be a leader in the university and in the state of Indiana. This was his third highest priority—listed just after ensuring students' success across all IU campuses and advancing research. To be identified as the third highest priority in the President's bicentennial strategic plan is a credit to the faculty and students and to everyone who contributes to the excellence of the School of Education. It is also a statement about the important role that the School plays in education in the state.

And this comes at a time when the School of Education is in transition, particularly in light of the Dean's decision to step down in June, after 15 years of serving in this capacity. Therefore, President McRobbie also used the State of the University address to announce that he will

appoint a “blue ribbon committee” that will conduct a study of the School to help to determine its future direction and, more immediately, organize the search for a new Dean. Dean Gonzalez has been invited by President McRobbie to submit names of potential committee members, and the creation of the committee is in progress. The goal is to have the committee in place as soon as possible, particularly so that the search for a new Dean can begin. Still, it seems unlikely that this search will be completed by June, and so there might be a need for an interim Dean.

Part of what is driving the President’s interest in having this committee develop a report on the School is the concern both within the state and nationally about educational reform, performance, improvement, and so on. There are new Trustees on the Board, and the Chair of the Board—Randall Tobias—is very interested in education and the impact the School has on K-12 education in the state. This likely contributed to President McRobbie’s prioritizing the School of Education in his address.

Related, the Dean noted the general trend of decreasing enrollment in education. A recent article in the Chronicle of Higher Education focused on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where there has been a particularly significant drop in enrollment. The article also suggested some possible reasons for decreasing enrollment, including the changes in teachers’ salaries over the last decade. It showed that, when dollars are held constant, there are some states where teachers’ salaries have improved and some where salaries have gone down. Indiana is the state that has seen the second highest drop in salaries over that period of time. Correcting these negative trends in enrollment and salary will require more influence than the School of Education itself can exert. The university on the whole must use its influence to ensure that the policies in place going forward will help to recruit high-ability, passionate students into education. And the state must commit to providing the finances that will help to ensure that those students will be attracted to the profession. Therefore, the Dean intends over the next few months to underscore for the President and the Provost and others how important it is to the future of education in the state that the university become an active advocate for high quality teacher preparation and PK-12 education. The Dean is optimistic that the university will embrace this role. But it is also important, especially in this time of transition, for the faculty to be involved and willing to speak out on issues that are important to the School. That starts, for instance, by taking a close look at the strategic plan and providing input. It also means being ready to do things differently if the President’s newly-forming committee makes recommendations about how the School might organize more effectively and have a greater impact on education in the state. The committee’s review will be of the whole system—not just the School of Education on the Bloomington campus or the core campus. So, it is important that we be at the table—making suggestions and providing input—as change happens both at the level of the School and a more systemic level.

C. Bonk asked if there will be a formal announcement of George Kuh’s award. The Dean said he is waiting for the President’s Office to do a news release.

C. Bonk also mentioned that U.S. Today recently featured a report on anticipated job growth over the next 3-4 years. The third and ninth highest areas of anticipated growth were, respectively, elementary and middle school teachers. The Dean pointed out the interesting dichotomy that this suggests: We have less and less students across the country going into

teaching, and, at the same time, there is an increasing number of teaching jobs becoming available. The challenge, then, is for the School and university and state leaders to do what is necessary to recruit and train the right people—talented and passionate students—to fill these positions.

P. Rogan noted that Michael Cohen, Professor Emeritus, was also recognized at the Academic Excellence dinner.

D. Hossler noted the possibility that the President’s committee will include representatives from charter school associations, Teach for America, and other advocates for privatization approaches to education.

The Dean concluded by announcing the faculty retreat scheduled for Friday, October 17. He suggested that this is a good time for the faculty to examine the School’s own strategic plan in relation to the university’s plan—as outlined by President McRobbie—and in light of the pending institutional and leadership changes.

II. Old Business

Diversity Topic—Heidi Ross, East Asian Studies Center

H. Ross talked about the current state of title VI funding for National Resource Centers (NRCs) and language and area studies centers at Indiana University. Two language resource centers—the Center for Languages of the Central Asian Region and the National African Language Resource Center—were funded. Some NRCs were also funded—including the East Asian Studies Center, the Russian and East European Institute, the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center, and the Center for the Study of the Middle East. The Kelley School of Business also received its funding for the Center for International Business. However, three NRCs did not get funded: The Center for Global Change, African Studies, and Caribbean and Latin American Studies. And, IU lost five Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships.

III. New Business

HESA Fund Raising Certificate Proposal—face to face and online (15.11)

D. DeSawal presented the proposal and discussion ensued.

Result: Proposal passed unanimously.

Proposal for Re-validation of Non-licensure Coursework (15.12)

R. Kunzman presented the proposal and discussion ensued.

Result: Proposal passed unanimously.

Proposal for Policy on Minor Qualifying Exams (15.13)

E. Boling presented the proposal and discussion ensued.

Result: Proposal passed unanimously.

IV. New Courses/Course Changes

P. Carspecken announced that the courses listed on the agenda are open for 30 day remonstrance.

****P. Carspecken adjourned the meeting at 2:15pm****