

MINUTES
POLICY COUNCIL
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
December 12, 2007
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
School of Education
IUB – Room 2140
IUPUI – Room 3138E

** The following are summaries of speaker contributions**

Members Present: Akerson, Bichelmeyer, Bull, Chapman, Cummings, Flinders, Helfenbein, Lewison, Lopez, Thompson **Alternates Present:** Kunzman, Vallance
Dean's Staff Present: Gonzalez, Kloosterman, McMullen **Staff Representative:** Novotny **Student Representatives:** Hamilton, Lahann **Visitors:** Wohlwend

I. Approval of the Minutes from November 14, 2007 Meeting (08.11 M)

McMullen pointed out that Novotny's name was left off of the staff representatives' present list for last month's meeting and so should be added. Cummings added that Skiba's name should be listed under the Alternates present, as well as under the Visitors list. Bichelmeyer pointed out that Boling's name should be added to the Alternates list, as well.

The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously approved.

II. Announcements and Discussions

a. Dean's Report

Gonzalez had just returned from a meeting with IUB campus deans and made a brief report on the discussion topics of that meeting. The deans have been receiving ongoing updates of student admissions to the Bloomington campus for the 2008-09 academic year. The numbers indicate that not only is the number of applicants increasing, but the quality as measured by SAT/ACT scores, class rank, GPA, out-of-state students enrolling at IU, etc. is as well. The diversity of student applications has also increased. The campus has put a concentrated effort into attracting more students of color to Indiana University, as well as increasing the overall quality of students per the above indicators, and these statistics would suggest that those efforts are indeed paying off.

Another topic addressed at this meeting included a discussion of the President's priorities for the campus. Those priorities have now been incorporated into a request for the deans to make budget presentations. In these presentations the deans should identify activities that are being undertaken within various academic units to address the priorities laid out in President McRobbie's inauguration address.

Thompson asked Gonzalez if he could explain and discuss the Town Hall Meeting that occurred at IUPUI campus on December 11, 2007. Gonzalez explained that a forum was held to discuss the resignation of Murtadha as Executive Associate Dean of the SOE at IUPUI. Murtadha has decided to take a sabbatical leave for spring of 2008 and return to teaching in the summer of 2008. Gonzalez stated that Murtadha has done an exemplary job of fulfilling her duties as Executive Associate Dean and has had a major impact on the IUPUI campus and the surrounding community. The announcement of this resignation was made with rather short notice because Murtadha struggled with the decision. It appears that some people, including faculty, students and community members, voiced concerns during the forum that Murtadha may have been asked to resign or forced to resign under duress. Gonzalez indicated that this was not true. Murtadha wrote a memorandum to members of the faculty and others indicating that the conditions under which she works (i.e. the Core Campus and the fact that she is expected to report to the Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs on the IUPUI campus, and to the Dean at IUB) made her position difficult in many ways and led to conflicting pressures that contributed to her resignation.

On the basis of some of these perceptions and other comments that had been made, the IUPUI Black Faculty and Staff Council (BFSC) organized a Town Hall Meeting to talk about some of the issues at hand. These issues included 1) the pressures of the Core Campus, particularly for the Executive Associate Dean position, 2) the concern over the lack of racial/ethnic diversity within the faculty, especially in leadership roles, and 3) the appreciation for Murtadha and the work that she has done for IU and the community. The meeting involved a panel of faculty members from IUPUI, Bart Ng of the Faculty Council, and moderator, and had a very large turnout. The BFSC asked Chancellor Bantz, who was in attendance, for some immediate steps to be taken in response to the first two issues described earlier, and members of the community chimed in to offer their support.

Thompson reported that a letter sent to the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor at IUPUI and copied to Gonzalez and to President McRobbie was signed by 26 (and later, 3 more names were added) IUPUI School of Education faculty members and supported the charge that this situation is a crisis for IUPUI and the surrounding community. The faculty at IUPUI feel that this is an extremely important issue and one that is currently occupying an extensive amount of time and attention. Further discussion was held about issues raised in this letter and what they mean to issues of the core campus. Thompson volunteered to forward a copy of the aforementioned letter to all members of the Policy Council.

b. Agenda Committee Report

Two committees have been established for the review of Academic Administrators Joyce Alexander and Mary McMullen.

For Joyce Alexander, the Committee includes:

Sasha Barab
Elizabeth Boling - Chair
Rebecca Martinez
Floyd Robison
Vasti Torres
Cindy Wedemeyer

For Mary McMullen, the Committee includes:

David Estell
David Flinders
Frank Lester - Chair
Martha McCarthy
Annela Teemant
Amy Sutley

If faculty members would like to provide any input to these committees they are invited to contact committee chairs.

III. New Business

a. Proposal for Level II Reading Program Specialist License (08.13)

Wohlwend presented on behalf of the Language Education Department. The department would like to extend the current Reading Specialist program to include a Level II licensure program, in addition to the Level I licensure program already in place. This program would involve a sequence of four courses that lead to a certificate as a Reading Specialist conferred by the Indiana State Board of Education. In order to gain this license a student must be pursuing a Master's degree through the School of Education, or already have a Master's degree in a related field of study. The student is also required already to hold the Level 1 Reading Specialist License.

This proposal has been approved by the Graduate Studies Committee and the Teacher Education Committee. The proposal was discussed by Policy Council.

A vote was held and this proposal was approved.

b. Suggested Nominations for Policy Council Nominations and Elections Committee

Tarajean Yazzie-Mintz
Charles Barman
John Bean
Tom Duffy
Diana Lambdin

Discussion was held concerning the proposed committee nominations. Bichelmeyer made a motion to accept the proposed committee members, Flinders seconded the motion. A vote was held and this proposal was approved.

IV. Old Business

- a. Diversity Topic: The Status of diversity among Indiana's prospective college students and in teacher education
- i. Institutional Research Report on SAT scores (08.14)
 - ii. SoE Diversity Committee Report (06.33)

At the last Policy Council meeting, the council decided that an agenda item would be included for every meeting concerning some issue or aspect of diversity within the School of Education. Two documents (08.14 and 06.33) provide a review of background information and data to facilitate the discussion at today's meeting.

Discussion was held concerning the current Diversity topic. Discussion topics included 1) the questionable use of SAT scores as an admission standard and how they may affect the application and admission of students of color, 2) the increased number of more diverse applicants to IU this year (as mentioned in the Dean's Report), 3) financial barriers that may prevent students of color from applying to or graduating from the university, 4) the importance of encouraging students and their families to begin thinking about college as early as late elementary and early middle school, and 5) the use of the PRAXIS I as an admission standard to the School of Education.

V. New Course Requests

Bull announced that new course requests or course change requests are currently open for remonstrance.

The meeting was adjourned by Bull at 3:02 p.m.

