

To: Agenda Committee, Policy Council
From: International Programs Committee
Date: September 29, 2008
Re: Request for attention to internationalization in teacher education program

On behalf of the International Programs Committee, I would like to request that the following be addressed by the Policy Council or other appropriate committee(s) for their deliberation and action.

1. The international Programs Committee would like the Policy Council to consider the rewording of our SOE mission statement:

"The mission of the Indiana University School of Education is to improve teaching, learning, and human development in a **global**, diverse, rapidly changing, and increasingly technological, **interdependent** society.

2. We would like to request that the Committee on Teacher Education be charged with reviewing the six Guiding Principles of the Teacher Education Program to include a clear indication of the necessity to internationalize the undergraduate teacher certification program in particular. This would extend to reviewing courses that might be infused with topics that address the need to prepare globally and internationally competent teachers.

We request that language be developed that reflects the vision of internationalizing the overall teacher education program in the guiding principles at the least, and that action be taken to infuse international topics into the undergraduate teacher education program. We recognize that the timing for any major changes in the program may not be appropriate with the impending NCATE review, however, we request that the process be begun.

Some background:

A significant movement has been underway in the United States to internationalize K-12 education, including teacher education. In recent years, several conferences have addressed the internationalization of teacher education, while a number of major universities have established or are developing programs to advance this aim. These initiatives are largely curricular, such as introducing globally-themed courses into teacher education programs or expanding students' opportunities for international and multicultural experiences. A pressing need exists to promote further development of our undergraduate teacher education curriculum so that we stay on the vanguard of teacher education institutions that recognize, in concrete ways the need for our pre-service and in-service teachers to acquire the knowledge and dispositions through their coursework as well as, student teaching placements, and other internationally oriented experiences. We hope to initiate a long-term effort to internationalize teacher education.

Currently, the International Programs Committee is planning a conference to look at the issues in the process of internationalizing teacher education, "Toward a Research-Based Approach to International Teacher Education" May 21-23, 2009 in the School of Education. This working conference will bring together researchers and practitioners interested in this topic to further set an agenda of research agenda this process.

On behalf of the International Programs Committee, thank you for considering this request. We look forward to your actions on these points.

Martha Nyikos
Chair, International Programs Committee