

MINUTES
POLICY COUNCIL
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
December 10, 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, J. Cho, F. Pawan, D. Hossler, S. Scribner, C. Walcott; **Student Members Present:** B. Jarrard (undergraduate), E. Mickey (graduate); **Staff Member Present:** T. Niggle; **Dean's Staff Present:** G. Gonzalez, J. Alexander, P. Rogan, R. Sherwood, R. Kunzman. **Guests:** N. Flowers, T. Mason, R. Skiba, B. Chung, J. Lester.

- Minutes from the November 19, 2014 Policy Council Meeting (**15.22M**) were unanimously approved.

I. Announcements and Discussions

Dean's Report: Dean Gerardo Gonzalez

The Dean discussed his recent participation in a panel sponsored by two groups: Chalkbeat, which is a nonprofit news organization that covers educational change efforts; and Teach Plus, a group of teachers that advocates for greater teacher voice in the profession. The panel was organized by Chalkbeat and, along with Dean Gonzalez and a teacher selected by Teach Plus, it featured one graduate from IUB's teacher education program and one current student of the program.

The discussion was facilitated by a commentary the Dean made in *Education Week* in March 2014 that called attention to the flawed nature of NCTQ studies. Teach Plus responded to this commentary by calling for attention not to the flaws of research but to improvements that can be made in education. In light of this response, *Education Week* invited the Dean to follow up by engaging in a point-counter point discussion with Teach Plus that would enable both parties to elaborate on initial points. This became the starting point for a broader dialogue around important issues in education and, eventually, the panel event, which was covered in Chalkbeat.org.

Someone posted a comment in response to Chalkbeat's story about the panel asking why the School of Education does not have the same admissions standards as the Kelley School of Business. The Dean responded to the comment in order to invalidate the pervasive ideas that the School of Education has lower admissions standards and that students who choose to go into education only do so because they cannot get into any other field. He cited statistics that the School of Education's 2014-2015 entering class of direct admits had an average high school

GPA of 3.9. Furthermore, the overall entering class of IU students intending to major in education had an average high school GPA that was higher than the overall entering class of IU students in general.

The Dean pointed out that these kinds of misconceptions about the admissions standards of the School of Education and about the quality of its students in general are partly to blame for the decline of enrollment in teacher education that has been the impetus for priority three of IU's Bicentennial Strategic Plan. It is important, therefore, to continually communicate that problems in education are not just problems with (or for) the School of Education. It is a responsibility that must be shared by society and by the university as a whole. And part of this responsibility includes speaking out against misinformation and biases that are pervasive in our society and that contribute to the problems. The Dean concluded by expressing his hope that the discussion around the Strategic Plan will, among other things, offer an opportunity for the School to go on record about some of the misperceptions around education and to offer some suggestions of what can be done—collectively—to address them.

II. Old Business

Diversity Topic—Drs. Barry Chung, Russ Skiba, and Jessica Lester

Members of the Diversity Committee discussed some of the major findings from their recent climate survey, which was conducted in order to collect and communicate to the School information about the status of diversity and the climate for diversity in the core campus Schools. A comprehensive report—and an executive summary—will be provided by the diversity committee in the early spring of 2015.

Discussion ensued concerning the nature of the survey, the questions and responses, and its overall purpose.

Diversity Committee members recommended that such a survey be conducted regularly (every 2-3 years) and that a separate body be created to conduct this work.

III. New Business

New Business

Proposal for EdD Minor in Educational Leadership—Cassie Guarino (15.24)

C. Guarino presented the rationale for the proposal.

Result: Proposal passed unanimously.

Proposal for PhD Minor in Educational Leadership—Cassie Guarino (15.25)

C. Guarino presented the rationale for the proposal. She also noted that when this document was uploaded to Oncourse, it was titled as a “Minor in EdS.” It is, however, a PhD minor and has no connection to the EdS. (The mistaken title given to the document on Oncourse was the result of a clerical error. This was corrected on 12/12/2014.)

Result: Proposal passed unanimously.

Proposal for Standalone minor in PhD in Educational Leadership (IUPUI)—Samantha Scribner (15.28)

S. Scribner presented the rationale for the proposal.

Result: Proposal passed unanimously.

Proposal for Program Changes in EdD in Educational Leadership—Cassie Guarino (15.26)

C. Guarino explained the rationale for the proposal. Discussion ensued.

S. Scribner raised a concern about the implications of removing A560 (Political Perspectives of Education) as a required course given its importance to the Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC) Standards.

B. Maxcy added that A560 has implications, in particular, for standard 6 as well as standards 1 and 4. He expressed concerns about the possibility of a student completing the Educational Leadership program without having taken a politics course.

The Dean pointed out that these issues were likely to have already been discussed at the program level given that the proposal made it to Graduate Studies and, ultimately, the Policy Council.

B. Maxcy made the point that these questions were apparently also raised at the IUB ELPS meeting. He was following up on them in the Policy Council meeting because they are important questions and they have implications for IUPUI as well, particularly in thinking about strength of the EdD program and its relationship to the ISLLC standards.

C. Guarino acknowledged that under the revised program requirements a student could, in fact, graduate without a course in the politics of education. She also suggested that students can meet the ISLLC standards in question through other courses.

B. Maxcy expressed further and related concerns that the flexibility students seem to have under the revised program requirements could potentially lead to the erosion of the “core” of the program as it was initially designed and could make it difficult to meet the ISLLC standards.

C. Guarino responded that this increased flexibility was not necessarily a negative for the students.

B. Maxcy made a motion to table the proposal pending further information and discussion of these issues and questions. S. Scribner seconded the motion.

A vote was taken on the motion to table the proposal:

Result: 2 in favor; 8 opposed. The motion was denied.

A vote was taken on the original proposal:

Result: 8 in favor; 2 opposed. The proposal was passed.

Proposal for Program Changes in EdS in Educational Leadership—Cassie Guarino (15.27)

B. Maxcy noted that the issues and questions raised in response to proposal 15.26 are also applicable to this proposal. Therefore, he moved to table this proposal pending further information and discussion. S. Scribner seconded the motion.

A vote was taken on the motion to table the proposal:

Result: 2 in favor; 8 opposed. The motion was denied.

A vote was taken on the original proposal:

Result: 8 in favor; 2 opposed. The proposal was passed.

Proposal for Standalone Minor in Teacher Education—Terry Mason (15.29)

T. Mason explained the rationale for the proposal. Discussion ensued.

Result: Proposal passed unanimously.

**Proposal for Graduate Certificate in Urban Education Advocacy and Leadership—
Natasha Flowers (15.30)**

N. Flowers explained the rationale for the proposal. Discussion ensued.

Result: Proposal passed unanimously.

Charge to Blue Ribbon Committee and for the Schools' self-study (15.31)

The Draft Charge to the Blue Ribbon Committee—including previously collected commentary from the faculty—was collectively reviewed. Current and additional suggestions for revisions were discussed and noted. The Agenda Committee will rework the document in light of all the commentary and discussion and distribute a clean, revised draft.

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 3:09pm****