

MINUTES
POLICY COUNCIL
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
March 25, 2015
1:00-3:00pm
IUB—Room 2140
IUPUI—Room 3138B
IUPUC—Room 155D

What follows is a summary of speaker contributions

Members Present: P. Carspecken, B. Edmonds, K. Peppler, D. Hossler, R. Martinez, S. P. Scribner, B. Maxcy, C. Walcott; **Alternate Members Present:** C. Bonk; **Student Members Present:** M. Bienz, E. Mickey ; **Staff Member Present:** T. Niggle; **Dean's Staff Present:** G. Gonzalez, J. Alexander, P. Rogan, R. Kunzman, T. Mason.; **Guests:** J. Scheurich

- Minutes from the January 21, 2015 Policy Council meeting (**15.34M**) were unanimously approved.
- Minutes from the March 11, 2015 Policy Council meeting (**15.37M**) were unanimously approved, 1 abstention (E. Mickey).

I. Announcements and Discussions

Dean's Report: Dean Gerardo Gonzalez

The Dean called attention to a recent proposal for a new way of funding the IU Office of Online Education. When the President established the IU Office of Online Education, it received 3-4 million dollars in start-up funds. We are now coming to the end of the start-up funding and the university needs to find another way to fund the Office. A proposal has come forth for the establishment of a \$50 fee to be added to tuition and other costs related to on-line education. The Kelley School of Business and the School of Education are the two biggest units on campus in terms of on-line education. And when this proposal was presented to the Dean's group recently it elicited a strong negative reaction from the Kelley School, particularly because it would raise the cost of on-line education. Anything that increases the cost of business is significant, and this will certainly affect the School of Education—both in Bloomington and Indianapolis—because the School has been one of the leaders in developing on-line certificates, courses, and degrees. Therefore, the proposal demands close attention. Barbara Bichelmeyer, director of the IU Office of Online Education, has been invited to the next Dean's Council meeting to elaborate on the proposal and to hear reactions. Dean Gonzalez sent the latest proposal to department chairs and associate deans, and he will also make it available to faculty. He invited comments on the proposal so that when discussion comes up at the Dean's Council meeting, he can communicate the perspectives of people in the School of Education.

The Dean also reminded everyone that the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) has been working on an internal review of the School of Education that will be used, in part, to inform the BRRC process. The LRPC has concluded this work and put together an excellent report. Vic

Borden, especially, did an incredible job under tight time constraints to develop a comprehensive statement about who we are and the principles that guide our work. The report has been sent to Phil Carspecken for a final review and, from there, it will be sent to the Provost and Executive Vice President. At that time, it will also be made available to the faculty through the [LRPC webpage](#).

Next, the Dean noted that he has not heard any response from the Provost or the Executive Vice President concerning the resolution passed by the Policy Council on March 11 (requesting that the President's office consider expanding the BRRC by adding two scholars of color).

Finally, the Dean announced the creation of an advisory committee for the interim Executive Associate Dean search at IUPUI. Pat Rogan will step down from that position at the end of her term on June 30th. The Dean worked through the Agenda Committee and Faculty and Budgetary Affairs Committee at IUPUI to collect names of faculty and staff that might serve on the advisory committee. Four IUPUI faculty and one staff member have been invited and, to date, four of the five have indicated their willingness to serve. As soon as the fifth person accepts, the Dean will make an announcement about the committee and give them their charge. Their task will be to identify candidates who could potentially be appointed to the interim Executive Associate Dean position.

Diversity Topic: Jim Scheurich

J. Scheurich discussed the Urban Education at IUPUI. He noted the hard work that went into creating the program before he got to IUPUI, including the choice of the program's first cohort. He noted that they are now in the process of selecting the program's fourth cohort. They have received 31 applicants and are planning to choose 12. The pool of 31 was about two-thirds students of color and the group likely to be admitted reflects the same percentage. The program is becoming known nationally, and so it is now competing for students with the likes of the University of Wisconsin, University of Illinois, University of Texas at Austin, and the University of Cincinnati. Furthermore, for the first time, a student from the program has received a professor position, and another student from the first cohort is on a strong trajectory and will be a good candidate for a university professorship. These, too, are indicators of the program's success.

J. Scheurich spoke specifically about how the program has been able to ensure a high percentage of students of color and the ways in which this has contributed to the program's success. First, he pointed to the importance of recruiting, including the use of "networks of color," a process through which current students of color connect with potential new students of color. Second, he noted the importance of the selection process. IUPUI deemphasizes the GRE, particularly given that it is neither context- nor culture-free. More emphasis in the selection process is given to three short essays that applicants write. Attention is also paid to GPA in Masters programs as opposed to undergraduate programs. Finally, candidates who make it to the later stages of the process are interviewed. Third, J. Scheurich talked about the climate that has been created around the program. He noted that people in education seem insufficiently aware of sociological work on race, class, gender, sexuality, and ableness. Students in the program read key literature in these areas and have frank discussions about issues related to diversity, race, gender, class,

sexuality, etc. This helps to create classroom environments that are inclusive and in which students of color feel comfortable and valued.

In closing, J. Scheurich urged education scholars to become more familiar with scholarship on race and racism, particularly that being produced within sociology. Creating programs that are truly diverse and that engage issues of social justice on a meaningful level requires that we engage with this scholarship in serious ways.

Discussion ensued, with particular focus on how the culture around race—in classes, among faculty, and on campus as a whole—can be changed for the better. J. Scheurich emphasized the importance of recognizing that these changes do not happen overnight or as a result of one workshop. It takes a strategic and long-term plan—one that focuses, in particular, on how people think and operate in classrooms and throughout education systems.

G. Gonzalez asked about the geographic and gender distribution of the students in the IUPUI program. J. Scheurich responded that, at the start, the program drew students mostly from Indianapolis. But, some of the top applicants to the program this year were from Texas, New York, and Wisconsin. He also noted that the gender balance is about 50/50 and that the program has done well, especially, in recruiting African-American males.

P. Carspecken thanked J. Scheurich for his presentation and expressed his appreciation for the good work being done in the Urban Education program.

IV. New Business

Nominations for Interim Dean:

Policy Council members discussed the nominations put forth by the faculty for the interim Dean position. The qualifications of each nominee were considered and the following list of 6 names was generated (in alphabetical order): Barbara Bichelmeyer, Victor Borden, Jack Cummings, Peter Kloosterman, Terry Mason, and Gary Pike. The list was approved unanimously. It was to be sent by P. Carspecken to the Provost to aid the process through which the interim Dean would be appointed.

B. Edmonds moved to adjourn the meeting.

C. Bonk seconded the motion.

****P. Carspecken adjourned the meeting at 2:42pm****