

Faculty Affairs Committee
October 13, 2009
10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

Minutes

Present: Kelly Dempsey, TJ Rivard, Denise Bullock, Markus Pomper, Laverne Nishihara (Guest)
Absent: Marilyn Watkins, Hitesh Kathuria

The committee approved the minutes of September 28, 2009.

The committee discussed the draft proposal for Mission and Vision statement and considered comments it had received from the various schools. The committee recommends some changes to the statement.

1. The committee feels that the role of Indiana University East is that of a teaching university with some expectations for research and creative activity. This is consistent with policies of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (November 2003, cited in ICHE's Reaching Higher document). According to the Commission's policy, the regional campuses are involved in "applied research projects and activities", which are below the research expectations at BSU and ISU, and significantly below the expectations for the major research campuses (IUB, PUWL and IUPUI). We believe that our mission and vision should therefore consistently emphasize the teaching mission over the research mission.

We recommend changing the documents in two places:

Mission Statement, Second Paragraph, Third Sentence
Insert a reference to teaching skills so that the statement would read:

Indiana University East challenges students to grow intellectually and personally in a supportive and scholarly environment, where faculty's teaching skills and participation in the creation and dissemination of new knowledge and artistic work enhances learning opportunities for all.

Vision Statement, Second Paragraph, Second Sentence
Invert the occurrence of teaching and research so that the statement would read:

Their teaching and learning innovations, and their research, scholarship, and creative activities, continue to enrich the citizens of the region, the state and beyond.

2. The committee believes that the visions statement should be more forward-looking. To this end, we recommend changing:

Vision Statement, First Paragraph, Second Sentence

Current Version: *Our bachelor's and master's programs are customized to the growing needs of citizens in our region, state and nation.*

Proposed Version: *Our customized bachelor's and master's programs anticipate the growing needs of citizens in our region, state and nation.*

3. Stylistic Changes

We recommend that the word “committed” in the second paragraph of the vision statement should be replaced by “dedicated”. The revised sentence would read:

Whether teaching online or in the classroom, our faculty are dedicated to creating active learning environments through personalized instruction.

Paragraph 4 of the Vision Statement switches from students to faculty and then back to students. We propose that this section be revised so that it maintains the student perspective throughout. This may be accomplished by revising the second sentence of this paragraph:

Our Students Lead the Future through active engagement in pursuit of their educational goals within an inclusive learning community. Students utilize the expertise of faculty, who are committed to student success, and who challenge them to reach their full potential as productive citizens in a global society. In preparing for the opportunities of the modern world, our students engage in experiential and international programming, fine and performing arts opportunities, and intercollegiate athletics.

The committee also reviewed some of the action items. We propose one change on page 7, Goal 4, Objective 2. The second bullet item under Action Items reads: “Review, revise and promote the Honor’s Program.” This sentence may be construed as there are significant problems with the Honor’s Program and that a review will necessarily result in a recommendation for revision. Instead, we propose the phrase “Promote, assess, and if necessary revise the Honor’s Program.”

The committee also discussed some comments regarding faculty salary equity adjustments and administrative support for new programs. The committee decided not to recommend changes based on these comments.

Markus will summarize the committee’s comments in a letter to Larry. The next FAC meeting will be on Monday, Oct. 26, in the afternoon.

The committee adjourned at 10:50 a.m.