

**Annual Report of the Recruitment, Admissions, and Financial Aid Committee (RAFA)
2006-2007**

Chair: Gerardo R. López

Members: Anne Stright, Martha Nyikos, Sandy Strain, Gretchen Butera, Stephanie Carter, Dwight Schuster, Andy Norton

Ex-Officio: Mary McMullen, Leigh Featherstone, Patty Mitchell

Student Rep: Dorshell Stewart

Summary of Activities:

I. Election of New Chair

- a. Gerardo R. López was elected as chair of RAFA for the 2006-2007 academic year.
- b. Anne Stright served as chair for the first two meetings of the current session, and thus, deserves recognition for her work in this regard.

II. Defining the Purpose, Mission, and Relevance of RAFA

- a. Much discussion was dedicated to a careful examination of the role and function of RAFA as a standing committee of the Policy Council.
- b. In our two November meetings, RAFA committee members discussed the purpose, mission, and relevance of RAFA—examining both its “formal” charge as well as the activities it currently undertakes “in practice.” At the second meeting (in late November) RAFA members concluded that our charge was no longer relevant and that there was significant overlap between the work we currently do and work performed by at least two other standing committees: the Diversity Committee and the GSC. At this second meeting, committee members voted to examine the possibility of a merger with the GSC—but made no formal commitment to do so, given that such a merger would require Constitutional approval.
- c. Subsequent meetings continued to examine the role and function of RAFA and its potential “fit” within the GCS. In February, the committee invited Pete Kloosterman, Enrique Galindo, and Jesse Goodman to provide insights and thoughts about a possible merger—given their respective roles in the Agenda Committee, Long-Range Planning Committee and Faculty Affairs Committee. They informed us that similar conversations relating to faculty fatigue and committee consolidation have taken place in other standing committees as well. They also reminded us that while the work of RAFA and GSC could be collapsed, the committees could not formally merge without a constitutional amendment. As such, they encouraged us to speak with the chair of the GSC about the possibility of collaborating until some of these issues were resolved and/or clarified by the Policy Council.
- d. At the time of this annual report, discussions between RAFA and GSC have not taken place and thus, no formal action has been taken.

III. Beechler Award

- a. Building on the advice of the 2005-2006 RAFA Committee, we utilized the GEMS system to streamline the submission and selection process of the Beechler Award. The new submission process was entirely electronic in nature and required students to email their application and supporting documentation to their respective departments. Department chairs would then form a nomination committee responsible for selecting 1-2 nominees and upload their selections to the GEMS folder. An action committee, comprised of RAFA members, then evaluated departmental nominations and selected seven recipients for this award.
- b. Notes about the new submission process are documented in the RAFA minutes and suggestions about how to simplify and improve the submission and selection process are made therein.

IV. Revisiting the role of IUPUI in RAFA matters

- a. The Committee addressed the need to improve the announcements of RAFA-based scholarships on the IUPUI campus, particularly the announcement of the Beechler Award. Because the RAFA committee is constitutionally mandated as a core campus committee, there was a concern that more could be done to advertise and solicit candidates for this award from IUPUI.
- b. Notes about our discussions are documented in the RAFA minutes. Future committee members are encouraged to continue the spirit and intent of the core campus concept.