

Faculty Organization Executive Committee  
Minutes  
December 13, 2010

Present: Gallmeier, Bandyopadhyay, Stevens, Montalbano, Delunas, Coffin, Caucci  
Kini, Flint, Park, Szarleta, McShane.

Guest: John S. Applegate, Vice President for University Regional Affairs, Planning,  
and Policy.

I. Call to Order—President Gallmeier called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.,  
welcomed John Applegate, and announced that the IU Northwest Faculty  
Organization endorsed LEAP at its November 2010 meeting.

II. John S. Applegate

VP Applegate said there are two main reasons why the LEAP (Liberal  
Education and America's Promise) initiative developed by the Association of American  
Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) is important for us:

1. The LEAP Initiative emphasizes the fundamental importance of a liberal  
education, to show the practical value of something that's often not seen as  
valuable. So, it reinforces the importance of a liberal education in the United  
States. Plus, it's a chance to show that the regional campuses of IU have a  
distinctive identity that demonstrates and how we distinguish ourselves from the  
community colleges.
2. LEAP provides a way to address transferability, which is critical to our  
operations. There are 5 other LEAP states, so it's a way to be on the cutting edge  
of productive higher education, while not being out there all alone. Being a  
LEAP state provides a way to address the transfer issue in a responsible way. It  
makes sense for the regional campuses, since transfer from IVTC is an important  
part of our regional campus operations, and we are under pressure to embrace  
those transfers even more. So, LEAP offers us a chance to respond to those  
pressures by saying that quality is important, and we need quality transfer  
students coming in to our regional campus system if we're going to do anything  
meaningful with these transfer students.

In addition, it does not require re-doing or simplifying existing general education  
requirements. John is wary of a proposal called the Common Core Curriculum (CCC). It  
will be the long-term end of general education. We need to everything we can to avoid  
that kind of interference with our curriculum. The precedent of the state telling us what  
the gen ed curriculum should be, particularly with transfers, is not where we want to go.  
We want transfers to be done in a responsible way. The resolution itself urges campuses  
to consider this possibility. It shows how we can talk to other institutions seriously about  
this issue. We'll see which other campuses want to get more involved with it.

The meeting then turned to a series of questions from Ex Comm members and VP Applegate's responses:

Q: How would LEAP address credit between campuses?

A: The framework doesn't get that specific. It's an outcome-based initiative. It's not a course-by-course listing, but it's to show competencies in large, general areas with definable criteria.

Q: Will there be accountability to assess these outcomes?

A: We really don't do that very much or very well. We don't have enough data to be doing that in a meaningful way. We have done some study of dual-credit and/or advanced placement, but we need to do more and better to assess outcomes.

Q: Will there be a standardized test for transfers?

A: We're not looking at something like that. We're looking more at equivalency of courses and the subject matter taught in those courses, rather than a standardized test.

Q: We are expected to take that 30-hour transfer from IVTC, but when our students want to transfer to IUB and/or IUPUI, we get some resistance.

A: At the moment, there isn't a consistent pattern of movement from the regionals to IUB and IUPUI. We are not "feeders" for IUB and IUPUI. Some students start out at regional campuses for various reasons, not just to transfer to IUB or IUPUI. In the future, the regionals will need to see more students coming in with either an Associate's Degree or significant credits.

Q: IVTC seems to have a dual purpose: on the one hand, as a tech school; on the other hand, as a community college to offer associate's degrees for transfer. Do you agree?

A: Yes, they feel it's a problem for them. The AGS to BGS allows them to deal with that problem to some extent. We'll also see more certificates being offered for technical training, which should help them differentiate their students.

Q: Here's a non-LEAP question: Graduation rates/degree completion—has this issue solidified a bit more since we last met?

A: It will be a central part of the Blueprint process.

Regarding that Blueprint process, all 6 committees have submitted their interim reports, so now they'll be compiled for the steering committee. While some new ideas will come out next semester, the real emphasis will be pulling the reports together, with the teams refining some ideas, working with others, and then working with the metrics. John wants to make sure that we have done a good survey on what's being done on all our campuses.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.