

INDIANA UNIVERSITY UNIVERSITY FACULTY COUNCIL

Summary of Action Taken 1995-96

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS CHARTER

The Council discussed the Strategic Directions Charter throughout the fall semester and then adopted the following resolutions about SDC on November 28, 1995:

Throughout the Twentieth Century, great universities have prospered by holding fast to core academic values--faculty self-governance and professional autonomy, an unwavering commitment to the discovery and transmission of knowledge (to the open discussion of every issue of importance) free from unfounded reprisal, and collegial decision-making processes that insure that the interests of the university as a whole are taken into account. Faculty tenure is essential for the maintenance of the independent judgment critical to productive scholarship, creative activity, teaching, and professional service and to responsible faculty governance. Any endorsement of or action on the Strategic Directions Charter, or any other planning document, must be framed by these principles. In particular:

- Faculty governance of academic matters, and consultation of faculty on matters that affect the conditions in which faculty work, are essential to the maintenance of the core values of a great university. Implementation of recommendations endorsed in the SDC must accord with the governance principles established by the laws of the State of Indiana, the resolutions of the Trustees of Indiana University, and the Constitution of the Indiana University Faculty.
- Recognizing the need to set priorities in investing resources and to coordinate the implementation of the university-wide mission, our excellence depends on maintaining substantial autonomy for campuses and academic units.
- Investment in new directions must not compromise our core missions as a university. Because we will not be able to do everything at once, university and campus governance structures shall establish priorities.

The communication among us in the drafting and consideration of the Strategic Directions Charter has contributed to our understanding of the University's relation to a changing society and of the tensions which draw us in different directions. No "charter" can resolve these tensions, but we accept the lesson of the Charter that we must be proactive in defining Indiana University's future. We value the contributions to the University's work of Trustees, administration, faculty, staff, graduate students, and undergraduate and professional school students. We affirm our commitment to working together as a university community to develop and further the University's mission.

The Strategic Directions Charter or its preface should include the essence of this statement:

Indiana University remains fully committed to the value of tenure for its faculty. The purposes of tenure are:

1. To encourage the most open possible discussion of scientific, public, and university issues without

fear of reprisals

2. To allow faculty to take risks in the pursuit of knowledge and to serve the public and their students in ways which may not win immediate recognition, and
3. To attract men and women of high ability to university teaching.

The University Faculty Council offers a sense-of-the-meeting resolution saying what our chief concerns are, without approving or disproving any specific document. Our chief concerns are:

1. A real sense that we are in the midst of change and that we need to do some specific things in response to those changes.
2. Core values that we clearly do want to protect. We have outlined a few of those and left others fuzzy. One that is important to us, of example, is tenure.
3. Any document like the Charter can be used as President Brand says as a framework for our planning and for our addressing these changes in the upcoming future.
4. Whatever these plans and changes are, they will go through the regular faculty and other governance procedures.

The University Faculty Council Agenda Committee is authorized by the Council to participate in a process to fund projects furthering goals of the Strategic Directions Charter in a role consistent with that contemplated for the Agenda Committee in the November 8, 1995 Draft, "Request for Proposals, Strategic Directions Charter" [Circular U6-96, relevant portion of the document is as follows:]

After the proposal has been evaluated by campus chancellors and/or appropriate vice presidents, it should be submitted, with the signed route sheet, to the Office of Research & the University Graduate School, Bryan Hall 104, IUB.

At this stage the proposal will be evaluated by one or more of the three review panels (composed primarily of faculty). The UFC Budgetary Affairs Committee, in cooperation with the Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, will also provide input to the review panels on the appropriateness of the proposal budget. This budgetary evaluation will be based on experience in budgetary matters for initiatives or university efforts in similar areas or requiring similar resources to those proposed.

After the proposal has been evaluated by the panel on the basis of its relationship to the SDC, the positive impact on the area being addressed, likelihood of success and advancement of the university, it will be forwarded to the UFC Agenda and SDC Steering Committees for a priority recommendation from their perspectives.

Finally the proposal will be forwarded to the President's office for a final funding decision. Those projects that are approved will then be implemented by the unit (or units) who submitted the proposal. A very important part of the process will be a follow-up report and assessment of the goals achieved. The due date for the follow-up report will be determined (with input from the Review Panel, and the UFC Agenda or SDC steering committees) by the President's office at the time the funding decision is made.

"NEW" EARLY RETIREMENT PLAN

The Council approved Circular U9-96 on February 27, 1996, with recommendations for its amendment. The plan approved by the Trustees is available from Human Resources.

CLINICAL RANKS

The Council amended and then approved Circular U16-96 on March 26, 1996. The amended version was approved by the Trustees on June 11, 1996; it is reprinted in Circular U3-97.

STATEMENT OF POLICY ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Council approved Circular U19-96 on April 9, 1996; approval of the Trustees is expected in Fall, 1996. It is reprinted in Circular U3-97.