

Faculty Senate Student Recruitment and Retention Committee  
Report for the 2002-2003 Academic Year

Committee membership: W. Christopher Lang (Chair), David B. Campbell (ex-officio), Miriam G. Forinash, Ruth Garvey-Nix (ex-officio), Sandra S. French, Brenda V. Hackett, Melanie E. Hughes, Kurt Sander, Billy Schuler (student), Karen E. Simms.

The Committee met on September 20, October 10, November 14, December 12, February 4, February 25, March 20 and April 23.

Karen Simms volunteered to serve as the Committee's representative to the Campus Executive Council small working group to develop a plan for enhancing student success. This was in response to an request for such a plan by Vice President Nelms.

In the November 14 meeting, Jean Abshire was a guest of the Committee. She outlined the need for more support for international and refugee students at IUS. Jean presented to the Committee a draft resolution for support for these students, at the April 23 meeting. The Committee appeared to be in support of the resolution; Jean agreed to revise the resolution, and the Committee agreed that it should be brought back before the new Committee in the fall.

In the February 4 meeting, Vice Chancellor Gil Atnip was a guest of the Committee. He discussed the academic enhancement fee and a proposed honors program.

In the February 25 meeting, Pat Mrozowski was a guest of the Committee. He informed the Committee concerning merit academic scholarships. There is about \$500,000 of scholarship money distributed each year but most financial aid is need-based.

In the March 20 meeting, Curt Peters was a guest of the Committee. He discussed the First Year Seminars and their possible impact on retention.

Tom Kotulak was a guest of the Committee at its meeting of April 23; he informed the Committee about the Lilly grants and their effect on retention. While retention has increased substantially, statistical analysis of Lilly assessment data is needed to determine which of the seventeen retention programs have contributed the most to this increase. Tom recommended that the Committee invite the campus Coordinator of Retention to debrief the Committee in the fall when statistical analysis of the assessment data is complete. The Committee agreed that this should be done.

The Committee approved a revised Admissions Model, prepared by Eric Schansberg and David Campbell. The revised standards were improved because they would be based on considerably more data; they would eliminate the role of placement tests in admissions decisions (allowing most admissions decisions to be made instantaneously); and they would adjust for statistically significant differences in the student performance data reported by high schools. This was presented to the Faculty Senate on February 20 as an information item.

The Committee also approved (February 25) a revised policy for satisfactory academic progress for financial aid, presented by Pat Mrozowski. The new policy will require students to complete 67% of all courses attempted in a year; progress will only be checked in the Spring semester. It was expected that about 350 letters of probation would be sent each year (instead of the current 1000 or so), but it was expected that the number of students on suspension status would remain about the same. The revised policy was presented to the Faculty Senate on March 20 as an information item.

The Committee approved revised admissions standards for provisionally admitted transfer students (March 20), presented on David Campbell's behalf by Kim Pelle and Todd Norris. The new standards discard the computation of deficiency points (based on credit hours and grades at the previous institution); instead, transfer students will be treated in a manner similar to students already at IUS who are on probation. This was presented to the Faculty Senate on April 3 as an information item.

Recommendations for the 2003-2004 Committee:

1. The campus Coordinator of Retention should be invited to debrief the Committee on the report (expected this fall) on the impact of the Lilly grant initiatives on retention.
2. The Director of International Programs at IUS should be asked to present to the Committee a revised resolution in support of international students at IUS.
3. The Committee should continue to monitor the effects on retention of the First Year Seminar, the Lilly grant initiatives, and other programs at IUS.
4. The Committee should monitor and support efforts to attract academically able students, such as the honors program that may be supported by the academic enhancement fee (as discussed on February 4 by Vice Chancellor Atnip), and merit scholarship programs.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Christopher Lang, on behalf of his colleagues on the Committee.