

**Resolution of Stance on Indiana University’s Bicentennial Strategic Plan’s
“Priority Three: Re-Imagining Education”**

Passed by unanimous vote of the Indiana University School of Education Policy
Council (IUB-IUPUI) on November 19, 2014

Whereas the Constitution of the Faculty of Indiana University explicitly provides legislative authority to faculty on “standards and procedures for creation, reorganization, merger, and elimination of academic programs and units,” (ACA-04, Article 2, Section 2.2, C.), and the Constitution of the Faculty of the IU-IUPUI School of Education provides such legislative authority to faculty on “planning, review, and advisement regarding the organizational structure of the School of Education as it relates to curriculum and programs, including those pertaining to service, research and development,” (Article 4, Section 1, C.), and

Whereas the President’s Office has unilaterally announced in its draft of the Bicentennial Strategic Plan the formation of a “Blue Ribbon Review Committee” (BRRC) to conduct an external review of the IU School of Education and provide a report, and

Whereas the Strategic Plan states that this report will “inform the future structure, direction, and approach of the Schools of Education on all campuses...and form the basis for a thorough, university-wide evaluation, in full accordance with IU’s traditions of shared governance, of the structure and organization of education at IU” (p. 16), and

Whereas the period of open comment on the Strategic Plan is unusually short (a little more than a month), and there is no indication of how such input might alter the version of the plan that gets presented to the Board of Trustees for approval only 2 weeks later, on December 4th, and

Whereas Priority 3 of the plan, “Re-Imagining Education,” is mentioned only in a limited way in the priorities articulated in any of the existing campus strategic plans, and

Whereas Provost L. Robel and Vice-President J. Applegate explained some details of the review process during a faculty meeting of the School of Education on Friday, October 31, indicated that the composition of the BRRC would be wholly external and decided ultimately by administration, but suggested that any decisions about implementing the BRRC's recommendations would go through "traditional forms of shared governance," and

Whereas on November 15th, the Provost communicated by e-mail to this Policy Council that a majority of the invitations that have been extended to potential BRRC members have come from suggested names provided by School of Education faculty, and also provided a copy of the "draft charge" for the BRRC to invite "comments" and "thoughts" from the Council on said charge, and

Whereas on November 18th, the Provost communicated by e-mail to the Policy Council again, proposing the formation of a "core committee" to "present its views on the questions that are in the draft charge" as an input to the BRRC, and

Whereas the faculty of the School of Education, long recognized for their outstanding scholarship and leadership in the field and entirely well-disposed to critical self-reflection, have already been engaged in serious efforts to respond to the changing circumstances of education in the State of Indiana, the nation, and the world, and will continue to do so,

Therefore, be it resolved that the faculty of the IUB-IUPUI School of Education, through its Policy Council, while appreciative of recent gestures to involve faculty in the review process, nonetheless strongly disapproves the lack of prior faculty consultation or input in the formulation of "Bicentennial Priority Three: Re-Imagining Education" of the Strategic Plan, and in accordance with the faculty's constitutional legislative authority calls for, in the strongest possible terms, full participation in the selection of the BRRC, and in any decisions regarding the organizational or programmatic structure of the School of Education pursuant to the BRRC's recommendations. Be it further resolved that this Policy Council expects the process for determining an Interim Dean for the School of Education to be established in a timely manner, include significant faculty input, and articulate a procedural timeline.