

Summary of Discussions from Indiana University East Faculty Senate Retreat

On Thursday, August 19, 1999 the Indiana University Faculty Senate held its annual retreat. The topic for discussion at the retreat was "I U East and Indiana's Community College Initiative". The Faculty used Chancellor Fulton's document "Indiana University East and the Community College Challenge" for background information leading to the discussions. Many faculty participated in these discussions and should be applauded for their thoughtfulness and hard work.

After the discussions the Faculty took a "straw poll" to determine whether there was a preponderance of opinion about the direction we should take. The "straw poll" used the three scenarios from Chancellor Fulton's essay as models to provide a general focus for campus direction.

None of the faculty voted to focus on the "Competition" scenario; three voted to focus on the "Differentiation" scenario, and forty-three (43) voted to focus on the "Cooperation" scenario. It must be noted that the scenarios in Chancellor Fulton's document were seen as general guidelines. They were not seen as "plans". Many faculty believed that if we followed this scenario several curricular changes would be required, but there seemed to be no feeling that there would be a need to change the campus mission. Clearly, the faculty believe that I U East should retain its role as a regional campus, and that the role of regional campus includes the responsibility of delivering developmental and lower level courses. The "straw poll" should in no way be interpreted as an indication that I U East should become a community college. One clear message was that any scenario to be used as a focus for direction would need revisions.

The most commonly stated revision of the "Cooperation" scenario would include certain aspects of the "Differentiation" scenario. Even if the campus were to direct its energies toward the "Cooperation" scenario changes would have to be made to the mission of the campus. Many of our faculty seem to feel that if we are to serve the citizens of east central Indiana we need to modify our mission to include additional baccalaureate programs, certificates for college graduates and perhaps graduate programs. We need to follow a "Cooperation" scenario for our lower level and developmental courses, at the same time our upper level curriculum should follow a "Differentiation" model. The overall result would be primarily along the lines of the "Cooperation" scenario described by the Chancellor.

As our dialogs developed we quickly realized that we did not have enough information to formulate plans or to recommend modes of action. The question of whether our opinion would ever be heard was asked over and over. Finally, in an attempt to balance the role we feel is best for I U East and the people of east central Indiana, with the likelihood of changes in state funding, costs of particular academic programs, and the availability of necessary resources we developed a number of questions. It would have been wonderful to answer these questions rather than ask them. However, most of the faculty commenting indicated that they had no idea whether: (1) their ideas would be taken seriously by the ICHE or legislators; (2) there would be funds available if any changes suggested had budgetary implications; (3) ITSC, at either the local or state level, wanted to participate in a cooperative venture; or (4) this is what the people of east central Indiana want. It is our hope that whoever determines our fate will consider these issues very carefully. While we would like to play an active role in determining our destiny, we need to have some direction as to the best way for us to participate.

So, much of our discussion evolved into the development of questions that should be addressed during the process of determining I U East's future. Several of these questions are listed below for your consideration.

What can be shared and what must be allocated?

What is the role of Purdue Programs in any restructuring of campus?

Would there be a single administration over both IU East and ITSC or would there be different administrations? How would accreditation play into the cooperation model? Would there be a need to contact North Central before entering into a cooperation model?

There is currently duplication of some IUE and ITSC courses. Would this continue? Would there be cross listing of courses? Would standards of quality be the same for students at both institutions? What would be the source of funds for more upper level (lower enrollment) courses?

Would the IUE – ITSC student body function as a single student body or would there be two distinct groups? What would the implications be in either case?

It appears that the partnership of IUE and ITSC would provide a better continuity of education for citizens of east central Indiana. What are other benefits to east central Indiana? Would this be the most cost effective model?

Should this decision be up to the people who built this campus? Might the people of east central Indiana have the best answer? If given all of the information, they might provide the best direction.

Is ITSC interested in a cooperative venture with IUE? Many perceived that the ITSC – IUE relationship is not as strong as in the past. (Several individuals reflected that if the relationship has weakened it might be our fault.)