

Indian University School of Social Work: Strategic Planning Initiative
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Our school has not engaged in strategic planning since 1998. Since that time, many changes have transpired. Moreover, we are at a critical juncture where major events and processes are rapidly converging. To name a few:

- Acceptance of the Division of Labor Studies into the school
- The expansion of the Title IV-E program and child welfare training.
- The emerging challenges of and opportunities for distance education
- The depth and scope of our commitment to transform the school, its culture, curriculum, and programs to infuse our profession's diversity and cultural competence principles
- The possibility of expanding the Fort Wayne program
- The role of the Office of Research Services
- Our ambitions of becoming "the assessment school"
- Joint degrees with other professional schools
- Large student enrollments and a heavy dependence on associate colleagues
- Competing demands associated with workload, outcomes, and resources issues and opportunities
- Global partnership possibilities such as Moi University in Kenya
- Our constitution and the structure of faculty governance
- An uncertain university environment

These issues hold promises and threats. Many bring opportunities for our becoming a national leader in social work education, well within our vision from our 1998 plan to be among the top twenty-five schools in the country. Yet we are also at risk of becoming stretched well beyond what we can effectively provide. We risk losing focus and control.

Towards this, we propose that the school convenes a Strategic Planning Task Force to craft a comprehensive planning initiative throughout the 2007-2008 academic year. The task force will provide the school with a proposal that will allow us to examine our vision and mission, and choose strategies that will empower us to focus on delivering excellent, culturally competent social work education, research, and services in a manageable way. Building on past work, and possibly facilitated by external consultants, this "planning year" will begin with our annual retreat and focus on our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Curricular, organizational, economic, political, and other viable strategies will be explored at several junctures throughout the year and, at the end, provide us with a map to guide us into the foreseeable future.

The taskforce will provide a concrete, implementable proposal and budget for this initiative by the May 11, 2007 Faculty Senate meeting.