

Report from the Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean of the Faculties for 2012 Reaccreditation by NCA's Higher Learning Commission

January 2011

The Office of Academic Affairs manages academic issues at IUPUI. This includes oversight of 21 campus schools and deans, including the schools of liberal arts and sciences, as well as professional schools like medicine, nursing, business, dentistry, law, engineering & technology, education, social work, art & design, etc. The following operational units are also a part of Academic Affairs: Faculty Appointments and Advancement; Vice-Chancellor for Research; Center for Teaching and Learning; Center for Service and Learning; Community Learning Network; Enrollment Services; Registrar; International Programs; University Libraries; Honors College. All the above units will be providing individual reports on their work. Here, we will describe only campus-wide programs, especially focusing on initiatives which were crafted as part of the development and implementation of the IUPUI Academic Plan [http://www.iupui.edu/administration/acad_affairs/actionplan/].

Teaching and Learning

Major Accomplishments:

- The Office of Academic Affairs was largely responsible for formulating the Enrollment Shaping Initiative, which has given a sharp focus to campus aspirations, and has begun to yield both economic and educational benefits to IUPUI. This initiative has steadily increased the number of out-of-state and international students at IUPUI. Targeted programs have led to a much improved freshman experience, and this has led to higher retention and graduation rates. Over the past 10 years, the one year retention rate has gone up from 59% to 74% and the six-year graduation rate has increased from 22% to 34%.
- The Office of Academic Affairs has enhanced various aspects of student life and the quality of undergraduate education. It has promoted a dynamic learning environment that prepares students to be enlightened, articulate and engaged citizens in a global society. More specifically, it started the campus-wide “RISE to the IUPUI Challenge”, where R = Research, I = International, S = Service, E = Experiential learning. These experiences are recorded on student transcripts, are a hallmark of IUPUI graduates, and make students more employable.
- As part of the IUPUI Academic Plan, the campus planned and started the IUPUI Honors College with faculty input. The founding Dean was hired in 2009.
- IUPUI has started 24 innovative degree programs in the past 3 years matched to the priorities and strengths of the campus and the city of Indianapolis.
- Academic Affairs has streamlined the 3-year review and promotion & tenure documents so that faculty members get adequate feedback and constructive support for timely advancement and professional success.

Current Status:

Plans for the Next 5 Years:

To hire talented faculty and develop more doctoral programs to strengthen academic reputation. Provide more support for graduate students. We continue to carefully monitor semester by semester retention rates.

Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity

Major Accomplishments:

- Academic Affairs conceived and implemented the Signature Centers Initiative, which involves a \$3 million/year investment to raise IUPUI's strong research profile to an even higher level and significantly enhance its national reputation. Fostered a culture of collaboration to take advantage of the extraordinary interdisciplinary opportunities on campus. The centers funded
- IUPUI is emerging as a leader in the arena of training STEM teachers. Two programs worth noting are: (i) The Woodrow Wilson Foundation has chosen Indiana to pilot a new fellows program, and is funding the training of 20 STEM teachers per year at IUPUI; (ii) IUPUI is one of only 26 institutions selected for the Leadership Collaborative of the APLU Science and Mathematics Teaching Imperative. IUPUI also hosts the NSF-funded (\$2 million) Central Indiana STEN Talent Expansion Program.

Current Status:

Currently, IUPUI is working on the creation of a school of public health at IUPUI. The Signature Centers Initiative is now in its fourth year. So far 35 potential signature centers have been funded under the Signature Centers Initiative, and they generated \$65 million in external grant funding in 2008-09.

Plans for the Next 5 Years:

Getting the School of Public Health accredited is a major priority.

Best Practices

Major Accomplishments:

Current Status:

Plans for the Next 5 Years:

Campus Climate for Diversity

Major Accomplishments:

Academic Affairs fosters diversity in its policies and practices to support a climate of inclusion.

We shaped and initiated in 2006 the highly successful Support for the Recruitment of Under-Represented Faculty (SRUF) program, which has very substantially improved faculty diversity – 47 new, additional under-represented faculty hires were made under the SRUF program in the past 3 years! The faculty are carefully mentored in order to make sure that they progress steadily through the professorial ranks.

Current Status:

The SRUF program has been so successful, that it went over its allocated budget. Due to budget constraints, it is currently on hold.

Plans for the Next 5 Years:

SRUF will be re-started in Fall 2011.

Civic Engagement

Major Accomplishments:

In 2006, the Office of Academic Affairs started the IUPUI Poetry Contest for high school students. Typically, there are 1000 high school students who enter this contest every year.

Current Status:

The campus has more than doubled the number of hours which students are spending in civic engagement activities, and this effort is continuing under the RISE initiative.

Plans for the Next 5 Years:

IUPUI will continue to maintain its strong reputation in civic and community engagement.

Collaboration

Major Accomplishments:

IUPUI is recognized as a transformative force and a civic partner with the city and state in the continuing economic and cultural development of Indiana. This further builds IUPUI's very strong reputation in community engagement and service learning, and has led to several national awards and recognition: U.S. Presidential Award for Community Service; 5th rank in the "Saviors of Our Cities" 2009 survey of university civic partnerships; Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement; 2009 Andrew Heiskell Award for innovation in International Partnerships; 8th rank in Forbes magazine's list of 10 Best Public Colleges in the Midwest].

Current Status:

Plans for the Next 5 Years:

This culture of collaboration will be maintained and further strengthened.