

TO: IUPUI Faculty Council
FROM: Anna McDaniel, Chair, Research Affairs Committee
RE: Office of the Vice President of Research

In the past week, the RAC has been informed of three issues regarding the Office of the Vice President for Research. Our committee has discussed these issues and the implications for faculty on our campus. The issues and related concerns are:

1. **Policy on Research Centers and Institutes:** Although the RAC agrees that a policy to ensure acceptable standards and reasonable expectations for centers is needed, we have grave concerns about the impact of this policy on the IUPUI campus, schools, and faculty. The policy as written will place an undue burden on investigators and threatens the autonomy of schools on our campus. The implementation and enforcement of the policy would be resource intensive for OVPR as well as the campus and schools.
(Please refer to draft policy
<http://www.iu.edu/~vprapp/policies/doc/ResearchCentersPolicy-DRAFT-3-23-11.pdf>)
2. **Centralizing the Institutional Review Boards:** The decision to centralize administrative support for IRBs, particularly the Behavioral IRB (IRB01), has had a negative impact on faculty on the IUPUI campus. IRB inefficiencies have reached a critical level resulting in considerable delays in conducting research by faculty and graduate students across a number of schools (e.g., Nursing Dentistry, Public Health, Science.). These delays have had a significant impact on research productivity and, in some instances, academic progress of graduate students.
3. **Limited Submission Policy:** As you know, IUB and IUPUI are considered separate institutions in terms of NSF (and most NIH) limited submission competitions. It has been suggested that the VPR has plans to change this so that IU would be a single entity in limited submissions to NSF, (e.g. IGERT and MRI programs) so that such proposals will go through university level review instead of campus level internal review as at present. Eventually, this policy may extend to NIH limited submissions.

These policies and decisions have been made without any input or dialogue with faculty. There is clearly a movement to centralize research administration (decision making and control) in Bloomington without any regard to the potential unanticipated negative consequence on faculty at IUPUI. The RAC believes that such centralization does not work for the IUPUI campus and puts research progress within schools at our campus at risk.

The Research Affairs Committee is calling for a broad based evaluation (including campus and school administration, IUPUI faculty representatives, and external reviewers) of changes already implemented and those yet proposed.