

## **2005-06 Annual Report of the Resources and Planning Committee**

Members of the Resources and Planning Committee for 2005-06 included: Timothy Brothers, Philip Goff (chair), Christian Kloesel, Kristine Karnick, and Patrick Rooney, along with Bill Blomquist (Agenda Council representative), and Deans Robert White and Rick Hanson (ex officio members).

The responsibilities of the R&PC are as follows: “The Resources and Planning Committee will serve as the primary deliberative body of the faculty in terms of academic planning and resource allocation, and will assist the Dean in the assessment of funding requests and other matters of resource allocation from departments, programs, and faculty, thus contributing towards the establishment of academic priorities for the School. Every fifth year, in consultation with the Dean, the Committee will review the most recent long-range plan of the School and develop a new plan if circumstances warrant.”

Given the nature of some of those responsibilities, particularly when they relate to sensitive matters involving discussion of particular programs or individuals, not all of the committee’s work will be reported here. Those instances did not require official action on the part of the committee, but rather offering the Dean assistance in assessing situations.

The major activities of the committee for 2005-06 are listed below:

- Heard and discussed reports from Assistant Dean Hanson about the financial situation for the School of Liberal Arts, which included tracking state appropriations and assessments for the School and following closely the number of student credit hours.
- Discussed the restructuring of the budget for the Center on Philanthropy
- Began discussion of administrative release time for non-administrators. This has become problematic for lecturer lines, which are by definition teaching tracks. A number of matters complicate this issue, including: distinction between director and coordinator; size and number of sections overseen; extent of content, offerings, and personnel oversight; role and efficiency of assistant directors/coordinators. It was decided that some sort of standardization is necessary. While discussions will continue next year, the committee agreed with Dean White’s recommendation that no more than half-time release is available to any one person.
- Associate faculty salaries were addressed. After reviewing the practice of other IUPUI Schools, the committee agreed that we should standardize the pay rate for SLA Associate Faculty based on academic training and teaching experience at IUPUI. The Dean’s Office presented a model which the committee found very acceptable. That model was then discussed with the department chairs and something along those lines will be used in the future.
- Reviewed department requests for hiring and determined a list of those most necessary to the School of Liberal Arts within the budget constraints we live under.

- Followed the progress of searches, including late hires that came via unforeseen circumstances and good fortune.
- Reviewed and discussed the many applications for the Commitment to Excellence Funds, focusing on those that came from the School of Liberal Arts.
- Reviewed, edited, and passed the School of Liberal Arts Strategic Plan (2006-2010). The committee then presented the Strategic Plan to the SLA Faculty Assembly for passage.
- Advised Dean White on the 2006 Budget Review Hearing. Chair Philip Goff accompanied Deans White and Hanson to the hearing and presented information about the Strategic Plan.
- Discussed at length the potential benefits and weaknesses of the present and future models of RCM. Fortunately, one of our committee members was on the task force named by President Adam Herbert to review the RCM model, so we enjoyed greater information and increased understanding of the present situation and could better discuss these matters with the Dean.
- Reviewed sections of the proposed International Studies Program related to resources and approved the proposal.
- Discussed with Dean White the new course buyout policy in light of internal funding issues for research centers and institutes.

In all, the committee attempted to help the Dean's Office assess resources and plan accordingly. The most important accomplishments include passage of the new Strategic Plan, hiring new faculty members, and creating a new pay structure for associate faculty. The discussion regarding standardization of administrative release time for non-administrative positions will continue next year, but at least a good start has been made.

Three members will end their assignments on this committee with the close of this year: Brothers, Goff, and Kloesel. The two remaining faculty members will be Karnick and Rooney. Their presence on next year's committee will be very helpful, as they were intimately involved in discussion of issues that will continue next year.

Respectfully submitted,

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Center for the Study of Religion & American Culture  
Department of Religious Studies