

October 4, 2002 Minutes
Task Force: Encourage and Maintain Academic Excellence

Attendees: Jim Blodgett, Linda Fisher, Diana Hess, Katherine Jackson, Ruth Schwartz

We introduced ourselves to each other, listened to a summary of last year's report, and reviewed the scenario sheets created in the morning sessions. After some discussion, we decided that most of the student excellence comments in last year's report were not germane to our committee but would be covered by the task force for fostering student learning, access, and success. Our new approach is shown below with the comments from the scenarios placed under appropriate headings.

- I. Refinement of traditional teaching methods and the use of new strategies of learning
 - a. Excellence in
 - ✓ student learning,
 - ✓ mentoring,
 - ✓ collaboration
 - ✓ research involvement,
 - ✓ teaching styles that enhance and go beyond lecture only,
 - ✓ critical thinking,
 - ✓ academic integrity.
 - b. Construct and use a completely wired campus.
 - c. Support a repeating group of associate faculty who know the goals and culture of IUSB. Look for continuity.
 - d. Integrate community leaders into the learning process.
- II. Support improvement of research, service, and creative work
 - a. Mentor junior faculty
 - b. Look for and use research opportunities and funding
 - c. Instill in the faculty the drive to perform creative activities.
- III. Articulate our mission
 - a. Set up good articulation agreements with high schools, Ivy Tech, and IUSB.
 - ✓ High schools – give students direction early in high school career – use IUSB Fest, course work at the school or IUSB, and summer workshops and courses. Involve faculty in all levels of this.
 - ✓ Ivy Tech – make sure remediation courses are available at their site or if possible are taught on our campus under their aegis. Also make sure that they are informing their

students properly about what courses transfer (only 100 and 200 level equivalents)

- IV. Support programs (old or new) that demonstrate a high quality of achievement or are central to our mission
 - a. General Education Requirements
 - ✓ Set a core curriculum
 - ✓ Review the effects of grade inflations
 - ✓ Review unfair expectations
 - ✓ Reflect needs of community along with fundamental liberal arts education
 - b. Motivate interdisciplinary cooperation
 - c. Increase graduate program offerings
 - d. Foster excellent faculty
 - ✓ Adequate salaries to keep the good ones
 - ✓ Diversity which would add to range of programs offered by supporting various points of view.

Our tentative schedule for the academic year follows:

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| Thursday, October 17, 8AM | Meet to review outline, discuss history, future objectives, and key groups. |
| Wednesday, October 30 | Have individual work turned in to Katherine Jackson for compilation |
| Tuesday, November 5 | Task group meeting to review status report 1 |
| Friday, November 15 | Send status report 1 to CDC |
| Friday, December 6 | Meet to discuss implementation of use of key groups and rough out all of the steps needed in the final report. |
| Tuesday, January 13 | Meet to make sure final instruments are ready for key groups. |
| Tuesday, February 7 | Meet to review status report 2 |
| Wednesday, February 15 | Send status report 2 to CDC |
| Saturday, March 15 | Send final report to CDC |

Best scenario idea:

Use solar panels to power the campus year round. This would encourage and maintain academic excellence.