

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fort Wayne Senate Executive Committee

FROM: Yvonne Zubovic, Chair
Educational Policy Committee

DATE: February 14, 2014

SUBJ: EPC Findings in Response to the Task Assigned to EPC by SD 12-13

In February 2013, Senate passed a resolution SD12-13, which charged EPC with “investigating the role of faculty in establishing the admission criteria and make recommendations for the role faculty should play in future decisions on the establishment of admission standards.”

EPC investigated this matter in Fall 2013. EPC members contacted all individuals still at IPFW who were involved in the decision to make an adjustment to the admission criteria to find out how the decision was reached and how faculty were involved in the process.

The investigation yielded the following results:

- The decision to make an adjustment to the admission criteria was made as a culmination of 18 months worth of data gathering, meetings, and deliberations, that involved representatives from the Office of Student Affairs, Office of Admissions, Office of Institutional Research, and Dean of COAS.
- Departments such as Math and English (i.e. departments that teach a lot of incoming freshmen) were asked for input in the process.
- Analysis was run on the academic fate of those students who would have been prevented from enrolling at IPFW due to the new standards. The results showed that all the students who fell into this category ended up failing out of IPFW within a few semesters, and none of them successfully completed any degrees. They left IPFW without a degree, without any record of successful acquisition of skills, but with new debt.

Therefore, the change in admission criteria does not result in depriving any potentially successful students of the opportunity to pursue higher education.

EPC finds that faculty input was sought and received in the “establishment of admission standards.”

Furthermore, when the most recent open forum was held in Fall 2013 to discuss admission standards at IPFW as part of the work done by the Strategic Planning Team, very few faculty members attended and even fewer contributed to the discussion.

Therefore, EPC makes the recommendation that in the future when there is an interest in making an adjustment to the admissions criteria, whether initiated “from above” (administration) or “from below” (faculty), that a similar collaborative process is followed.

Faculty input should be sought out at different points in the process. While there is some value to open forums, perhaps a better way to get more thoughtful comments from interested parties would be to send out a survey to all faculty seeking their comments on proposed changes.

EPC recommends that in the future, if new changes to admissions criteria are proposed, that a record of the process is maintained and made available, so that it is clear to see which individuals and groups were involved in the process. (For example, collecting data like what percentage of faculty responded to the survey about admissions criteria, with breakdown by colleges.) This will also make it easier to see the extent of faculty involvement (as compared to opportunities for faculty involvement), in case concerns similar to those that motivated SD12-13 arise in the future.

EPC recommends that in the event of changes to the admission criteria, a “for information only” report is made to the IPFW Senate that includes the history of the decision, the rationale for any change in admission criteria, the process by which the changes were determined, and the projected impact of the change.