

MEMORANDUM

TO: Zafar Nazarov, Chair
Budgetary Affairs Subcommittee

CC: Mark Jordan, Chair
University Resources Policy Committee

FROM: Ann Marshall, Chair
Executive Committee

DATE: September 30, 2021

SUBJ: Charge to Assess the Impact of Dissolution of On-campus Printing Services

WHEREAS, Printing Services performed a crucial support function for Academic Units on our campus; and

WHEREAS, the decision to eliminate Printing Services was made without input from Academic Units on this campus into account; and

WHEREAS, the information about the planned closure was not released to the university until the summer when most faculty were not on contract; and

WHEREAS, in response to questions from faculty leaders during the summer, the chancellor said that in making plans for how the new system would be implemented, there would be listening sessions and requests for input from units on campus deemed “heavy users;” and

WHEREAS, this did not happen, and no effort was made to find out how academic units on campus utilize printing services, in an effort to have the new system be based on the needs of university constituents; and

WHEREAS, the new system was announced over the summer, making it harder for academic units to properly prepare for its input; and

WHEREAS, the new approach—having all orders go through the department secretaries and having to build in at least a week of extra time to get requests—runs counter to actual practices of users on campus; and

WHEREAS, there have been numerous complaints from departments and colleges that the costs associated with the new Printing Services model have increased for academic units, and this increase was not taken into account in determining this year’s budgets; and

WHEREAS, the new Printing Services model has basically left the university without a reliable and function on-campus access to a vital service, and has forced Academic units on campus to individually seek out solutions to their printing needs; and

WHEREAS, the new approach is justified with claims that it resulted in “savings;” and

WHEREAS, According to the By-laws of the Senate, this issue falls into the charge of the Budgetary Affairs Subcommittee to be “concerned with the PFW budget” and to “[a]dvice the administration ... and the Senate on budgetary matters pertaining to the needs of the campus” with special attention “to the ways the budget and the budgetary process can affect this institution’s ability to carry out its mission to provide excellence in higher education for northeastern Indiana” (By-laws, sections 5.3.5.2.1.7.2.1–2).

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Budgetary Affairs Subcommittee (BAS) be charged with collecting and presenting data about the financial impacts and associated quality of service changes as a result of this restructuring, taking into account the expense of equipment recently purchased, raised costs passed on to departments as a result of the change, additional costs in the form of staff time and inconvenience, estimates on the reduction in productivity as a result of the change, and anything else that may be deemed relevant, and the report should be submitted to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee no later than February 25, 2022, (the document submission deadline for the March 13, 2022 Faculty Senate meeting);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the chancellor and/or his designee, work with BAS and ensure that BAS has access to all relevant information.