

Question Time

On August 12, 2014 Purdue President Mitch Daniels made this statement on Lakeshore public radio:

“The Higher Education Commission continues to remind folks, you’re not there to offer doctoral programs. You’re not there to do research. We have other places for that. You are there, in the regional setting, to provide an affordable option that prepares young people well for the careers that are available and the jobs that are being sought in the area where you live.”

Leaders of the IPFW faculty senate responded immediately and appropriately refuting President Daniels’ claims. President Daniels issued his response on August 18 to faculty leaders, admitting that ICHE allows for research and scholarly activity at the regional campuses for “the needs of [IPFW’s] local and regional economies.”

Throughout this, the administration has remained silent. Given the fact that President Daniels had to be reminded of IPFW faculty’s mission, what is Chancellor Carwein’s response to these series of events?

Moreover, President Daniels is teaching an Honors class in history about World War I at Purdue. While Purdue’s decision to allow President Daniels to teach this class is its own business and none of ours, it does indicate that President Daniels believes that anybody with an interest in a subject is qualified to teach at the collegiate level. I am concerned that this is a mindset that will transfer to IPFW, as we are faced with more cutbacks and unfilled tenured positions.

Since IPFW remains under Purdue control, what specific plans does the administration have to not only ensure that qualified faculty will be teaching our classes, but also to protect faculty research and other creative endeavors?

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