

Question Time

Effective Fall 2015, the Division of Continuing Studies involuntarily reduced the appointments of some of their continuing lecturers from 1.0 to 0.75, based on a failure of those specific continuing lecturers to meet enrollment and financial targets. Significantly, these targets have been inconsistent over time, explanations for the targets do not fit the data as affected departments understand it, and the communication related to the targets and DCS's decision to cut the courses of CLs was both one-sided and tardy. The situation of these CLs and the courses that were canceled, courses that were part of the mission and curriculum for the affected departments, highlights the negative impacts of having some continuing lecturers' continuing employment dependent on an entirely different—and strictly profit-driven—set of concerns than those of continuing lecturers salaried out of IPFW's general fund.

1. Taking for granted that it is desirable that faculty members at the same rank should have similar employment circumstances across campus, we should therefore work to alter the current situation in which some CLs have an obligation to contribute to their departments' missions through teaching and service, and other CLs have this same obligation, plus the task of meeting the specific enrollment and financial targets dictated by DCS in order to keep their jobs. What is the administration's view of the best way to standardize the working situations of continuing lecturers across campus?
2. Taking for granted that transparency in budgeting is a key value and goal at IPFW, we should therefore work to move away from the current financial model in which millions of dollars of tuition revenue are diverted from the general fund into a separate account, part of which funds DCS (and therefore the continuing lecturers paid by DCS) and part of which becomes a reserve fund. This diverting of resources creates two transparency problems: (1) there is less oversight over how the money in the reserve fund is spent; and (2) diverting millions of tuition dollars away from the general fund artificially inflates the amount of the shortfall in the general fund. What is the administration's plan and timeline for creating a more transparent budgeting model for IPFW than the current model?

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