

Rational for SD 86-22
Contingency Planning Policy and Procedures

It is a well-established principle at Indiana University - Purdue University at Fort Wayne (IPFW) that the appropriate locus of administrative decisions regarding schools or divisions is the school or division. Equally well-established in administrative decision-making is a tradition of consultation. Deans and directors, for example, consult with their faculty by means of elected policy and advisory committees; the deans and directors, in turn, consult with each other and with the Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Faculty in matters of broader campus interest; the Vice-Chancellors regularly consult with each other and with the Chancellor, and as needed, with the presidents of Purdue University and Indiana University on matters of system-wide interest.

The Faculty Affairs Committee recognizes that most decisions regarding merger, reorganization, or elimination of programs will be made on the school or division level. On the other hand, it also recognizes that in the modern university it will be a rare case when the implementation of such decisions does not affect units outside the school in question. The existence of interdisciplinary programs between schools, faculty with joint appointments, and students with no departmental affiliation, as well as others enrolled in courses outside their parent schools, are but a few examples of the complex nature of our modern academic enterprise which makes reorganization, merger, reduction and elimination of academic programs a matter of both school and campus interest.

It is the position of the Committee (1) that it is in the best interests of the administration, the faculty, and the students that adequate consultation take place between all the relevant parties in pending matters of merger, reorganization, or elimination of academic programs, and (2) that, when there is disagreement about the necessity for such actions on academic grounds, an impartial forum should be available to the parties involved for the resolution of disputes. The Faculty Senate is the appropriate agency to facilitate such consultation and, as needed, resolution, because it is the only campus body with representatives from all the potentially affected parties: faculty from each of the schools and administrators.

A number of factors will affect academic programs on the Fort Wayne campus in the years ahead. Faculty and student interests may generate a need to develop entirely new programs. Data collected and analyzed through the planning process could lead to significant reallocations of campus resources. Interdisciplinary interest might suggest new locations for resources. Campus funding levels will inevitably raise questions about the distribution of resources as they influence the growth or contraction of academic areas. In short, it may be necessary to examine the possibility of and to make decisions about financial shortages; about the merger, reorganization, reduction or elimination of academic programs on the campus; and about the reassignment of faculty. This document establishes policies and procedures to assure that these issues will be addressed with both fairness and due process.