

INDIANA UNIVERSITY - PURDUE UNIVERSITY

AT FORT WAYNE

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

William Frederick, Chair
Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Structure

FROM: Jim Own

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DEPT Mathematical Sciences

DEPT. SPEA

SUBJ A minority report to the Committee

DATE 11/21/86

The transmittal page of this document will indicate correctly that I endorse the overall procedures and substance of the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Structure's work. Nevertheless, I retain a strong reservation on that part of the Committee's determination that places the School of Public and Environmental Affairs under the aegis of a newly constituted Indiana - Purdue University at Fort Wayne school of business and management sciences. My concerns are numerous and far ranging, for the sake of brevity however I will make one general and one specific comment.

Generally speaking there was no rationale established as to why a system-wide school with established reporting lines of accountability and responsibility needs to be placed within a second school. This places an unnecessary second-level reporting line in SPEA's operations that will be confusing to administrators and critically burdensome for the SPEA faculty.

My specific objection relates to the first caveat. There simply was not enough time to develop either a general rationale or the specific details related to SPEA's realignment in the proposed structure. Although the Committee met three or four times a week for six weeks and SPEA was a regular agenda topic, many salient questions were left unanswered. What is to be the nature of the relationship between the SPEA faculty and their two deans was but one of these unanswered questions. Senate members have

previously debated the administrative nuances of having two reporting lines to separate parent campuses. There is a distinct parallel between this arrangement and one which would have SPEA's faculty reporting to two deans. The Committee's stock answer to this dilemma, and to others, was to go ahead and proceed to establish a structure now and you can work out the details later. This expediency, born out of the frustrations of a constricted time frame, has all of the appearances of an arranged medieval marriage contract, or a W. C. Fields one-liner. It is conceivable that a more prudent judgement would emerge from a more extensive study of SPEA's present organization and what benefits or costs might result from the proposed change.

What I recommend is for SPEA to be omitted from the proposed structure until closer study can be given to the particular arrangements of this system school. There is really no compelling reason for a university functioning as a collegial policy and administrative body to act precipitously in a matter that will have a profound significance for years to come.