

Final Report of the Recruitment, Admissions, and Financial Aid Committee
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Andrea Walton, Chair, Luise McCarty, Ex-Officio, Dave Kinman (Ex-Officio)
Members: Elizabeth Boling, Paulette Dilworth, Lee Ehman, Carmen Simich-Dudgeon, Dennis
Knapczyk

Areas Addressed this Year

The RAFA Committee focused on 5 major areas during the 2001-2002 school year: conditional admissions, the CELT testing program, fellowships (Beechlor funds and the new Proffitt Research Assistantships), and minority recruitment and retention.

First, during the fall of 2001, the RAFA committee reviewed the policies and procedures of conditional admissions and the progress of students who had been admitted conditionally. The discussion focused on the importance of tracking students and monitoring their progress in their departmental programs.

Second, considerable time was spent reviewing the CELT program and soliciting student perceptions of the test and views about the caliber of the English courses offered through CELT. The CELT program director was also consulted. Elizabeth Boling spearheaded this effort and drafted a statement about the CELT program to provide students with a clearer understanding of the program's rationale and procedures. This statement will be posted on the web and included in the School of Education's acceptance letters.

Third, RAFA reviewed the distribution of the Beechlor funds as well as provided feedback about the proposed criteria for the new Proffitt research assistantship.

Fourth, RAFA devoted two sessions to discussing issues of recruitment and retention in relation to the School of Education's long-range goal of diversity. Roberto Joseph, head of MEA and Nita Levison were guests.

Fifth, RAFA reviewed the existing fellowship opportunities for students (Deans, Chancellors, Minority Fellowships, and Equal Opportunity Fellowships from across the campus). The committee gave particular attention to exploring minority recruitment and retention and underscored the need to provide early and competitive funding packages for minority students.

Recommendations:

First, the RAFA Committee would like to underscore the importance of recognizing the contributions of the 3 graduate student organizations in the School of Education and recommends that financial support for these groups be institutionalized: each organization will be allocated \$200 annually. Organizations may apply for additional funds to support programs and activities that are related to retention by developing a proposal and budget. RAFA recommends having a budget of \$2,000 to provide supplemental funding to student organizations. RAFA will be involved in reviewing the proposals and recipient organizations will provide an end-of-year report on their activities.

Second, the RAFA Committee would like the School of Education to foster continuity in leadership among student organizations. In particular, a year-long fellowship during the dissertation writing stage would enable student leaders to maintain their engagement in student organizations.

Third, the RAFA Committee would like the School of Education to consider devoting web resources to developing a web site for students to post their curriculum vitae. This would facilitate communication between ga-ship providers and students seeking an assistantship.

Fourth, in response to the Policy Council's query about core campus issues, RAFA raised two issues for closer examination:

- a) the possibility of IUPUI representation on the RAFA committee.
- b) a discussion of joint recruitment for the Ph.D. programs

Fifth: RAFA recommends that the Council of Chairs be asked to consider how the dissemination of information about possible graduate assistantships might be facilitated across units.

Areas to be Followed Up Next Year

RAFA will work with the Office of Graduate Studies to design a series of workshops to provide faculty members, especially individuals new to the School of Education, with training in academic advising.

RAFA will continue to advise the Graduate Studies Office on the conditional admissions procedures and will look for ways to become more involved in the fellowship process. For example, RAFA will review the progress and experience of the new Profitt research assistantship and may refine the criteria.

RAFA will continue to take an interest in collecting data on CELT students. Based on these findings, RAFA may initiate a discussion with Bloomington Faculty Council on the topic of CELT. Elizabeth Boling will be collecting the additional data.

RAFA will continue to explore ways to improve the School of Education's efforts in minority recruitment and retention. The committee is interested in identifying ways to foster ties with Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and other institutions serving students who are underrepresented in the field of education.

The RAFA Committee is interested in tapping School of Education alumni/ae to assist in recruitment initiatives and in exploring the possibility of a CD for recruitment purposes.

The RAFA Committee is interested in finding ways to increase research experiences for students.