

Indiana State University

2004 - 2005 Academic Annual Report

Department of Aerospace Technology

Year in Review

Accomplishments

As you have heard, increasing public awareness of Indiana State University's accomplishments is crucial to building student enrollment, influencing policy makers, and developing a place of pre-eminence in the Midwest. What do you consider to be your department's 5-10 top accomplishments for the 2004-2005 year that will help contribute to this effort?

- Program approval for the new flight simulator program. Resulted in establishing a program fee for support of the flight simulators. Allowed the purchase of two new flight simulators. - Seventh straight year of increased student enrollments while nearly every other program and school on campus experienced a decline in student enrollments. - Awarded a travel grant for the purpose of establishing a student/faculty exchange program with the International University of Applied Sciences in Bad Honnef, Germany. Resulted in the department's first formal agreement with a foreign university. The five-year agreement will begin during the 2005-06 academic year.

Research and Scholarship

What is your assessment of accomplishments in the area of research and scholarship? Are you satisfied overall? In which areas do you feel your department does particularly well? In which areas do you feel your department needs to improve?

The department is actively engaged in area of research and scholarship. Several studies were published this academic year. In addition, the department continued year two activities of the EPA/AAAE Transource grant.

Grants, Contracts & Off Campus Professional Service

What is your assessment of accomplishments in the area of grants, contracts, and off campus professional service? Are you satisfied overall? In which areas do you feel your department does particularly well? In which areas do you feel your department needs to improve?

The department is presently engaged in year two of a five year grant for EPA/AAAE for the Transource website. During the course of the present year, the department formally received the signed memorandum of agreement and received the first installment of \$75,000 toward the grant.

Best Practices

Describe the progress your unit has made thus far. Were you able to take these steps? What steps or goals have been particularly difficult to achieve and why? What practices, actions, initiatives are you doing that could be considered eminent?

The department has continued on a growth curve, although that curve is beginning to flatten out. As a result the department has further increased its efforts in recruiting. However, the department notes that university policies are beginning to have a negative impact on those recruiting efforts. Examples include the raising of the standards for admission, increased tuition/fees as well as higher costs with room and board. Finally, the negative perception of the laptop initiative has not been received well by prospects. Left unchecked, the department believes that a reduction in enrollments will occur.

Student Credit Hours

What did you learn? What steps will you take during 2004-05 to meet your department's student credit hour target by fall 2005?

The department continues to exceed SCH levels of nearly every department on campus. Next year the department will need to expand faculty ranks or consider curtailing course offerings to better align with university standards.

Budget

Identify and describe any collaborative efforts that have been undertaken by your department with other academic or administrative units to maximize resources to meet departmental goals. Please also consider collaborative opportunities with external partners.

This year we began our initiative for charging course fees to support student training development. This effort resulted in a generation of nearly \$150,000 in course fees. These fees were used for payments for the new simulators. Although we are not pleased to be placed in the situation of borrowing funds to conduct our primary educational student training, it has worked out to our projections.

Outreach

What are the outreach opportunities for your discipline? (non-traditional modes of delivery and timing, etc)

We currently conduct the only distance education associate degree program in the nation. We are considering expanding that role to the BS level but only when we are certain university support will be provided. We continue to be actively involved with many aviation associations and provide sponsorship of the local air show.

Assessment

For each program in the department, provide one or two examples of how the program is using assessment and evaluation (student outcomes, program review, and/or accreditation) to enhance student learning and program strength this year.

The department underwent an external review last year that also included surveys completed by graduates. Feedback supported revision of the current program that will be conducted in 2005-06 school year.

Strategic Initiatives

Development Activities

What steps have you taken to support development activities in your department? How can your efforts be supported?

This year we secured a \$129,000 donation to the department. The department will continue to look at opportunities and work with development officer as able. One area of concern is university rules/policies/procedures that seem to interfere with chairs approaching donors directly, for example, the purchase of a new airplane.

Experiential Learning

Please provide examples of experiential learning in which your department was engaged in

2004-2005.

This department remains actively engaged in experiential learning through the department's graduation requirements. Pilots are engaged in this area nearly from day one as they earn federal ratings that allow them to work as flight instructors. Management students actively stay engaged in this area by airport visits to conduct inspections and complete industry certifications.

Future Goals

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The University is highlighting experiential learning, community engagement, and eminent programs as aspects of our campus that will attract students and resources. How is your department planning to contribute to these strategic initiatives in ways that will help ISU be recognized as a Pre-eminent University?

As noted in previous section.