

Indiana State University

2005 - 2006 Administrative Annual Report

Student Judicial Programs

Year in Review

Achievements

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 accomplishments for the 2006-07 year that will contribute to this effort? (Please list in priority order and limit to no more than 8.)

- Student Judicial Programs saved funds through the discontinuation of mass distribution of the Code of Student Conduct in hardcopy and moved to a web-based document as the primary source of information for students and employees. Hardcopy distribution of the Code was limited to new students attending Sycamore Advantage and it was available upon request.
- Vice President for Student Affairs, D. Thomas Ramey charged an Academic Integrity Task Force with reviewing best practices for the purpose of recommending revisions to the current academic integrity policies and procedures. Task Force submitted a proposal Spring 2006 and waits input from faculty governance and the University administration

Enrollment

What steps did you take this year to aid ISU in overcoming enrollment challenges?

The academic coordinators of the colleges agreed to work with Student Judicial Programs to check conduct records of academically dismissed students before waivers are granted for their immediate re-enrollment. In 2004-2005, Student Judicial Programs found numerous academically dismissed students with serious conduct records and questioned the rationale for the exceptions waiver for disruptive students. It was agreed that disruptive students have a negative impact on the success of other students. Thus, the academic coordinators maintain regular contact with SJP to include conduct records in their review when a student's requests a waiver of an academic dismissal.

Action Steps

Do you have any further progress you would like to report?

With the new selection committee and procedures in place, all 18 seats of the All-University Court were filled and the Court was able to conduct hearings without few delays or scheduling problems.

Assessment

What are two ways in which you evaluated the quality or effectiveness in your area last year? What changes did you make based on those assessments?

- Student Judicial Programs was involved in a self-assessment using the CAS Standards. Presently, SJP has made no changes based on the assessment. The assessment just helped to validate what was obvious. SJP is as efficient and good as it will get without any additional resources. The conduct system is run with limited staff and budget and with volunteers. For additional programs or services to be added, for more work to be done it will take resources.
- SJP held the annual meeting for the entire 18-member All-University Court for their procedural review of the conduct system. The Court reviewed a student proposal to modify Section IIB of the Code of Student Conduct because a student

claimed that the Policies for Posting Notices were not being enforced. He wanted the name and address of the person responsible for the posting to be on the front of the notice and if not in compliance, he wanted Public Safety involved in the removing of posters and notices. The Court rejected the proposal finding that putting the information on the front of the postings might invite unwanted and inappropriate contacts and found it an unreasonable expectation that Public Safety would police bulletin boards. SJP made no change to the policy and procedures. The Court was also asked to review the appeal process in light of the Dean of Students replacing the Vice President for Student Affairs as the appeal body. The Dean proposed to include in the appeal process in-person interviews with the appellant and any other party wishing to speak to her regarding the action under review. Presently, the appeal is a review of the written record defined by the appellant successfully claiming specific grounds outlined in the Code. The Court members were concerned that this proposed process amounted to re-hearing of cases and this review by the Dean could undo the work of the three-person panels representing the campus community who had already carefully reviewed all the facts and heard from relevant witnesses. The justices were not in favor of the proposed change and indicated their comfort with the present appeal process. They agreed that only in instances of new evidence or failure in process should there be cause for changing decisions or ordering new hearings. No change was made to the appeal process.

Budget

As you know, ISU is facing significant budget challenges. Finding ways to overcome these while increasing efficiency requires innovation. How are you overcoming your budget challenges this year?

Since the Code of Student Conduct is no longer mailed off campus to thousands of students, we were able to use the funds set aside for postage to offset our shortage of funds for supply and printing. We did not have to request additional funds for the Vice President for Student Affairs to complete the fiscal year.