

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Friday, September 14, 2012

DECISION ITEM B: **Approval of New Academic Unit on Which Staff Proposes Expedited Action**

Staff Recommendation That the Commission Approve the School of Philanthropy To Be Created at IUPUI

Background Indiana University seeks authorization to create the School of Philanthropy on its IUPUI campus, which will build upon the existing Center on Philanthropy (created in 1987) and related degree programs.

The Commission for Higher Education has statutory authority to “approve or disapprove the ... establishment of any new college or school.” Establishing a new college or school within an institution occurs infrequently, and there occasions when the creation of new units call for full discussion by the Commission, such as establishing Indiana University Schools of Public Health on the Bloomington and IUPUI campuses. In this instance, because the creation of the School of Philanthropy builds on graduate programs that were fully discussed by the Commission at the time of their approval, with a recognition of the unique mission and strengths of the IUPUI campus in this area, the staff bring this recommendation to the Commission as an expedited action item.

In August 1993, the Commission approved the first degree program in the area, the M.A. in Philanthropic Studies. That approval was followed ten years later (June 2003) with authorization of the Ph.D. in Philanthropic Studies. More recently (February 2010), the Commission approved a Bachelor of Arts in this same field.

In FY2011, the master’s program enrolled 101 headcount or 39 FTE students and had 31 graduates. In the same year, the Ph.D. program enrolled 34 headcount or 17 FTE students. Counting those students who completed their degree requirements earlier this year, the Ph.D. program has graduated a total of eight students. Four additional students are likely to graduate with Ph.D.s by the end of the current academic year.

There are no other degree programs in Philanthropy in Indiana, and the University believes that the School of Philanthropy will be the first such school anywhere in the world. When formally created, the School of Philanthropy will have the second largest endowment of any school at IUPUI.

Supporting Document *Summary Proposal for a School of Philanthropy on the IUPUI Campus, June 2012*

Summary Proposal for a School of Philanthropy on the IUPUI Campus June 2012

In his 1983 seminal essay for the *Independent Sector*, Robert Payton¹ wrote:

Philanthropy is America's most distinctive virtue. There is no other aspect of American life that is so vast in scale, so rooted in tradition, so broadly supported by law and public policy or more gratuitously neglected by the educational community.

The system of charity and philanthropy and voluntary service is at work in almost every aspect of our lives. We give to it, and we receive from it. We use it to help others and to express our ideas about how life could be made better for all of us.

Philanthropy is a subject that touches the life of every student and every faculty member at every American college. It is easily related to every discipline of the humanities and social sciences and to professional studies like medicine, law, and business. It could be taught, and in my opinion it should be taught, but it is not.

Since the founding of the IU Center on Philanthropy in 1987, Indiana University has led the development of philanthropic studies as a scholarly discipline. Establishing a School of Philanthropy at IUPUI will take this acknowledged leadership to a new level by paving the way for the following to take place:

- enable the recruitment and retention of top-notch faculty scholars;
- grow enrollments at the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels;
- enhance research funding;
- prepare the next generation of scholars and practitioners in the field;
- address an important workforce and economic development need for the state, nation, and world.

The School of Philanthropy will have the second largest endowment of any school at IUPUI. There are six endowed chairs in place dedicated to philanthropic studies and strong prospects for more. Because the Center on Philanthropy already has in place the fiscal infrastructure and administrative staffing (including a full-time budget officer) necessary to support a school, existing resources and future revenue from tuition and grants can be concentrated on growing the faculty base for its full array of academic programs, research centers, and service activities.

The IU School of Philanthropy at IUPUI will be built on a strong foundation. The initial administrative structure for the School of Philanthropy will be a dean who reports to the chancellor of IUPUI. While degrees and other programs will be based in Indianapolis, there will be faculty from IUPUI, IUB, and several regional campuses participating in the faculty governance, teaching, research, and service for the School of Philanthropy. Presently, 70 faculty

¹ The late Robert Payton was the nation's first full-time professor of philanthropic studies and the first full-time executive.

members in more than 20 schools and departments have formally petitioned to be on the faculty. This is a good base, but reaching 20 full-time-equivalent faculty is an essential short-term goal that will ensure the new school will move quickly to establish its preeminence.

Indiana University (IU) has an opportunity to provide state, national, and international leadership for the nonprofit and philanthropic sector by establishing a School of Philanthropy. IU has led the development of philanthropic studies as a scholarly discipline since the establishment of the IU Center on Philanthropy at IUPUI in 1987, which was made possible by generous support from the Lilly Endowment. Thanks in large part to the continuing interest and commitment that the Lilly Endowment has shown for all 25 years of the center's existence—Indiana University now has the interdisciplinary faculty and academic resources to take the field into the 21st century. The creation of a School of Philanthropy will solidify the university's position as the world leader of philanthropic and nonprofit sector research, teaching, and service.

As quoted in the prelude to this proposal, the late Robert Payton makes an eloquent case for the importance of philanthropy to American society. Philanthropy plays many roles in helping to build a more civil society and a better community. It has an important role in the economy (producing greater job growth than the for-profit or government sectors for the last several decades). It is the backbone of the nation's health and educational systems, as well as arts and culture, human services, and international relief organizations.

The creation of the school will enable Indiana University to attract and retain high-quality faculty to enhance teaching and research. The addition of new faculty—both junior and senior faculty— will be necessary to teach courses in growing undergraduate and graduate programs. Their internally and externally funded research will reinforce the faculty's intellectual leadership in the field and, simultaneously, improve the practice of philanthropy and nonprofit management in Indiana, the nation, and the world.

Today, 326 universities and colleges around the world offer courses, certificates, and degrees in philanthropy and/or nonprofit management. Most are relatively small programs with only a few faculty members involved. One of the oldest such centers, the IU Center on Philanthropy is the largest and most comprehensive. It has a budget of \$8 million, 90 affiliated faculty, and more than 40 full-time staff. Other philanthropy or nonprofit management centers and programs that collaborate with the center—or compete with it for contracts, grants, and students— acknowledge that Indiana University's is the best in class. With its sterling reputation as the acknowledged academic leader in the field, the IU School of Philanthropy will be in a position to attract and retain the finest scholars and students at home and abroad. While it has been argued that philanthropy is a uniquely American tradition, there is strong evidence that, when counted broadly, philanthropy is ubiquitous across societies, cultures, and generations. It is an engine for social change as well as a stabilizing force to maintain existing social and economic structures. For some time now, the Center on Philanthropy has been engaged abroad in training for nonprofit organizations and in research on an array of subjects, including disaster relief efforts; thus it is likely that a School of Philanthropy will be a draw for international students and a key player in developing strategic international partnerships for Indiana University.

These are extraordinary times in the philanthropic and nonprofit sector. The Great Recession and an aging population are forcing governments at all levels to reduce spending. The nonprofit sector needs to determine the most effective response. These challenges call for extraordinary efforts by the university community to understand the traditional roles the sector has played, the dynamics of the changes taking place, and the potential for continued growth even as the environment becomes increasingly complex. The opportunities and challenges are great.

The time is now to create the first School of Philanthropy. And Indiana University is the place to do it.