




IUPUI

**OFFICE OF
THE CHANCELLOR**

INDIANA UNIVERSITY-PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Indianapolis

MEMORANDUM

TO: IUPUI Faculty Council
Faculty/Staff of the School of Informatics and Computing at IUPUI

FROM: Nasser Paydar, Chancellor 

DATE: August 7, 2018

RE: Administrative Review, Executive Associate Dean of the School of Informatics and Computing, Mathew Palakal

This memo summarizes the report of the Administrative Review Committee on the Dean of the School of Informatics and Computing, Mathew Palakal.

Margie Ferguson, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, chaired the committee with support from Stephen Hundley, Senior Advisor to the Chancellor for Planning and Institutional Improvement. Indianapolis Faculty Council representatives included Amanda Friesen, Associate Professor of Political Science and Marianne Wokeck, Chancellor's Professor of History, both from the School of Liberal Arts. Faculty from the School of Informatics and Computing included Davide Bochini, Associate Professor and Chair, Human-Centered Computing, Joseph Defazio, Associate Professor, Media Arts and Science, William Helling, Lecturer, Library and Information Science, and Huanmei Wu, Associate Professor and Chair, BioHealth Informatics. Staff included Vicki Daugherty, Program Manager and Diversity Coordinator, Rosiel Marasco, Director of Fiscal and Administrative Affairs, and Julie Reagan, Undergraduate Academic Advisor. The IUPUI Campus Representative was Tralicia Lewis, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Student representatives were Abigail Watson and Milka Trajkova. The community representative was Alvin Givens, Vice President, JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Chair of the Informatics Diversity-Enhanced Workforce (iDEW) Advisory Council.

To complete its work, the review committee commissioned the Institutional Research and Decision Support office (IRDS) to conduct a survey of SOIC faculty and staff, a survey of current students, a survey of alumni from the past 5 years, and members of four separate advisory boards.

Among his greatest strengths is Executive Associate Dean Palakal's ability to develop a vision for SOIC at IUPUI and then relentlessly work toward strategic goals aligned with this vision. Dr. Palakal has received national attention for his efforts to build a diverse pipeline into the field of informatics, and both student enrollment and faculty headcount have increased substantially during his tenure. He is investing in building capacity for research excellence with the school and has succeeded in recruiting a number of talented early career scientists to join the faculty. Dr. Palakal has also helped SOIC to function well as a

core school, and his relationships with colleagues in Bloomington as well as within the central Indiana region have been quite positive. Dr. Palakal also demonstrates a strong commitment to diversity as evidenced through his targeted outreach to high school students and his efforts to diversify the faculty. However, during the review process, some faculty and staff expressed concerns about the relative dearth of full professors in leadership positions, aggressive competition over new degree programs, and that non-tenure track faculty contributions are not fully recognized and valued. Dr. Palakal also was encouraged to expand his efforts to communicate directly with faculty, and to make efforts to increase his visibility outside of the school and in the surrounding community.

Overall, Dr. Palakal should be commended for his strategic vision for the School of Informatics and Computing, his success in strengthening enrollments and enhancing the research profile of the school through hiring promising faculty. The planned expansion of facilities within the ICTC Building and the Multidisciplinary Classroom and Research Building (MCRB) will almost certainly assure that the assets cultivated through Dr. Palakal's leadership will continue to flourish.

Cc: Kathy Johnson, Executive Vice Chancellor