MEMORANDUM

TO: IUPUI Faculty Council
    Faculty/Staff of the IU School of Social Work

FROM: Charles R. Bantz, IU Executive Vice President and Chancellor of IUPUI

DATE: June 17, 2008

RE: Administrative Review of the Dean, IU School of Social Work, Michael A. Patchner

This memo summarizes the report of the Administrative Review Committee (ARC) on the Office of the Dean, IU School of Social Work, Michael A. Patchner.

H. Öner Yurtseven (Dean, School of Engineering and Technology, IUPUI) chaired the committee. Its members from the IU School of Social Work were Associate Professor Robert B. Bennett, Associate Professor Carolyn J. Black, BSW Program Director Katharine V. Byers (IUB), Associate Professor James G. Daley, MSW Student Services Coordinator Sherry Gass, Professor Cathy K. Pike, MSW Recorder Rachel D. Sipes-Salter, and students, Mark Hess and Christy Meyer. Associate Professor of Nursing Anne E. Belcher and Executive Director Cathleen S. Graham of the IARCCA also served on the committee.

The ARC met several times between October 2007 and April 2008. Committee members interviewed campus, school, and community constituencies and surveyed the school’s staff, faculty, students, and alumni via the Survey Research Center at IUPUI.

The ARC concluded that Dean Patchner has accomplished several objectives; most significantly, developing the infrastructure necessary to operate the school systemwide on seven IU campuses. This resulted in an expansion of degree programs and integration of administrative and support services that is still in progress. Dean Patchner is viewed by an overwhelming majority of colleagues on all campuses as a “visionary goal setter, planner, collaborator, and implementer,” who has managed resources well. His future priorities include plans to further enhance faculty research, recruit high caliber faculty, develop first-class M.S.W. and Ph.D. programs, and develop financial resources.

In assessing areas of potential for growth and improvement, the ARC recommends additional academic administrative support for Dean Patchner so that he may delegate some of his workload while focusing on priorities for the future. There is also a “critical need for more space and additional faculty and staff, due to the rapid expansion of programs and the increased number of students.”

The ARC commended Dean Patchner for the school’s remarkable advancement in national rankings (from number 67 to number 26) during his deanship. It also noted that the stature of the
school improved significantly in the state of Indiana, especially among government, social welfare, and child protection agencies. All committee members believe that this happened because of Dean Patchner’s leadership and hard work.

The committee members concluded that the school has made tremendous progress under Dean Patchner’s leadership, that IUPUI and IU should be proud of this progress, and that it is poised to assume a leadership role among U.S. schools of social work during the next decade.