Executive Summary
Intellectual and Campus Life Task Force

The Intellectual and Campus Life Task Force was charged with visioning UIndy’s campus and intellectual life in the year 2030. Four questions framed the work of the Task Force:

In 2030, how would UIndy be different than it is today:

1. In terms of faculty productivity and reward systems?
2. In terms of opportunities to link traditional classroom learning with applied learning such as collaboration with faculty in research and other projects that address real-world problems?
3. In terms of opportunities to explore and experiment with new ideas and technologies, entrepreneurial activity, interdisciplinary partnerships, international partnerships, and community engagement?
4. In terms of integration of the curricular, co-curricular and extracurricular domains in support of student recruitment, retention, and success?

More than 50 faculty, staff, students and administrators met in planning meetings and a day-long retreat to brainstorm ideas, define and refine recommendations, and set priorities focused on transforming the UIndy experience. Although small groups conducted much of the work of the task force, opportunities for “cross-talk” between groups revealed several recurring themes. When the members came together for their final discussion of priorities, a remarkably consistent picture emerged – one that portrays UIndy in 2030 as an institution in which campus life and intellectual life are vibrant and integrated; faculty, students, and staff are engaged with one another in focusing on mission-consistent purpose and community impact; and the culture of UIndy is well-defined, visible through actions and traditions, and reflecting a cohesive neighborhood community comprised of individuals with varying yet deep relationships to the institution.

The Task Force adopted the underlying premise that every decision made at UIndy must be made with the intent to create an academic environment that is student-centered while maintaining a commitment to the traditions of a comprehensive university. In addition, the Task Force endorsed an overarching commitment to data-driven decision making. Cross-cutting themes and strategies included:
The infusion of incentive systems, streamlined processes, well-resourced and accessible supports, and rewards for entrepreneurial partnerships, particularly those that promote active student learning and increase the quality of life among UIIndy’s neighbors;

- The creation of a community center that would focus on wellness, fitness, service, the arts and other activities that would transform UIIndy into an essential Southside resource;
- The development of flexible approaches to teaching, learning, scholarship, creative expression, and faculty load, including the support of interdisciplinary pursuits;
- The reconfiguration of the physical environment to include technology-rich social spaces that invite collaboration among students, faculty and staff;
- The expansion of experiential and applied learning opportunities outside the classroom that will come to define the UIIndy experience;
- The articulation of a Greyhound Plan for Student Success that provides a detailed and individualized road map for each UIIndy student with integrated pathways that incorporate many aspects of intellectual and campus life.

The Intellectual and Campus Life Task Force is pleased to bring forward its recommendations for consideration by the University Planning Commission.