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IU-Indianapolis Downtown Campus

Records, 1915-1985

UA 059

IU-Indianapolis Downtown Campus Records, 1915-1985

UA 059

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ABSTRACT

Indiana University started offering regular classes in Indianapolis in 1891. An Extension Division was created in 1912 and began to offer a small number of courses for credit. A gradual increase of class offerings and enrollments in Indianapolis occurred in the following decades. The university occupied a variety of buildings in downtown Indianapolis over the years in what over time became known as the Downtown Campus (DTC). Courses in liberal arts, social sciences, mathematics, and the natural sciences were offered by the Downtown Campus, whereas Indiana University's professional schools located in Indianapolis (i.e., the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, and Law, etc.) offered separate programs loosely connected to the other. The creation of IUPUI in 1969 more closely fused the various separate entities of Indiana University in Indianapolis together.

Records include correspondence, minutes, reports, publications, and other materials.

ACCESS

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ACQUISITION

Presented by School of Liberal Arts, Joseph Taylor, Frank Nordby, Don Schultheis, and Gina Hill, Indianapolis, Indiana, 1975-1988. A75-3, A75-14, A76-16, A79-3, A84-7, A84-15, A84-29, A88-38.

Processed by Gregory H. Mobley, June 2009.

SUBJECT TERMS

Curriculum planning.

Indiana University. Indianapolis Downtown Campus.

Indiana University. Indianapolis Downtown Campus – Administration.

Indiana University. Indianapolis Downtown Campus – Faculty.

IUPUI (Campus)

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Indiana University academic presence in Indianapolis began in 1891 when Professor Jeremiah Jenks from IU-Bloomington taught an economics course in the city. Other IU faculty members taught courses in other disciplines over the next few years.

In 1912 IU established the Extension Division to oversee classes offered outside of Bloomington. In 1916 the division opened a center in Indianapolis with Ray S. Trent as the officer-in-charge and Mary B. Orvis as his assistant. During World War I Orvis, along with other Extension Division staffers, went to Washington, D. C. to work for the Committee on Public Information. When Ray Trent resigned as the officer-in-charge of the Indianapolis Center in 1918, Robert E. Cavanaugh succeeded him. In 1921 Cavanaugh became the director of the Extension Division, a position he would hold until 1946. Mary Orvis returned to the Center as officer-in-charge with Gertrude Heberlein as her assistant.

Orvis stepped down from her position in 1945 and was succeeded by Roy W. Feik. In 1946 Robert Cavanaugh resigned as the director of the Extension Division. Among the many changes made to the division at that time was the renaming of the division to Division of Adult Education and Public Services, the elevation of the head of the division to the rank of dean, and the change of title of the chief administrators of the extension centers from officer-in-charge to director.

In 1955 Feik resigned from the director's position in order to teach full-time at the Indianapolis Center. Gertrude Heberlein served as acting director for a year, then Virgil Hunt, director of the Kokomo Center, became the director of the Indianapolis Center in 1956. In 1966 Hunt left the position to become the registrar of the IU Medical Center. Assistant Dean Joseph Taylor was acting dean until 1967, when he was named dean. He held the position until a 1972 academic reorganization of IUPUI's undergraduate programs dissolved the Downtown Campus and created the Schools of Liberal Arts, Science, and Engineering and Technology. Taylor became the first dean of the School of Liberal Arts.

During most of its 56 years of existence, the Downtown Campus offered primarily freshman- and sophomore-level classes. A few upper-level classes were available in business; upper-level classes in other disciplines were primarily for teachers working on a graduate degree in education. Classes were held in the afternoons and evenings; morning classes started in the 1960s when demand for classes exceeded what could be accommodated with afternoon and evening classes.

During its first twelve years, the Indianapolis Center occupied several different quarters. From 1916 to 1920, it was in rented space in the Merchants Bank Building at Washington and Meridian Streets. During 1920-1921 it was in the former School of Medicine building at 102 North Senate Avenue. From 1921 to 1928 it rented space at 319 North Pennsylvania Street. In 1928 IU purchased the Bobbs-Merrill Building at 122 East Michigan Street to house the Indianapolis Center and the School of Social Work. In 1948

the university acquired the Indiana Lumbermen's Insurance Company building at 518 North Delaware Street to provide additional space. In 1963 the university began leasing the Carpenters Building at 222 East Michigan Street and in 1967 purchased the Marott Building at 902 North Meridian Street for use as classroom buildings.

Discussions about building new facilities for the Downtown Campus began in the 1950s. Early proposals recommended erecting a new building along Pennsylvania Street, directly west of the existing campus buildings. Later discussions included the options of new buildings near the IU Medical Center or in another part of the city. The final decision was to build near the Medical Center. The Downtown Campus moved into the new buildings on West Michigan Street opened in the spring of 1971, and its former buildings were torn down to make way for the Minton-Capehart Federal Building.

REFERENCES

Buis, Almon R. "The History and Work of the Extension Division of Indiana University." M.S. thesis, Indiana University, 1927.

Cavanaugh, Robert E. *Indiana University Extension: Its Origin, Progress, Pitfalls, and Personalities*. Bloomington: University Extension, 1961.

Gray, Ralph D. *IUPUI--The Making of an Urban University*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2003.

RELATED MATERIALS

School of Liberal Arts Records, 1949-2006, UA 002

Purdue University-Indianapolis Extension Records, 1941-1976, UA 060

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The IU-Indianapolis Downtown Campus records document IU's undergraduate program in Indianapolis in the years prior to the creation of IUPUI. Most of the records relate to the activities of Downtown Campus administrators and faculty, but various newspapers and newsletters provide information about student life. The records are divided into six series:

Director/Dean Records, 1950-1974, consist of the records of the chief administrative officer of the Downtown Campus. The position was known as officer-in-charge from 1916 to 1946, director from 1946 to 1966, and dean from 1966 until the Downtown Campus was dissolved as an administrative unit in 1972. The records contain correspondence, reports, and committee records.

Administrative Records, 1951-1985, consist of records relating to the day-to-day operations of the Downtown Campus. The series includes records from assistant directors and other administrators. The records contain correspondence and reports.

Academic Records, 1959-1973, consist of records relating to the academic programs of the Downtown Campus. The records contain correspondence and course information.

Faculty Records, 1952-1971, consist of records relating to the faculty of the Downtown Campus. Many of the records relate to the Downtown Campus Faculty Assembly. The records contain correspondence, faculty rosters and committee minutes.

Student Records, 1961-1971, consist of records relating to the students of the Downtown Campus. The records contain a report about students and financial records relating to student organizations.

Publications, 1915-1974, contain newspapers and newsletters, bulletins, and handbooks.

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