An Overview of the Friday, October 18 Convocation

Faculty who were able to attend the 40-minute convocation used the time to engage in what we called a “Chalk Talk.” A “Chalk Talk” is a written conversation around a specific topic. Participants share ideas, ask questions, and make comments by recording them on a large piece of paper on the wall.

Our “Chalk Talk” focused on three topics that were identified as being important to faculty based on the faculty’s response to a Survey Monkey questionnaire (Town Hall Survey) I sent out last month. Each topic was the focus of its own “Chalk Talk.” The topics included:

1. **Transparency.** Transparency was mentioned a number of times by respondents to the Town Hall Survey. In many cases it seemed to be equated with communication. Most who mentioned it seemed to feel that there is a general lack of transparency and communication.

2. **Faculty Role in Decision Making.** Faculty role in various initiatives and decision making (recruitment and retention; strategic planning; definitions of appropriate service teaching loads, etc.) emerged as a theme in the town hall survey. Respondents expressed concern that faculty input seems limited on many decisions that affect faculty.

3. **Campus Identity.** Several respondents mentioned the identity of the campus as an issue. Some expressed concern that without a faculty-supported identity for IUPUC, support for faculty development will not be appropriately focused or funded.

Questions were identified that aligned with each of the three topics above. Those questions helped elicit and guide “Chalk Talk” conversations around each topic. For about 12 minutes during the convocation, faculty wandered from “Chalk Talk” sheet to “Chalk Talk” sheet (one for each topic) and wrote down ideas in response to the topic questions.