In August of 2006, James C. Wimbush was confirmed by the Indiana University Board of Trustees as Dean of The University Graduate School. The Dean's responsibilities include monitoring academic quality, promoting diversity, advocating for graduate student interests, and distributing university-wide graduate fellowships. Wimbush, a business professor since 1991, was recommended for the position by President Michael A. McRobbie, who, at the time, served as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Interim Provost.

In his new position, Wimbush succeeded John Slattery, who left the position in September of 2005. Eugene Kintgen, a professor of English, had been serving as Interim Dean.