

February 6, 2009

Dear colleagues,

As the snow begins to melt outside, the activity level in the Statehouse is beginning to heat up with the biennial budget working its way through the legislative process. On Thursday, I presented our budget request to the House Ways and Means Committee.

As I am sure you understand, this will not be an easy budget for our state's leaders to finalize. Competing needs and interests are always a central part of any budget debate but can become much more adversarial when cuts, rather than increases, are necessary.

In addition to providing an overview of our institution, our student profile and some recent achievements, I also detailed the areas of focus for our strategic planning effort and the work we are doing to address the state's priorities.

While acknowledging the state of the economy and the challenges being faced by all levels of government, I outlined the unavoidable costs we are facing in health benefits, utilities and other benefits. I also discussed the priority budget items – compensation, institutionally provided student aid and library acquisitions -- we hope to address if funding can be identified.

Our capital request to provide \$5.25 million toward the renovation of the Federal Building was also included in the presentation.

It is still fairly early in this process, and I will be working with Brian Hasler, Vice President Diann McKee and others to make sure that Indiana State's needs continue to be represented. I will also work to keep the campus informed as updates occur.

The impact of the federal stimulus package on our campus was also discussed during our hearing yesterday. A list of projects on our campus that might qualify for stimulus funding has been developed and distributed to leaders at the state and national levels, and we are actively pursuing any funds for which we might be eligible.

Other updates I would like to provide are:

- **Severe weather decision-making:** I have asked those most closely involved to review our decision-making process in times of inclement weather. Closing a university and/or cancelling classes is not an easy decision to make, and one that should rarely occur. Students, faculty and staff should generally assume that we will have classes, and offices will be open unless the campus is without power, parking lots and sidewalks are impassable or a state of emergency prohibiting all travel has been declared. In any case,

the decision to drive is always a personal one, and individuals need to make their own decisions about any risk they take.

- **Strategic planning:** Our strategic planning efforts are continuing and STRATUS representatives will be in town for a series of meetings, mostly with external stakeholders, next week. They will return once again on March 26-27 to lead a campus leadership retreat building upon the work to date. More information on the retreat will be available in the near future.
- **United Way:** As noted in the Cyberwire distributed earlier this week, Indiana State was honored by the United Way of the Wabash Valley with its “Beyond the Call” award at the United Way annual dinner. Once again, I would like to acknowledge the tremendous leadership that Bruce and Connie McLaren provided as chairs of our campus United Way committee. Everyone on the committee should also be commended as well as each of you who contributed to this most worthy cause. The needs are great, and I deeply appreciate everyone who made a donation.

Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Bradley
President