

March 20, 2009

Dear colleagues,

This communication comes at the end of another busy week culminating in our university budget hearings yesterday and today. These hearings provided another opportunity for many of us to learn more about the great work being done throughout our university. I was impressed with the innovative thinking used to address the budgetary challenges the university faces. The enthusiasm and positive attitudes displayed by our deans and vice presidents and the ways all of you are serving our students are wonderful.

Earlier this week, Gov. Mitch Daniels met with the presidents of the state's public universities. We were pleased to learn that federal stimulus money will be used to restore the 1% cut in this year's appropriation and the more than \$2 million in repair and rehabilitation funding that had been withheld. This will allow us to move forward with several projects to improve our physical environment.

Work on the 2009-2011 budget continues in the legislature, with the last round of budget hearings occurring this past Monday before the Senate Appropriations Committee. While there is optimism about the impact the stimulus package might have on the upcoming budget, state revenues continue to lag significantly behind projections. We will not know the specifics of our appropriation until the legislature completes its work. In addition, we have been reminded by the Governor that any stimulus funding will be in the form of one-time dollars and should be used with caution when supporting on-going expenses.

This is a challenging time for our state and nation, and the proactive planning evidenced in this week's budget hearings will serve us well. I deeply appreciate the efforts everyone put into this important process.

Next week, more than 100 members of the ISU community will participate in an intensive strategic planning workshop led by the STRATUS team. Whether you are participating in this workshop or not, I hope you will consider providing your ideas to my office or directly to STRATUS or Ratio Architects (the firm heading up the land use and facilities planning portion of our planning effort). The President's Perspective currently on the ISU homepage, www.indstate.edu, offers an easy way to submit your input as well as a link to the strategic planning site which includes more information on this process.

Other updates I would like to share:

- Congratulations to our two NCAA All-American indoor track and field athletes, Kylie Hutson and Lauren Martin. Hutson, a junior from Terre Haute, earned the recognition by winning the national championship title in pole vaulting. She is the first women's national champion at ISU since Holli Hyché won the 55 and 200 meter titles in 1994. This is her second time to be named an All-American. Martin, a junior from Schaumburg, Ill., tied for 15th in the women's triple jump at the NCAA

indoor track and field championships, garnering her first All-American recognition. Assistant Coach Jeff Martin has also been selected as the Great Lakes Region Assistant Coach of the Year. Best of luck to all of our track and field athletes as they take their prowess to the outdoor season.

- The Diversity Council formed last fall has developed its guiding documents and defined an ambitious agenda of priorities for the coming months. I appreciate the leadership Carmen Tillery and Josh Powers are providing along with the work of all of the council members. More information on their efforts is available at www.indstate.edu/president/Diversity.html. The search for a university diversity officer is nearing completion, and I anticipate announcing its successful conclusion in the near future. I hope that everyone will contribute to our efforts to continue to diversify our campus and create a welcoming environment for all individuals.
- At the beginning of next month, a random sample of faculty and staff will be asked to participate in an electronic survey about the working environment at Indiana State. This survey is part of the Chronicle of Higher Education's Great Colleges to Work For program. I hope that those who receive this request will take the time to participate as the survey will provide us with some baseline data regarding opportunities for improvement. This is the second year the Chronicle has conducted this survey but it will be the first time for Indiana State to participate.
- I would also like to recognize Gerald Cockrell , professor of electronic and computer technology, for becoming the first American to receive an honorary doctorate from the St. Petersburg State University of Aerospace Instrumentation last week.

Lastly, there is much excitement about the opening of the new Student Recreation Center which will be completed later this spring. The campus will get a sneak peek of the facilities wonderful offerings during a tour and open house on April 6. Watch the global e-mail announcements for specifics. This new addition to our campus will provide a wonderful venue for our students, faculty and staff to engage in recreational opportunities. As a result of this building's completion, we have decided to close the pool in Tiley Hall. The costs to maintain and staff this pool are too excessive to justify with the availability of much newer facilities in the College of Nursing, Health and Human Performance and the new Rec Center. Lap swimming opportunities will be available in the Arena pool, and the water temperature will be lowered to accommodate lap swimming.

Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Bradley
President