

October 3, 2008

Dear colleagues,

Cooler temperatures may have arrived but the level of activity on campus continues to heat up as the fall semester gets into full swing.

The election is rapidly approaching, and I would like to encourage everyone to register to vote prior to the noon deadline on Monday, October 6. Students and others from outside of Indiana should know that they will be required to show a photo ID card issued by the federal government such as a passport or one issued specifically by the state of Indiana such as an Indiana driver's license. A driver's license issued by other states will not meet the ID requirements. At this time, ISU ID cards also do not meet the requirements but we are working to address this for future elections by adding expiration dates to IDs as part of the conversion of our ID card system this fall.

In addition, satellite voting, which allows voters registered in Vigo County to cast their vote in advance of the election, begins on Monday in Cunningham Memorial Library. Voters who desire to cast absentee votes from their home communities should check their states for deadlines. The Indiana deadline to vote by absentee ballot is October 26.

The Student Government Association is hosting a Voter's Fair on Monday, October 13. The fair will feature information from each party and the campaign organizations on campus as well as tables from various special-interest based student organizations. A DJ, free food and prizes will be available. The fair is designed to encourage students to vote absentee.

I also encourage students, faculty and staff to take advantage of the remaining events hosted by the American Democracy Project. These can be found at: <http://www1.indstate.edu/adp/activities.htm>.

Recruitment Task Force Report – The recruitment portion of the Recruitment and Retention Task Force has completed their work and filed a report outlining several initiatives designed to increase Fall 2009 enrollments. This remains our top priority. I appreciate the work of the task force and will be considering their recommendations along with those that will be forthcoming from the retention side of this task force. The enrollment task force report is available from the Presidential Communications page of my website, <http://www1.indstate.edu/president/prescomm.html>.

ISU Council on Diversity – As announced via global email earlier this week, I have appointed the members of the new ISU Council on Diversity. The group will begin meeting later this month. I would like to thank everyone who expressed an interest in serving on the council. It is clear that there are many people throughout our campus who feel as passionate as I do about this important topic. I look forward to working with all of you to advance our diversity initiatives. The membership of the council is detailed at: <http://www1.indstate.edu/president/diversitycouncil.html>.

Diversity/Affirmative Action positions – The internal search for a director of affirmative action is moving forward as interviews wrap up this coming week. I anticipate we will have someone selected for this position by the end of October. The national search for the Chief Diversity Officer gets underway on Monday when I will meet with the search committee to provide the formal charge for their work.

Strategic Planning – We are beginning the process of interviewing consultants to assist us with the overall strategic planning effort. I have invited the heads of the Faculty Senate, Support Staff Council and the Student Government Association to join the Cabinet in these interview sessions, and I look forward to receiving their input as we move to finalize the selection. We will be following a similar process for the selection of a consultant to assist with land use and facilities planning.

President's Council – On Tuesday, we will have the first meeting of the President's Council, an advisory group made up of the Cabinet, the Deans, the heads of each governance unit and selected other individuals. The President's Council will be meeting once a month to begin broad-based discussions on major issues, initiatives and policies. The agenda for Tuesday's meeting includes the potential implementation of co-curricular transcripts for students, faculty and staff, the creation of a professional development program for faculty and staff to develop management and leadership skills and an update on the strategic planning process.

Canstruction Project – Student organizations from throughout campus will be participating in Canstruction, a special event on World Food Day (October 16) designed to help address the dire need for food assistance in the Wabash Valley. Each participating organization will collect canned food and bring it to Dede Plaza where they will build a display using the canned items. Judging of the exhibits will take place at 11 a.m., and the displays will remain intact until 3 p.m. Please join me and others in bringing canned foods and other non-perishable items to campus on October 16 and drop them off Dede Plaza between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. Our local food banks are very low on supplies, and your contributions will assist Catholic Charities in serving our community. From noon to 3 p.m., ISU also will participate in the World Food Day teleconference on the global food crisis. Everyone is invited to attend this event which will occur in Dede III.

Career Fair – I would like to congratulate the Career Center and all those involved in planning the Fall Career Fair on Wednesday. Attracting nearly 125 employers during these economic times is an important service to our students and those from Saint Mary-of-the Woods, our partner in this event. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the many companies who participated as exhibitors and sponsors. I hope the outcomes of the fair are equally as impressive.

Lastly, the campus **United Way** campaign is fully underway, and everyone should be receiving a mailing and pledge card within the next week. The pledge form also is available on the campus United Way site at <http://www1.indstate.edu/unitedway/>. The progress of our campaign currently stands at 99 pledges for a total of \$24,393. That puts us almost one-third of the way toward our \$75,000 goal. I hope that you will consider joining Cheri and me in supporting this worthwhile cause by donating whatever amount you can.

Enjoy the weekend and help cheer on the Sycamores!

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Bradley
President