

February 18, 2011

Dear colleagues,

The sunshine and warmer temperatures have been a nice break from the ice and snow of just a few weeks ago. In two short weeks, spring break will be here, and the semester will be at the halfway point. Time certainly flies when you are busy.

Evidence of the work all of you are doing is apparent everywhere I go. At every event, meeting, lecture, performance, exhibit and forum I attend, there are dedicated faculty and staff present who are working day and night, weekdays and weekends to advance our university and serve our students and community. Your work is noticed, and it is appreciated. Most importantly, it is making a difference in many lives.

As our institution faces ongoing budget challenges due to the state's economy, I deeply appreciate the leadership and collegiality of the Faculty Senate, Staff Council and Student Government Association leaders who have met with me and the vice presidents to address these challenges. As I shared in my last letter to campus, an estimated \$1.3 million from non-instructional budgets has been identified for reallocation to address the budget cuts and help fund strategic priorities and unavoidable costs. A copy of the presentation used in the campus forum earlier this week and at today's Board of Trustees meeting is available at: [INSERT URL]

A total of 16 positions, all but three of which are or will be vacant due to retirements, are being eliminated. While this is much less severe than last year's cuts, its impact will be felt.

Again this year, our budget planning has been guided by our strategic plan with our top priority being our students' ability to meet their educational goals. The success ISU has experienced in growing our enrollment, goal one of the strategic plan, has helped tremendously in the University's ability to address these cuts. Our work is far from over on this and the other goals of "The Pathway to Success."

I would encourage you to plan on attending the Second Annual Strategic Planning Stakeholders Conference on March 31 in Heritage Ballroom and Lounge. Progress reports on each goal area will be shared along with discussions on ways to further advance our efforts. Approximately 40 percent of the five-year cycle is complete, and there is much more work to be accomplished in order to reach the university's goals.

Other news I would like to share:

- Roby G. George, ISU's director of bands will conduct his debut concert tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Indianapolis. The free concert will feature the Indiana State

University Faculty Chamber Players and Friends, the Indiana State University Wind Orchestra, and Horn Soloist Kazimierz Machala.

- The Department of Theater's New Play Festival continues tonight and Saturday. Two of the festival's four fully produced productions will be performed each night at 7:30 p.m. following up on a reading of new student works in progress that took place Thursday night. For tickets, call 237-3333.
- The Center for Community Engagement is planning a campus-wide spring Donaghy Day on April 15. The emphasis of the event will be on spring cleaning projects, both on and off campus. More information on how to register will be distributed in the coming weeks. I encourage offices to consider shutting down for up to half a day so that employees can complete worthwhile projects.
- Students, faculty, staff and the community will have a chance to hear a civil rights legend speak on Monday. General Joseph McNeil, one of the Greensboro Four, will give an address at 8 p.m. in the University Hall Auditorium. The Greensboro Four were four students who sat down for lunch in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1960 to take a stand against segregation. A reception will follow the address. The free lecture is in conjunction with Scholar Collaboration and Prospective Faculty Day which will take place on Monday. This event, which has attracted 22 potential faculty members, is part of our effort to increase the number of ISU faculty from historically underrepresented groups. I would like to thank all of the departments that are participating, and I hope that these visits will be successful.
- On Tuesday, Wright State University President David Hopkins will be on campus to help lead discussions related to the Unbounded Possibilities program. Faculty and staff are invited to his keynote address at 4 p.m. in Holmstedt Hall 103. A reception will follow.
- On the staff side, I would like to commend the Office of Human Resources for revamping the orientation program for new staff members. In addition to developing a more comprehensive introduction to our campus, the program includes the pairing of each new staff member with a SAMbassador to help them acclimate to Indiana State. The faculty and staff serving as SAMbassadors lunch with the new employees on their first day of work and then touch base with them periodically. Thanks to those who are assisting with this program and to everyone who helps create a welcoming environment at Indiana State.
- Congratulations to ISU student Crystle Hall for being named Hoosier Communications Coordinator of the Year by the Indiana Residence Hall Organization at its statewide conference. ISU also received the Spirit Award at the conference for the fifth year in a row and won its bid to host the 2012 conference. The conference will bring between 100 and 150 students to our campus.

- The residence halls, assisted by Dr. Jim Speer and the Environmental Club, are also participating in the national Recyclemania competition designed to promote recycling and reduce waste among college students and a second contest to conserve energy. Both competitions are part of ISU's sustainability efforts. It is great to see our students putting these important practices into place.
- The 2011 Polar Plunge was a huge success with 112 brave souls taking the plunge to raise more than \$14,000 for the Indiana Special Olympics. A few of the more timid supporters of this organization (ie: Cheri Bradley and others) are helping the effort by serving as celebrity waiters on Monday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Tumbleweed Restaurant.
- All students, faculty and staff are invited to attend Assess for Success, ISU's first university-wide assessment day on March 18, 2011. Sponsored by the ISU Assessment Council, the day's activities are designed to deepen engagement in assessment and to showcase best practices in assessment at ISU. Dr. Douglas Eder, emeritus faculty member and director of undergraduate assessment and program review at Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville, will provide a keynote address and an interactive workshop. Details of the day's activities and information on registration are available at: www.indstate.edu/assessment.
- State Mobile, Indiana State's new mobile application for smartphones is now available for downloading to a BlackBerry, iPhone, iPad or Android. The application provides easy access to athletic schedules, faculty and staff directories, emergency phone numbers, campus news, student alerts and a building guide.

I hope to see many of you at tomorrow's men's basketball game against Morehead State. Tip-off for the bracketbuster game is at 1:05 p.m. in Hulman Center.

Have a great weekend.

GO TREES!

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Bradley
President