

May 2, 2012

Dear colleagues,

Last week, Cheri, Chris McGrew and I visited Pibulsongkram Rajabhat University in Phitsanulok, Thailand, to participate in their spring commencement ceremonies where I was deeply honored to receive an honorary degree. They are a campus much like us. They started as a teachers college but now fill the role of a regional comprehensive. It was a wonderful trip, although very quick. The ceremony was somewhat different than ours. For instance only faculty, staff and students are allowed in the auditorium, and they go through the list of students at a rate of 36 per minute. If you ask, I can tell you other interesting tidbits. It was a great experience, one that grew out of the work many of you have done in building relationships with this and other Rajabhat institutions in Thailand.

Even in the midst of one of the busiest weeks of the year, work on our strategic goals, especially those related to affordability, retention and enrollment, continues.

Provost Maynard and I met with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee on Tuesday to discuss the affordability proposals we presented to campus for review earlier in the semester and the revised recommendations that will be taken to the Indiana State University Board of Trustees at Friday's meeting. The feedback we have received has helped shape these recommendations and is appreciated.

Earlier today, I provided a memo to the Board of Trustees explaining the process utilized to discuss these issues along with one action item for Friday's meeting proposing a change to the handbook regarding procedures for the adoption of instructor-authored textbooks. There is fairly general agreement that a policy change in this area is both in the interest of the student and the instructor.

The memo, available at: www.indstate.edu/president/docs/20120502-memototrusted-affordability.pdf, also outlines where we stand relative to the other proposals and a timeline for when we expect to bring forward additional items for the trustees' consideration. During this summer, several task force groups will be appointed to further review these issues and make recommendations for campus discussion and review.

Healthy debate and discussion are important to the development and evolution of University policy. It is also critical that we continue to move forward in addressing the very real issue of college affordability. I look forward to working with faculty leadership to develop final recommendations on these issues.

The Board of Trustees also has approval of the creation of a University College on the agenda for Friday's 3:30 p.m. meeting. The concept has long been debated on the ISU campus, and it is now time to make it happen. The University College will focus on freshmen and on their transition from high school to college. An internal search for the first Dean of the College will begin in the very near future. The hope is to have the College up and operating by August 2013. A joint Senate/Administrative appointed committee will work with the Dean over the coming months to flesh out the concept.

A proven way to keep student costs down is to ensure that they graduate on time. The Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) Tactical Retention Team has been particularly busy the entire month of April and into this week focusing on ways to get as many freshmen advised and registered during priority registration as possible. **Jennifer Schriver** and **Lisa Spence** convened the group twice a week during April to design and implement a number of activities including email, text and postcard campaigns, messages posted to Facebook, Twitter, Blackboard and the MyISU portal, a calling campaign by the Office of Financial Aid, a door-to-door campaign by Residential Life, a video message from the new President and Vice President of SGA, and messages to advisors and faculty who teach freshmen classes.

These efforts have resulted in 60 percent (1,519) of the 2,521 students in the cohort completing priority registration for this fall. Historically, I understand that the percentage of the freshman cohort which participates in priority registration is around 50 percent.

This type of aggressive, personal outreach will make a difference in our retention efforts. This is just one of many efforts underway. I would like to thank Jennifer and Lisa, and **Karl Burgher** for their leadership and also extend my appreciation to the entire team including **April Hay; Brian Coldren; Crystal Baker; Deirdre Mahan; Kathy Modesitt; Lauraly Dubois; Linda Ferguson; Lisa Spence; Rex Kendall; Richard Toomey; Santhana Naidu; Stephanie Percy; Vicki Winn; Tara Singer; Brooks Moore; Mike Snyder; Kevin Smith; and Julie Cuffle.**

The Office of Admissions also reports great involvement from a number of key individuals throughout the academic divisions of the university. Recruitment occurs on a daily basis as the campus plays host to prospective students and their families. Again, it is the personal touch that makes a difference. In addition to visiting the Welcome Center, these students frequently meet with Financial Aid and Residential Life. In addition, many colleagues throughout our academic units have assisted with the recruitment process by providing individual, and very personalized, campus visit appointments.

In addition, many of these same colleagues have participated in our various open house events (Sycamore Preview days, Experience, ISU, etc.) throughout the academic year. As Rich Toomey has indicated, their willingness to collaborate and provide this level of service to our prospective students is immeasurable. Rich provided the following list of names of those who have been especially helpful but recognizes that it is not a complete list of all those who have contributed to these efforts. In that vein, I would like to extend my appreciation to everyone who has helped in this campus-wide effort, especially:

- College of Nursing, Health and Human Services -- **Mary Hilton, Teresa Stateler, Gloria Plascak , Renee Bauer, Denise Kassis, Thomas Nesser, Katie Yoder, Carol Reed, Robyn Lugar, Lynn Foster, Marcia Miller, and Jason Winkle.**
- College of Arts and Sciences: **Cari Riggs, Virgil Sheets, Joseph West, Joy Cook, Alma Anderson, Eric Glendening, Jeff Kinne, Linda Everly, Lisa Decker, Avdi Avdija, Shannon Barton-Bellessa, Jennifer Murray, Russell Stafford, Leslie Barratt, Holly Hobaugh, Mary Sterling, Amanda Davis, Ellen Knoblett, Carol Thomas, Jerry Boyd, Linda Maule, Greg Bierly, and Wendy Cox.**
- College of Education: **Vonnie Huffman, Marilyn Leinenbach, James Jacobs, Patty Snyder, Ken Coleman, and Judy Sheese.**
- College of Technology: **Ann Mitchell, Joe Ashby, Patty Guess, Harry Minniear, Vern Bothwell, Todd Alberts, Phillip Cochrane, Randy Peters, Lee Ellingson, Melissa Froderman, Marilyn Warden, Kara Harris, and Rob Eberwin.**
- Scott College of Business: **Anita Adams, Susan Johnson, Sharon Robinson, and Bruce McLaren.**
- Athletics: **PJ Volker, Shane Bouman, and Jeremy Ploch.**
- Exploratory Studies Program: **Michelle Fowler-Sands, and Ashleigh Crowe.**
- The **Air Force ROTC** and the **Army ROTC** have also been supportive.

Others throughout campus are also working on advancing our strategic goals. These efforts will not only improve the success of our students, they will position the University to succeed in today's rapidly changing environment for higher education.

Other items I would to share:

- The **Student African American Sisterhood** and **Black Optimistic Men and Brothers** are also working to advance our diversity-related goals. These student groups recently sponsored an African American Faculty and Staff Appreciation Dinner to express their appreciation and to

build stronger relationships. The dinner included a helpful question and answer session that allowed the faculty and staff to share their undergraduate experiences with the students and explore topics such as getting into graduate school.

- Congratulations to the following faculty who were honored at the Faculty Recognition Banquet last month:
 - President's Medal for Exemplary Teaching and Scholarship – **Steve Lamb** and **Greg Bierly**
 - Caleb Mills Distinguished Teaching Award -- **Marylin Leinenbach, Susan Moncada,** and **Aaron Michael Morales**
 - Theodore Dreiser Distinguished Research and Creativity Award -- **Alfred Finch** and **Joshua Powers**
 - Community-Based Learning and Scholarship Award -- **Steven Stofferahn**
 - Faculty Distinguished Service Award – **Christine MacDonald**
 - Promotion to full professor – **M. Affan Badar, Greg Bierly, Elizabeth Brown, Kathleen Kincade, Feng-Qi-Lai, Elizabeth O'Laughlin, Yuejian Peng, Jennifer Schriver, Dorothy Carole Yaw,** and **Guoping Zhang**
 - Achieving tenure – **Leah Nellis**
 - Achieving both promotion to associate professor and tenure – **Paul Kevin Bolinsky, Kara S. Harris, Yuetong Lin, Mandy A. Reid, Bridget J. Roberts-Pittman, Steven A. Stofferahn,** and **Susan W. Yeargin**
- There is still time to participate in the **Houses for Habitat Birdhouse Competition and Auction**, a fundraiser to help support another Habitat home to be built by ISU later this year. You can help by entering a birdhouse or sponsoring a table at the auction and dinner. Individual tickets to the event are also available. It should be a fun evening supporting a great cause. It would be wonderful to see participation from across campus. All of the details are available at: <http://www.indstate.edu/publicservice/events/habitat/birdhouse.aspx>.
- Soccer coach **Erika True** was selected as an inaugural recipient of the Wabash Valley Women of Influence award presented by the United Way of the Wabash Valley. True has instilled the importance of community service in her team, and many charities have benefited from their efforts including the Terre Haute Humane Society, Terre Haute Catholic Charities Food Bank, Wabash Valley Race for the Cure, Susan G. Komen Foundation, Toys for Tots, Temple Shriners of Terre Haute, Ryves Hall Youth Center and Special Olympics. Congratulations to Erika for making such a significant difference in such a short period of time.
- Indiana State's relationship with **Special Olympics Indiana** continues to grow. Started by Indiana State University professors, Special Olympics Indiana's history is intertwined with that of our University. I recently received a letter of appreciation from Michael Furnish, President and CEO of Special Olympics Indiana, thanking ISU for its continued support of the Polar Plunge. **Bill Mercier** oversees this community-wide event and has done a remarkable job developing it into a significant fundraiser. In a few weeks, the campus will once again host the Special Olympics Summer Games. Anyone who wants to be uplifted should consider volunteering or attending the opening ceremonies or any of the weekend's many events. Thanks to everyone who helps support this wonderful organization.
- Two student groups from Indiana State have partnered to produce a 15-track CD featuring local musicians. ISU's Music Industry Association (made up of music business majors) and Spotlight Entertainment (which hosts a number of events throughout the year, specifically centered around music) teamed up to create **Sycamix 2**, which encompasses a variety of musical genres including country, electronic, pop, vox, rap, acoustic and metal. The CD is available for \$2 and can be requested by sending an email to sycamix2012@gmail.com or by calling **Ted Piechocinski** at X3008.

- ISU head women's basketball Coach **Teri Moren** and ISU great **Amy Hile** were among 11 women inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame last weekend. Coach Moren was a member of the 2012 Silver Anniversary Team recognizing her spot as a top high school senior 25 years ago. Amy, who played at ISU from 1983 to 1987, held records as ISU's all-time leading scorer with 1,944 points and all-time rebounding leader with 916 until this past season when her rebounding record was broken by ISU Senior **Shannon Thomas**.
- On Saturday, I hope you will join our students, their families and friends as we celebrate the success of our students who are graduating. The ceremony will begin at noon in Hulman Center with robing taking place at 11 a.m. Former **Indiana Chief Justice Randall Shepard** will deliver the commencement address while **Morgan Wendlandt**, a president's scholar and a member of the women's soccer team, will deliver the student address.
- Former trustee **Donald Buttrey** and his late wife **Karen Lake Buttrey** will be recognized with honorary doctorates at this year's commencement along with Chief Justice Shepard. The Buttreys have supported the university in many areas and have provided scholarships and other direct support for students, including female athletes.
- **Megan Cornett** of North Vernon, **Katie Davis** of Bedford, **George Ralph Fritch IV** of Linton, **Shannon Hayes** of Danville, and **Veronica Silver** of Williamsport, are this year's recipients of the Hines Medal recognizing students with the highest cumulative grade-point average during the pursuit of a bachelor's degree at ISU. Katie and Shannon are also recipients of the 2012 Rankin Award recognizing dedicated membership and leadership ability in campus organizations and in the community. The third Rankin Award recipient is **Nicholas Long** of Hope.
- **Mary Francis** of Hammond is the recipient of the President's Medal for Outstanding Leadership, Scholarship and Service.
- **Brendan Paddack**, a sophomore majoring in earth science, won first place at the Crossroads Geological Conference in Bloomington for outstanding undergraduate poster category. His entry featured his research on samples he collected during an NSF-sponsored research cruise off the coast of California last summer. Congratulations, Brendan.

It has been a year of much work and many accomplishments. The work will continue with student orientation and advisement just around the corner. However, I hope everyone will be able to take some time off this summer to spend with their family and friends.

Have a great summer! Next year is going to be the best ever!!

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Bradley
President