

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
Board of Trustees Meeting
February 18, 2010

OPENING COMMENTS

- I would also like to open my comments by thanking Michael Scott, Jr. for his leadership with the Student Government Association.
- These past two months have been ones of hard work, excitement, anticipation and anguish. We now have a strategic plan and a companion facilities master plan and there are 30 teams hard at work on goal-related initiatives.
- A proposed retirement incentive plan will be presented to you today with the goal of helping position the university to take advantage of new program opportunities and to help us meet our strategic goals.
- At the same time, the economic condition of the state is forcing us to make many hard decisions which are resulting in the departure of colleagues, some of whom have been part of ISU for many years.
- I know that our response to the budget reduction is what is needed and will ensure our fiscal strength. However, that does not mitigate the agonizing that occurred regarding the decisions that had to be made and the resulting disruption of many lives.
- I would like to thank the Vice Presidents, especially our CFO Diann McKee, along with Steve Lamb, Virgil Sheets, SAMy Anderson, Roxanne Torrence, Louise Jackson and Michael Scott for their collaborative work in addressing this issue. I would also like to recognize the tremendous efforts of the Human Resources staff and supervisors across campus for their assistance. Your work is much appreciated.

- There are a number of good news items I would like to bring to your attention today:

PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT PROGRAM

- I am pleased to report that the Indiana Commission for Higher Education has unanimously approved our request to begin offering a master's of science in Physician's Assistant Studies beginning in January of 2011.
- This is the most significant new degree program Indiana State has developed in more than a decade.
- As you heard at the last meeting, this program is part of a planned expansion of the College of Nursing, Health and Human Services to address the state's critical shortage of health care workers.
- It is also a significant part of Indiana State's involvement in the Rural Health Innovation Collaborative.
- Congratulations to Dean Biff Williams, Sister Barbara Batista, Associate Dean Marcia Miller and their colleagues who have contributed to this program's development.

CAMPUS HOUSING

- Work is also progressing on upgrading our student housing. We are currently working with Capstone Development to determine the direction this effort will take.

MICHAEL SHELDEN

- At your places you have a copy of a book review on a new biography of Mark Twain that appeared last week in the *New York Times*.

- The book, “Mark Twain: Man in White,” was written by Indiana State University Professor of English Michael Shelden.
- Professor Shelden has written four biographies on literary figures, including one on George Orwell that was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.
- Dr. Shelden was unable to be here today but sends his greetings from St. Louis where he is being interviewed for an hour-long program on National Public Radio followed by a lecture on Mark Twain this evening.
- He has also done interviews in the Los Angeles, Dallas, and Kansas City markets and is doing a series of talks at libraries throughout the Midwest.

SWAPAN GHOSH

- I would like to highlight another recent accomplishment – the procurement of a U.S. Patent obtained by Professor of Biology Swapan Ghosh for his research on biomarkers.
- Dr. Ghosh is with us today, and I would like to have him come forward to be recognized and provide us with a brief explanation of his research.

[COMMENTS FROM DR. GHOSH]

Thank you, Dr. Ghosh and congratulations once again.

GOOD IDEAS CONTEST

- As we discussed in the seminar earlier this afternoon, the entire University has been working to address the budget cuts we have incurred.
- As part of this process, we asked our employees to provide their suggestions through a “Good Ideas” contest.

- More than 200 ideas on ways Indiana State could cut costs and become more efficient were submitted.
- I am pleased to announce the winners of the contest, two of whom are with us today.
- The top idea, which will be rewarded with a \$1,000 prize, was submitted by Teresa Sale, travel account specialist in the controller's office. Teresa's recommendation is to switch to mandatory direct deposit of travel reimbursement checks for faculty and staff.
- Teresa processes thousands of checks annually and estimated that replacing the paper checks with direct deposit would result in an annual savings of about \$70,000 in printing, postage and staff time.
- Second prize of \$500 goes to Michael Morris, an instructor in the corrections education program. His suggestion is to plant perennials rather than annuals and to plant only Indiana-grown trees on campus. This idea would save an estimated \$8,000 per year, according to Facilities Management.
- Third place and \$300 goes to Ellen Knoblett, an administrative assistant for the department of history, social science education and African and African-American studies. Ellen's idea is to interview candidates for university jobs via teleconferencing rather than bringing all finalists to campus for in-person interviews. The Office of Human Resources estimates teleconferencing would save approximately \$2,500 for each search in which it is utilized.
- I would say that the checks are in the mail, but perhaps we should use direct deposit!
- Teresa and Ellen are both with us today. Please join me in recognizing them.

- I would like to thank everyone who submitted ideas, and although only three ideas will receive awards, we will be analyzing all of the suggestions to see if we can put them in action.

That concludes my report.