

May 1, 2009

Dear colleagues,

As spring classes come to a close, I would like to thank all of you for your dedicated work this year. These many months have validated the decision Cheri and I made to come to Indiana State last year, and I am more impressed than ever with the tremendous talents that exist on this beautiful campus. We have much to take pride in and much opportunity ahead.

The work to define those opportunities will continue in the coming months as we develop our strategic plan and facilities and land use plan. Many people will be involved in drafting, reviewing and revising these plans, and I would like to express my appreciation to all those who will be assisting us in this effort.

At this point, I had hoped to be able to report to you on the outcome of the state budget process. However, the General Assembly adjourned Wednesday night without reaching agreement on the budget, and the legislature will have to reconvene in a special session to address this issue. As a result, we have delayed the tuition hearing we had planned for next weekend until further notice. This is an extremely challenging time for everyone with many parameters shifting on a daily basis. I am confident that the campus-wide budget planning we have undergone will position us to address the challenges ahead.

It remains my hope that we will be able to address compensation in some manner during the coming year. This decision, however, must wait until our appropriation has been finalized and our fall enrollment numbers are known. If we are able to provide an increase in compensation, it would likely occur in late fall. I will keep you updated on the budget process as it unfolds.

On the subject of fall enrollments, I would like to thank everyone who assisted with this week's Dial-A-Student campaign. More than 70 faculty and staff participated and nearly 4,000 students were contacted. This personal touch is an important part of building connections with these prospective students and can be a factor in their college decision. With the unknown impact of the economic crisis, we need to do all we can to increase the percentage of admitted students who enroll at Indiana State this fall.

There are several other updates I would like to share:

- **Faculty Recognition Banquet:** I was honored to be a part of last night's Faculty Recognition Banquet and would like to congratulate the recipients of special awards: **President's Medal** – Arthur Halpern, professor of chemistry and provisional chair of the department of biology; **Caleb Mills Distinguished Teaching Award** – Julie Dixon, associate professor of theater; Darlene Hantzis, professor of communication and women's studies; and Arthur Sherwood, associate professor of management; **Faculty Distinguished Service Award** -- Debra Worley, professor of communication and coordinator of the public relations program; and **Theodore Dreiser**

Distinguished Research/Creativity Award – Michael Angilletta, associate professor of biology; and Peter Carino, professor of English; **Community-based Learning and Scholarship Award** – Nathan Schaumleffel, assistant professor of recreation and sport management and executive director of the American Humanics Program. I hope you will join me in congratulating our faculty colleagues on these recognitions.

- **Employee access to Student Recreation Center:** I am pleased to announce that all benefits-eligible employees will be provided free individual memberships in the new Student Recreation Center as part of our employee health and wellness program. Spouses and same-sex domestic partners will be able to purchase memberships at the same rate as spouses of students.
- **Voluntary sick leave transfer:** Many of you have expressed interest in being able to donate unused sick leave to colleagues in need of additional paid sick time. Thanks to the good work of our Human Resources and Staff Benefits offices and input received from the Faculty Senate, Support Staff Council and the President’s Council, we have developed what I consider to be a very workable solution. Employees experiencing extended personal illness or injury and who have exhausted all sick, convenience and vacation leave, may submit a request donated sick leave. ISU employees will be allowed to donate up to two weeks of sick leave per year as long as they are able to maintain a balance of at least two weeks of sick leave after the transfer occurs. Details are available at: <http://www.indstate.edu/president/voluntarysickleavetransfer.pdf>.
- **Parking:** As many of you are aware, the Student Government Association has proposed a change in our parking permit process to differentiate between parking lots and charge higher rates for permits to park in more strategically located lots. I would like to commend the SGA for a thoughtful proposal that has generated a lot of discussion. I have tabled a decision on this proposal until the facilities and land use planning process is completed. In other parking-related news, I am pleased to report that we have made arrangements for the Boys and Girls Club Parking Lot to be available as an any decal lot for students, faculty and staff from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays through Fridays beginning August 1. This lot, located behind the Boys and Girls Club facility on North Third Street west of campus, contains 197 spaces.
- **Women of ISU:** I would like to add to Cheri’s expression of appreciation by thanking all those who attended the Women of ISU Spring Fling earlier this week. In addition to providing a great networking opportunity for female faculty and staff, the event raised more than \$4,000 for scholarships that will benefit non-traditional women attending ISU. Congratulations to everyone who helped make this possible.

In closing, I would like to encourage faculty, staff and students to attend the University Memorial Service at noon on Tuesday in Dede I. The service, which will last about a half hour, will pay tribute to the members of the ISU family we have lost in the past 12 months. Collectively, these Sycamores had an immeasurable impact on our university and our community. Individually, their departures will be

mourned and their lives will be celebrated by their family, friends and colleagues. I hope you will be able to join us in paying tribute to them.

Good luck with the end of the semester and have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Bradley
President