

President's video message, July 2019 (transcript):

Hello. As promised, I would like to provide you with another campus update. I am pleased to report that Indiana State University had a positive outcome from the State Biennial Budget Process due to everyone's exceptional work in meeting all of our performance based funding metrics. The University's net operating appropriation increased by \$4.1 million over the 19-21 biennia, including more than \$2.3 million that had been a separate line item for our Student Success Initiatives and which is now part of our base operating appropriation.

In addition, \$18.4 million was approved for the renovation of Dreiser Hall which will begin next year. I would like to thank the entire Indiana General Assembly, especially our local legislators who advocated tirelessly on behalf, as well as Governor Eric Holcomb, the State Budget Committee and the Indiana Commission for Higher Education for their support for public higher education and Indiana State University, specifically.

I would also like to thank Diann McKee and Greg Goode, along with Dennis Faulkenberg and Laurie Maudlin from Appian, for their hard work in representing ISU at the State House. We should all take great pride in this result, and I appreciate the work of our faculty and staff who have helped us meet these metrics.

Despite this increase, the budget approved by the Board of Trustees last month projects revenues of around \$189 million, as compared to more than \$195 million last year. The change includes the increased operating appropriation as well as a nominal increase of 1.65 percent in tuition for the coming year. It is also impacted by an anticipated drop in projected tuition revenue from enrollment declines. Our Trustees made a conscious decision to maintain affordability for our students with this modest tuition increase. They also responded to the student referendum advanced by the Student Government Association, approving a health and wellness fee to be implemented in 2020-21 of \$40 per semester and \$20 for students enrolled in the summer. The Trustees recognized the significance of the mental health issue that is occurring on campuses across the country and wanted to take this step to address this need. Congratulations to Stephen Lamb and his SGA colleagues for their work on this initiative.

To meet the priorities and commitments reflected in the budget, a total of nearly \$8 million in budget reallocations or reductions was required. One of our priorities that is contingent upon our tuition revenue is to provide a compensation increase for our employees with good performance. A final determination on compensation will be made once enrollment numbers are known this fall and an assessment of overall budgetary conditions has been made.

Stabilizing our enrollment is critical to our University's future. You all have a role to play in this effort. In addition to the great work the Strategic Enrollment Management Council is doing to boost our recruitment and retention efforts we are also looking at specific things we can do now to begin to impact spring 2020 enrollments.

On the fundraising front, I hope you all saw the great news that our total fundraising grew by a phenomenal 40 percent in 2018-19, a \$2.5 million increase from the prior year. Congratulations to Andrea Angel and her entire advancement team for spearheading this major turnaround in raising private funds to support our University, our students and our programs. We are all extremely enthusiastic about where we are headed in this area.

I am also excited about the addition of two new colleagues who bring tremendous experience and skills to our team. Mark Alesia, an award-winning journalist who was named journalist of the year in 2018, has been hired as our new director of University Communication. I am confident he will do a great job in helping spread the good news that is abundant at Indiana State.

Dr. Rana Johnson is also joining us as associate vice president for inclusive excellence and strategic initiatives. Her background as chief diversity and inclusion officer at Unity College in Maine and with the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education will be valuable in leading our efforts to establish Indiana State as a model of inclusive excellence in the Midwest and beyond.

Please join me in welcoming Mark and Rana when they arrive.

Lastly, we will be starting a year-long process this fall to revisit our mission, vision and values statements in preparation for the development our next strategic plan in time for its launch in 2021. I am pleased that Dean Emeritus Brad Balch has agreed to facilitate the campus and community discussions that will help us prepare our recommendation for the Board of Trustees on this important front. All of you will be given opportunities to share your input into this process.

I hope you will enjoy the rest of summer, and I look forward to working together this coming year to continue to advance our university.

Thank you.