

Re: Senate Report  
February 5, 2009

Dear AP Council,

Last night we had the pleasure to hear Debbie Lamb's presentation of "Gladly We Give." She was joined by Kim Pereira. While we all love to hear Kim's lilting English, Debbie was the star; she was exceptional and deserves kudos for everything she does for our university.

Following Debbie and Kim's presentation, Lane Crothers offered us the highlights from the IBHE-FAC Committee. "When you think things are about to fall apart," he began, "and when you discover what's going on elsewhere, you feel better about being here." That sums up his comments pretty well. Unlike elsewhere around the state, ISU has a pretty good record of communicating with its faculty and staff. The bottom line is: higher education is in crisis.

President Bowman also had a lot of bad news. Governor Quinn met with the college presidents and said the deficit could reach \$9 billion. Arizona announced that it would close three of its sixteen colleges. And others are in just as bad shape. The silver lining is that we are a tuition driven institution and enrollments are up. The basic reason we are not hearing about the same cuts as the U. of I. is that we have spent money more conservatively and do not have the utility problems they have.

V.P. Adams talked about the Danny Glover/NAACP event organized by Student Affairs. He also said that the basketball game last Saturday was the best attended in his career. Like the others, however, he also had some bad news. The number of businesses at job fairs has dropped dramatically and Caterpillar has withdrawn its offers of jobs and internships for next year.

Vice President Bragg started with some good news: 51% of parents think college is essential to children's happiness. Then he hit us with more bad news about the recession and the project in Stevenson Hall.

Beyond the administrative reports, we received a number of information items, including one to change the withdrawal policy of the university, one concerning the appointment and duties of chairs/directors, and one concerning deans' responsibilities.

It was not the most uplifting of meetings with the I.S.U. Academic Senate, but everyone seems happy that they are working here and not in Michigan.

Sincerely,

Ron

Ronald M. Gifford, Ph.D.  
Assistant Chair/Advisor  
Department of History  
Illinois State University