

Dear AP Council,

At the Sep. 26 meeting of the Planning and Finance Committee, we listened to Deb Smitley's presentation of average and median incomes for professors, APs, and Civil Service Employees. As you heard much of the same information on the 27th, I need not elaborate; however, at the Planning and Finance Committee meeting held on Oct. 10, I asked if the committee could see more information concerning the averages, particularly for APs and Civil Service employees as the aggregate data would have those two classifications appear to have above-average salaries within our 'comparator' group. Another problem I pointed out is that the data appears to lump together all Civil Service employees without differentiating between union, non-union, and non-participating members. I would be grateful to those on this committee for any input concerning what they would like to see from this data. In this way I can pursue it in the P&F cmte.

Educating Illinois

At the October 10 Senate meeting, Deb Smitley once again appeared, this time to deliver modifications to "Educating Illinois." The message she delivered was positive and demonstrated to how this is a "living document," as Vice President Adams called it. They have included a new goal, Civic Engagement, which includes the following language to describe this core value: "Preparing students to be informed and engaged citizens who will promote and further the collective goals of society; promoting active learning experiences through which students will gain an awareness and understanding of civic engagement as a life-long responsibility; encouraging faculty and staff to serve as engaged civic leaders and role models promoting the quality of life for all citizens through collaborative learning and individual action."

Ms. Smitley indicated in her assessment that I.S.U. was moving in the right direction in a variety of areas: competitiveness of salaries, American Democracy Project, Strategic Plan for Information Technology, programmatic changes for General Education, Alternative Learning Paradigms such as accelerated Nursing and the State Farm sponsored MBA program, National and State Leadership in Education (Little Village), Redefining "normal," Partnerships, Environmental Sustainability, and Facility improvements. There were some areas in which the indicators showed no change or even a decline: U.S. News rankings, submission for external grants, and student affordability.

After her brief assessment of positive and negative movement concerning these goals, she noted that a task force of 21 faculty, staff and students has been working under a presidential charge to answer the following: "Do the core values remain reflective of the type of institution I.S.U. is and the type of institution it desires to be?" If not, how can this be achieved. Through 25 discussion forums, they have found that I.S.U. has done the following well: implement Educating Illinois, improve profile of students, promote the university, enhance facilities, and make salaries more competitive. The challenges that

still face us are resource constraints, recruitment of minorities, the proliferation of on-line programs, public concerns, and allegiance to the university from alumni.

Last, Ms. Smitley offered an "Environmental Scan" to let us know that beginning in 2008 and lasting (projected) until 2017, there will be a rapid decline of high school graduates.

In addition, there will be a higher percentage of students from those groups, notably Hispanic and African American, at present under-represented at the university level.

This declining number of students will be one of I.S.U.'s most pressing challenges in the future and Ms. Smitley's hope is that modifying this "living document" will enhance our ability to meet these challenges in the future.

*Sustainability

*In addition to Deb Smitley's presentation, we also heard from I.S.U.'s new director of Sustainability. I did not catch her name, but will attempt to do so as soon as possible. She informed us that the Green Team is presently working under a U.N. definition of sustainability, "meeting the needs of the present while not compromising the needs of the future," while developing their unique definition. The director's name email is ecardin@ilstu.edu (so presumably her name is Ardin?) and her phone number is 4425.

*Summer School

*When asked about how funds were allocated for summer school this year, President Bowman responded that while the entrepreneurial model was successful for some it was not for others. As a result, there was a necessary re-allocation of funds into summer that they had not expected. An ad hoc committee was formed to make recommendations based on the last five years and models from other institutions. The committee recommended that money for allocation be stabilized and not based on variance money. As a result, the based budget of \$1.7 for this summer will increase by 3% next summer. The Provost was in charge of equitably spreading around these funds. According to the President, this was a compromise. Permanent re-allocation puts funding back on "firm footing." He concluded that we do not have the flexibility we had in 2002 to deal with funding problems, but this will maintain the protection to instruction.

These were the highlights of the academic Senate meeting for October 10, 2007. If anyone on the AP Council would like to offer recommendations or comments that you would like me to take to my committee or, ultimately, the Senate, please let me know.

Sincerely,
Ron