

The Campus Communication Committee would like to thank Marie Labonville, Curt White, Phyllis McCluskey-Titus, Kathleen McKinney, Carl Wenning, Sally Parry, and Bob McLaughlin for their presentation at this morning's discussion hour. Their work as authors and editors provides a sample of the breadth and quality of scholarly activities of Illinois State University faculty.

The fall semester has already included many notable activities. Changes in the student move-in processes met with great success, even in the face of uptown construction challenges. Cultural, entertainment and community-building events have flourished, and the high quality of students and programs continues to attract notice. The 150th celebration continues, including a week of Homecoming events that "Spread the Red" throughout campus and the community with style and spirit.

Resolutions before the Board today include authorization for construction of the Student Fitness and Kinesiology Recreation Center, and the FY2009 Appropriated Budget Request. The CCC endorses the progress on the University's ongoing capital improvement program. We also support the President's request to the state legislature for a state-wide capital bill. It is vital that issues of deferred maintenance, aging structures, and life safety concerns continue to be addressed. These improvements, including renovations such as the newly completed West Campus Residence and Dining Hall complex, raise the profile of the University, and enhance its reputation.

The success that Illinois State University is currently enjoying is a tribute to the dedication of the members of our community. Consequently, the CCC would like to recognize a few members of our community that have recently exemplified such dedication:

First, our Board of Trustees: In light of recent media coverage of the travel expenses of Board members at other state universities, the CCC feels it is important for the campus community to know that our Trustees take great care to minimize expenses and do their part in helping the institution make the most of its financial resources.

Vice President Steve Bragg, Director of Budget Planning Barb Blake and the Finance and Planning staff, who processed salary increases quickly once the state budget was available. We also thank President Bowman for his continued commitment to salary enhancements as a top priority.

While Dr. John Presley will continue as Provost through December, this is his last Board of Trustees meeting as Provost. Thank you, Dr. Presley, for your dedicated leadership over the past five years. Finally, the CCC would like to recognize the hard work of the members of the Provost Search Committee, led by Rick Boser. This important effort is an example of shared governance in action. We look forward to reaching the point of campus involvement as the search process nears completion.