

Good Morning. The Campus Communication Committee would like to thank Enid Cardinal for a very insightful presentation. As a long time member of this community, I am very proud of the progress we have made in the area of sustainability to the point of being considered a leader amongst our peers.

Progress is the hallmark of ISU. We keep moving forward in many areas as President Bowman noted in his remarks. One example of this institution's amazing resiliency is the fact that in the Fall, the academic area will begin with 4 Deans selected within a year. Yet they don't seem to miss a beat. In fact, resolutions in front of the board today show the same dedication and resourcefulness to continue to serve the needs of students by offering 4 new programs, despite the tough economic times.

It is difficult to talk about tough economic times without mentioning Steve Bragg. For almost a decade, he has helped steer this institution through leaner years of state support. We are thankful to him for that and wish him the best. Although we recognize President Bowman's eye for talent, we know that Steve Bragg's successor will have big shoes to fill.

The end of the Spring semester also brings us closer to budget negotiations in Springfield. As those reach a high point, the Campus Communication Committee

would like the Board to use its influence to continue to advocate the following positions on our behalf:

1. More funding is critical for the university to continue on its path of excellence. We are encouraged by the increase included in Governor Quinn's proposal and are hopeful that they will survive the negotiations. The campus needs it to keep moving forward and our students' families need it to relieve some of the financial pressures they are experiencing during this economic downturn.
2. Any attempt to reform pension plans must take into consideration that the current pension plan remains a valuable recruitment and retention tool for the university. The changes that have been floated around would have the unintended effect of creating a second class citizenry and would also undermine the retention efforts the University has made recently by enhancing compensation through its mid-year salary enhancement program.
3. Over the past several years, there have been seemingly small changes to employee health benefits. However, combined, all those changes have become quite substantial and when one factors in all the proposed changes to pension plans and health benefits, it is clear that they threaten the integrity of our recruitment and retention efforts and

possibly the well-being of our annuitants. Faculty and staff are the University's most valuable resource and we must do all that we can to protect our ability to hire and retain the best and the brightest.

Finally, on a more cheerful note, the Campus Communication Committee would like to congratulate Student Trustee Geno Bagnuolo on his reelection as he will become the first Student Trustee to serve two consecutive terms. His knowledge of the issues will be of great benefit to both the Board and ISU community.