

Campus Communication Committee
Board of Trustees meeting, May 9, 2008

Good morning. The Campus Communication Committee would like to thank the faculty and staff from University College, Diversity Advocacy, University Housing Services, and the College of Education who collaborated in the discussion hour presentation this morning. They shared some of the things we are doing at Illinois State to increase retention and graduation rates among students of color.

This is a good time for the university to develop an institution-wide plan to address the diversity aspects of Educating Illinois and to recommit to graduating students who will be fully able to adapt to the challenges of a diverse workforce and global economy. The presentation coincides with transitions in academic leadership, as we welcome Provost Sheri Everts to campus July 1, and adopt the University's updated strategic plan. These important events provide opportunities to examine challenges, refocus on goals, and implement creative, effective practices that support our continued commitment to diversity.

The Campus Communication Committee supports the new and updated *Educating Illinois*. We encourage the Board's endorsement of *Educating Illinois 2008-2014: Priorities for Illinois' First Public University*.

The CCC would like to thank Ryan Cekander for his service as student trustee. We look forward to welcoming new student trustee Geno Bagnuolo.

There are several financial authorizations before the Board today. We appreciate the University's efforts to keep increases in tuition and fees as modest as possible, knowing that the state's contributions are uncertain. As an institution, we're doing our best to keep quality higher education affordable.

We are pleased that Illinois State University continues to receive national attention, including recent rankings for graduate programs in the College of Fine Arts, the College of Education and the MBA program in the College of Business.

The CCC would like to acknowledge the contributions of those individuals recognized by the Facilities Naming Committee, Jean M. Borg and Dr. Sol Shulman. In addition to their accomplishments and dedication mentioned in the facility naming resolutions, Dr. Shulman served several years as a dedicated member of the Academic Senate.