October 9, 2008
Re: Senate Report

Dear AP Council,

The Senate met last night, October 8, 2008. It was a brief meeting, as most of the administrators were absent. There were two presentations: the first from Dick Runner and Barb Blake from the Division of Finance and Planning; the second from Lane Crothers, the IBHE-FAC Faculty Representive.

The Runner/Blake presentation was a summary of the Capital Request. The first priority was for the Fine Arts Complex Rehabilitation: $54,250,000. The second priority was the Information Commons and Milner Library Rehab.: $65,800,000. The third priority was the Williams Hall Renovation: $24,900,000. The fourth priority was the College of Education Facilities Rehab.: $70,500,000. The last was the Mennonite College of Nursing: $23,500,000 for a total of $238,950,000.

Lane Crothers reported that their meeting was at Lake Land Community College and that they had made an effort to make their campus as green as possible. According to Crothers, “Distinctive and apparently innovative aspects of their program that might be of interest to Illinois State University’s environmental efforts include: moving as much of the campus as possible to geothermal heating and cooling; adding passive solar heating to their field house and storing its heat (used for hot water) for later use in the winter; constructing wind turbines on campus; and single-stream recycling in which all recycling products can be put in the same bins.”

In addition, Crothers pointed out that community colleges, such as Lake Land, are dealing with an eroding population and increased competition from dual credit courses that are “eroding their base.” They are also dealing increasingly with students who are going out of state to complete their degrees at community colleges.

Last, Crothers talked about the Public Agenda, a follow-on to Illinois Commitment. He informed the Senate that they should look at the Public Agenda on the following websites: www.ibhe.state.il.us or www.ibhe.org. Basically, they seem to have given up on any aesthetic goals for higher education. They are only interested in job training, costs, and accessibility. He noted that there would be a number of upcoming meetings for the IBHE-FAC throughout the year.

After the presentations, the administrators’ remarks were brief. Only Steve Bragg and Sheri Everts were in attendance. The meeting adjourned early.

Cheers,

Ron
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