Dear AP Council Members,

On October 24, 2007 the Academic Senate met. Dick Runner and Barb Blake, from the Office of Finance and Planning, appeared on behalf of Steve Bragg to discuss the 2009 Fiscal Budget as well as planning and construction.

Initially Barb Blake discussed sources of revenue. She explained that for the first time our income from tuition, $96,207,000, was greater than what was provided by the state, $82,987,000. The latter was only 26% of your budget. The $1.5 million more we received from the state only paid for half of last year’s salary increases. The other sources of revenue come from local/student fees/extended university (14%), faculty research grants (9%), and selling bonds to finance buildings (21%).

After discussing the past year’s revenue, Blake provided the Senate the 2009 General Revenue Request. Due to New Program Request (Doctor of Phil. In Nursing) and Cost and Salary Increases (compensation increases, library increase, Electrical Deregulation Utilitiy Increase, and Deferred Maintenance), I.S.U. is requesting a 9.5% increase from the state. At this rate it will take ten years to get back to the 2002 dollar amount at this rate. In addition, we have to keep in mind that $3 million dollars has to come off the top as we pay the lion’s share of the health insurance costs and will probably continue to do so in the future.

Following Barb Blake’s presentation, Dick Runner talked about the Capital Improvement Program. He noted that the document spanned 60 pages even though the state only funds “instructional facilities” and, even then, only 50% of the time. It has been 5 years since we have received any capital funding.

Runner also answered questions concerning the Stevenson move. He noted that they planned to move the 1st and 2nd floors from Stevenson to Williams hall and at the end of the summer move people back to the 3rd and 4th floors. This is a problematic process due to interruptions but, he emphasized, they were trying to limit those disruptions. They had one instance in which they had to test the air quality immediately but found no problem. The rest of the questions and answers concerned various projects in the capital improvement program being submitted to the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Bowman followed with an announcement that an I.S.U. student died yesterday after stepping in front of a train. This was a tragic event and, he noted, our thoughts are with his friends and family. Dr. Bowman recognized the success of homecoming, the State Farm dinner in honor of student athletes, and a speech offered by Carrie Heitman, the Chair of the IBHE about the decline in state funding for public higher education. Dr. Bowman also noted that the provost search was heating up with a good pool of candidates, of which three or four would be brought to campus.
Vice President Adams re-iterated the President's concerns for deceased student’s family. He also pointed out the C.E.R.T. team responded as it was designed to do. Dean Patterson, coordinators and associate deans worked together to make sure that every contingency was addressed as quickly as possible. Grief counseling was to be provided in the Student Services Center. VP Adams included that we should all be aware of the potential impact of the fires raging in the western U.S. on I.S.U. students. At least 19 students at I.S.U. are from southern California. There has also been extensive coverage nationally of M.R.S.A., staph infection, and several cases have been detected here. Three students have been hospitalized, but all are recovering and have returned to campus.

That was all the new from the Senate this week.

Sincerely,

Ron