Campus Communication Committee
Letter to Board of Trustees
July 25, 2008

Good morning. The Campus Communication Committee would like to thank Dianne Ashby and all those involved in planning and dedicating this beautiful new Alumni Center. It’s an inviting entry point for both returning alumni and newcomers to campus.

The July board meeting is often a bittersweet moment for the campus community as we witness comings and goings on the Board of Trustees. We are particularly excited to welcome back Trustee Betty Kinser and look forward to her continued involvement on the board. We were also pleased to learn of Trustee Joanne Maitland’s reappointment to the board. Their presence, as well as those from continuing board members will provide the leadership necessary to help our newest board members (Trustee Bob Dobski and Student Trustee Geno Bagnuolo), settle into their new roles. We welcome their appointments and look forward to their contributions on the board. Our excitement for these new arrivals cannot hide our sadness as Stan Ommen departs the board. We want to express our appreciation for his diligent service on behalf of Illinois State University.

This board meeting also marks the first official meeting for Provost Sherri Everts. We are excited to finally have her among us and look forward to her leadership.

The new fiscal year has begun once again with the state budget unresolved. However, it is important to note that ISU continues to make progress. We appreciate President Bowman’s efforts to keep the campus informed about the budget situation as well as ensure that budget issues do not slow down the institution’s momentum.

One of the progresses is the expected implementation of a new Human Resource Management Information System. We heartily endorse the resolution authorizing its purchase. While change does not come without growing pains, we believe that the university community will greatly benefit from the improved efficiencies identified during preparations for this important improvement.

On the construction side, excitement is building, especially among students. The decommissioning of Central Campus means that we are getting ever closer to the Student Fitness and Kinesiology/Recreation Center becoming a reality, which has been a long time coming for some students. Even as we decommissioned Central Campus, it is important to note that the University made judicious use of its resources by partnering with outside agencies to conduct emergency response training.

As the city of Bloomington and Town of Normal look to study mass transit needs for the area, we encourage the university to follow its pattern of partnership and join both communities to determine how the ISU community could benefit from this study and its results. This will go a long way in confirming ISU’s status as a leader in the area of sustainability. By joining STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System), a pilot study designed to measure and track sustainability efforts, ISU is making a clear statement that it intends to be a leader in this
area. Other recent efforts point in that direction. Just recently, ISU made news nationally when it unveiled the new Reggie Ride bicycle program, a program that recycles abandoned bicycles and allows students, faculty and staff to check them out for up to 48 hours. Another effort worth noting is the participation of ISU in the North American Solar Challenge, a 2400-mile cross-country rally. While the race ended early for Illinois State’s Mercury II team (it ended much earlier for many other teams), we applaud the efforts of students and their advisors who designed and built a vehicle fueled solely by energy from the sun. The continuing programs providing Redbird Express shuttle busses, Night Ride and Universal Access to the Bloomington/Normal Public Transit System also contribute to making our campus more sustainable.

Thank you