Good Morning. The Campus Communication Committee would like to thank Professor Mark Hoelscher for his presentation on the Entrepreneurship sequence in the ISU College of Business. The multiple successful businesses that have originated in this sequence are a dynamic illustration of how ISU’s faculty bring real world experiences into the classroom and prepare our students for the future.

Even though these are very trying economic times, we are encouraged by the continued improvements that Illinois State is making in its physical plant. This fall we celebrate the completion of the renovations of Manchester Hall, the construction of a new South Campus parking deck and the renovations on Stevenson Hall. We are also excited by the progress being made on the Student Fitness & Kinesiology and Recreation Center, the south campus chiller plant and the first phase of the Watterson Tower renovations. The improvements to the residence halls and the student recreation center in particular will be great additions for helping to attract high performing students to ISU. The committee is also pleased that for the first time in eight years the state has a capital budget and that it includes $54.3 million for a new fine arts complex, a badly needed facility. Finally, the committee would like to thank Trustee Bergman for his generous contribution towards the construction of a new university guest house.

The committee would like to commend the Foundation for its excellent efforts in fund raising. This year they once again raised more than $10 million for the university through private contributions. In times like these this is an amazing accomplishment.

Whereas we recognize and appreciate the University’s efforts to keep tuition and fee increases as small as possible, we encourage the Board to adopt the recommended increase of 7.8%. As an institution we are doing all we can to keep higher education affordable while maintaining the quality of our programs.

On Monday of this week, the fourth candidate for the Vice President for Finance and Planning visited the campus. We would like to congratulate the committee headed by Professor George Rutherford for conducting an outstanding search and bringing in four exceptionally talented individuals. Even though whoever is appointed to the position has big shoes to fill with the retirement of Steve Bragg, we are confident that the University will continue to flourish with any of the candidates.

We highly encourage both the Legislature and the Governor to fully fund Monetary Awards Program for the state. Failure to do so will leave an estimated $7 million gap in the ISU budget and will jeopardize the ability of some of the state’s most economically disadvantaged students to complete their college education.

In happier news, we celebrate the Stevenson Center for Community and Economic Development 15th anniversary and the Center for Renewable Energy and The Illinois Wind Working Group for hosting the 3rd annual Advancing Wind Power in Illinois Conference.

Finally, the committee would like to acknowledge Dr. Ira Schoenwald, our Associate Vice President for Human Resources, for the many contributions he has made to the University. Dr. Schoenwald will be retiring effective October 1, before the next Board of Trustee meeting.