

CHANCELLOR REMARKS FOR ALL-CAMPUS MEETING

Friday, August 22, 2008

Good morning.

Thank you for being here for the kick-off of the new academic year.

I always enjoy this meeting because it is an opportunity for us to come together as a team before the academic year begins.

The campus has started a tradition to begin these meetings with a performance from members of the Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts.

The performance this morning is special because it also allows me to introduce someone to you.

He has only been on campus for a few weeks but is already making an impact with his experience, expertise and personality.

Ladies and gentlemen, to introduce today's performance, it is my pleasure to introduce the new Dean of the Ernestine M. Raclin School of the arts, Marvin Curtis.

(DEAN CURTIS INTRODUCES GIORGI SAMADALASHVILI)

(MUSICAL PERFORMANCE)

Thank you. That was beautiful.

And welcome Dean Curtis.

I hope all of you had an enjoyable summer.

As I enter my seventh year as chancellor, I am proud of what we have accomplished together and excited about what the future holds.

I want to spend a few minutes this morning talking about the coming year.

As you know, enrollment numbers are very important.

Enrollment growth fuels many things, including the ability to get funding for facilities, programs, faculty and staff.

The latest numbers show that headcount is 1.36 percent ahead of last year at this time.

Keep in mind, last fall we set a ten year high in enrollment.

Credit hours are 3.56 percent ahead of last year at this time.

Last fall was the second highest number of credit hours taken in the last ten years.

More accurate information will be available at the end of next week which is census.

It is important to remember that we are all enrollment champions.

Thank you for everything you do to help students register during this busy time.

Keep up the good work.

The River Crossing Campus Apartments are a busy place right now.

Many students have moved in and the others will move in over the weekend.

There are more than 300 signed contracts.

This is a new experience for all of us

It is exciting but will also present challenges.

I want to thank Vice Chancellor of Administrative and Fiscal Affairs Bill O'Donnell and Director of Housing and Residential Life Paula Smith for their hard work on this huge project.

Special thanks also go to Director of Facilities Management Mike Prater and his staff for their heroic efforts in getting the property and buildings ready for occupancy.

I also want to thank Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Life Karen White for her leadership not only on campus but with the City of South Bend.

Karen was a great help in getting the intersection built on Ironwood Avenue that provides a crucial access point to the campus apartments for students, residents and Transpo busses.

We all must continue to find ways to integrate the residential students into the life of the campus and look out for their special needs.

If you haven't been over there yet, I encourage you to take some time and walk cross the pedestrian bridge to see the activity and facilities.

The River Crossing Campus Apartments are a wonderful addition to the campus.

Speaking of exciting additions to the campus, have you seen the new Information Gateway and the Bursar's office in the lobby of the Administration Building?

The lobby to the building has been transformed.

Students, parents and residents now begin their college careers at IU South Bend in a modern, friendly, and efficient area.

I want to thank Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Jeff Jones and his staff for their patience and professionalism during the construction.

They served students despite the displacement of offices, the noise, and the dust.

Construction continues on the entrance and Alumni Office on the first floor and on meeting rooms and the School of Business on the second floor.

The plan is for those areas to be completed by the end of the semester.

Faculty and staff are showing patience and professionalism as they serve students and alumni while working out of the Associates Building.

Speaking of the Associates Building, plans are underway to renovate it into the Education and Arts Building.

Once completed the facility will be home to the School of Education, dental hygiene programs, and some fine arts programs.

However, approval of the project is still needed by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, the state budget committee and the governor's office.

In June, Bernard Hannon, Associate Commissioner for Facilities and Financial Affairs for the Indiana Commission for Higher Education and William Bogard, Assistant Director of Education for the State Budget Agency came to campus to discuss the project and take a tour.

The visit went well and I continue to meet with Speaker Bauer, Senator Meeks and IU officials to get the necessary approvals.

Construction projects are important but now I would like to talk about some broad themes that arose during my discussions last year with various campus groups.

You'll recall that I held the discussions to talk about the next five plus years with regard to our campus. .

The meetings were with academic and non-academic areas.

The themes from these discussions fall into several categories.

They are listed here but have not been prioritized.

Academics, retention, strategic planning, campus safety, sustainability, technology, fundraising, marketing and community partnerships.

Academics cover a lot of issues.

It was clear in my discussions that providing adequate funding for faculty salaries, full-time faculty, and new faculty positions is very important to the future of the campus.

This issue is being addressed.

This academic year, faculty merit salaries increased an average of 3.5 percent.

The need to examine the issue of salary compression, especially at the associate professor level, was also evident in my discussions.

Undergraduate research was another academic theme from the campus discussions

Increasing resources and promoting the value of undergraduate research for students at IU South Bend were mentioned to me several times.

Undergraduate research is valued at IU South Bend and it is my hope that more ways will be found to support and promote it.

Distance learning was a popular academic subject in the campus discussions.

Last year IU South Bend developed four general education courses to be offered online.

In 2008-09 the campus will increase the number of online courses to eight and explore further enhancements to distance learning in arts and humanities programs.

IU South Bend will continue to look for ways to offer distance learning opportunities to students.

I want to thank Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Alfred Guillaume and Director of Extended Learning Services Jackie Neuman for their hard work in this area.

International programs were cited for their importance to the campus.

Last academic year, IU South Bend set a record for the number of students studying abroad.

Seventy students participated in programs ranging from 10 days to one semester, in places like Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, London, Paris, and Peru.

IU South Bend also continues to attract more than international students each year which provides diversity to campus life.

I want to thank Scott Sernau, Director of International Programs and Julie Williams, Director of International Student Services for their hard work and success.

IU South Bend will continue to support international programs to help prepare students for an ever-changing world.

Graduate programs are an important part of academic life at IU South Bend.

More definition on the role of graduate programs will be included in the strategic planning process.

IU South Bend needs strong graduate programs as part of its role as a comprehensive university.

Retention was another theme from my campus discussions.

For the past two years retention has been the focus of enrollment management plans.

President McRobbies' Degrees of Excellence initiative is helping us with this effort.

IU South Bend has set a goal of achieving a 32 percent six-year graduation rate by the year 2015.

Currently the rate is about 26%.

Several initiatives have been targeted to help the campus reach this goal.

They include an increase in the Freshmen Threshold Seminar sections, expansion of the Writing Center and Academic Learning Center services and a book voucher program for students.

Retention will continue to be one of highest priorities at IU South Bend.

Hopefully, these campus discussions will enhance the strategic planning process at IU South Bend

Currently, work on the strategic plan is taking place through the environmental scanning project led by Director of Institutional Research John Novak.

The project will bring an external focus to the development of the 2010 strategic plan for IU South Bend.

Campus environment scanning teams are already in the process of collecting information for this purpose.

Teams will be looking at areas such as competition, economics, demographics, labor force, politics, and technology.

I am looking forward to seeing this information in the spring.

Campus safety will continue to be a priority at IU South Bend and was another theme from the campus discussions.

The campus must be proactive when it comes to providing a safe learning and living environment on campus, especially with the addition of student housing.

I want to remind you of some of the steps we have taken.

The campus, including the River Crossing Campus Apartments, is patrolled by IU South Bend police officers 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The campus has emergency telephones strategically placed in areas where people can quickly contact campus police for help in any situation.

Campus police officers provide escort service for any student, faculty or staff member who requests it.

IU South Bend communicates alerts to the campus when a crime has occurred that threatens others.

The campus has implemented the IU Notify system which allows mass emails and phone calls in the case of an emergency.

Campus police provide education and training on how students, faculty and staff can protect their personal safety.

IU South Bend is increasing its police force to accommodate the increased campus activity generated by student housing.

The administration is working with the City of South Bend, local law enforcement agencies, nearby businesses, and neighborhood associations on crime prevention in the area.

Campus police chief Marty Gersey has a standing safety committee that meets regularly to review and discuss security issues on campus.

And an updated emergency procedures guide has been distributed to faculty and staff.

A campus threat assessment team has also been formed.

This team includes representatives from faculty, judicial affairs, student housing, counseling, health and wellness, disability support services, and security.

The goal of the threat assessment team is to identify students who may be at risk for disruptive behavior and intervene before a situation escalates into violence.

The Chair of the committee is Karen White.

The threat assessment team is a very important addition to our efforts to keep the campus safe.

Another program is underway this fall to help protect students on campus.

The Campus Ally Network, called CAN, was created to provide a way for the campus community to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and questioning students, faculty and staff.

CAN will train people interested in helping these groups.

Once trained, members will display signs in their work areas with the symbol you see on the screen.

The CAN symbol identifies them as a person who can help someone in a time of need.

Information about the CAN network can be found on the IU South Bend website.

Sustainability was another theme that was often raised in my campus discussions.

IU South Bend has become a leader in promoting sustainability on campus and in the community.

Last year's campus theme of "Sustainable Communities" and the creation of the Center for a Sustainable Future are examples of our commitment to this cause.

The Center, under the leadership of Mike Keen, will assist in the development of new courses and degrees in sustainability studies.

It will help facilitate faculty research in sustainability, and provide local business, government and not-for-profit organizations support in developing their own sustainability plans.

IU South Bend has had an ad hoc Sustainability Committee since 2006.

I have received a recommendation from that committee that IU South Bend establish a Campus Sustainability Task Force.

The task force would be appointed by and report to the chancellor.

I just received the recommendation and am discussing it with the chancellor's cabinet.

The campus is also waiting on approval from the governor of a three-point-three million dollar energy savings project submitted by IU.

The project would reduce utility and maintenance costs by upgrading or replacing electrical and mechanical systems in buildings.

Another green initiative that is now underway is Go Print.

Through this program students will need to manage their printing.

Students receive an allotment of free printing and then pay as they go.

This will dramatically cut down on the amount of paper and ink used on campus.

I believe IU South Bend must continue to be a leader in sustainability in word and action.

Technology is another area that came up in my campus discussions.

Information Technologies went through an extensive review last year and many issues were discussed and resolved.

Instead of me talking about all of the issues today I am going to refer you to the IT website that features a list of frequently asked questions about IT.

The U-R-L is on the screen.

I want to thank Vice Chancellor of Information Technologies Pat Ames and her staff for their work during the review and for the F-A-Q which I think you will find very helpful.

Another important aspect of technology is the protection of data.

Everyone on campus must be diligent and informed about protecting information.

Breaches of data security are unacceptable.

IT will continue to offer procedures, training and information about how you can protect sensitive information on university databases.

Please be proactive in knowing these policies and procedures.

Fundraising was acknowledged as an important part of the future of IU South Bend.

Many of you expressed the need for continued growth in funding for academic programs and scholarships.

The campus also needs to increase the number of external grants we receive for programs and activities.

I want to thank Vice Chancellor of Public Affairs and University Development Ilene Sheffer for her work in this area.

Ilene and her team are focused on raising money for the needs of the campus including scholarships, grants, programs, endowments, equipment and construction projects.

For example, once the Elkhart Center was paid for, Elkhart benefactors gave 250-thousand dollars to the Community Foundation to be used for scholarships for Elkhart County residents at IU South Bend.

The overwhelming topic of conversation when it came to marketing was the IU South Bend website.

I am pleased to report that a re-designed website had been launched.

The website has a marketing focus and gives users a quick, easy, and dynamic look at the campus.

The changes provide more options, more visuals, more marketing messages and easier navigation.

I want to thank the Director of Communications and Marketing Ken Baierl, Manager of Web Services Gary Browning, Manager of Publications and Graphic Design Melissa Wise and New Media Specialist Lucas Eggers for their work on this project.

The transition to the new format continues.

The chancellor's cabinet is responsible for setting specific deadlines for completion of the transition websites in their units.

The conversion of all IU South Bend websites to the new format requires a team effort.

I thank all of you for your work on this important project for the campus.

The final topic from my campus discussion is community partnerships.

Many of you said we must be more engaged with the community and strengthen our ties with Ivy Tech, the South Bend School Corporation, local high schools, neighbors, and alumni.

Programs like the campus theme and the American Democracy Project help connect the campus to the community.

This year's campus theme is Revolutions in Thought which will celebrate intellectual innovations of all kinds.

Students, faculty, staff and the community will be invited to participate in lectures, readings and other activities related to the theme.

I want to thank campus theme coordinators Jay VanderVeen and Henry Scott for their work on this project.

And what a year for the American Democracy Project to continue its efforts to further the civic education and engagement of the campus and the community.

Topics will include the presidential election, the U.S. Constitution, health care, foreign policy and national security.

I want to thank director of the American Democracy Project at IU South Bend Elizabeth Bennion for her hard work.

IU South Bend will continue to strengthen its community partnerships in the coming years.

I want to remind you of our campus parameters of engagement – communication, teamwork, integrity, civility and commitment.

They have served us well over the past six years.

IU South Bend will continue to operate under those guidelines to identify debate and resolve issues on campus.

I want to conclude by reading from a letter that was written to Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Science Lynn Williams.

The letter is from a student who graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in chemistry and now works as a chemist in Ohio.

He writes quote, "The purpose of this letter is to pay recognition to the excellent education and preparation I received from the Chemistry Department at IU South Bend.

During the initial phases of the new-hire training program, my laboratory skills were directly compared to others who had also just graduated.

It became very obvious that while we all had similar degrees, the experience involved with earning those degrees was not equal.

There were several situations where I had applied lab techniques that were consistently taught at IU South Bend.

It was clear that several of my counterparts were struggling because they had either not been taught or had not had significant opportunities to practice.

I also had greater depth in both the understanding and application of analytical instrumentation.

Now that I am applying the lessons learned in a high-demand professional laboratory, I've come to appreciate everything that was provided to me.

The faculty of the Chemistry Department sets high expectations on students because they want them to be prepared for the real world.

I can truly state that I was ready when I got there.

Sincerely,

Daniel Brooks"

What a wonderful testimonial.

Congratulations to the Chemistry Department.

Letters like that are inspirational for all of us, especially as we get ready to start a new academic year.

Thank you for taking time to be here this morning.

I deeply appreciate your dedication to IU South Bend.

Let's have a wonderful year together.

Thank you.

At this time I would like to introduce the members of the Chancellor's Cabinet. Please stand when your name is called.

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Alfred Guillaume.

Vice Chancellor for Administration and Fiscal Affairs, Bill O'Donnell.

This is the first all-campus meeting for Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Jeff Jones.

Jeff joined us in November from Purdue North Central where he served as associate vice chancellor for engagement.

Jeff has already made an impact here and is a great asset to the university.

Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs and University Advancement, Ilene Sheffer.

Vice Chancellor for Information Technologies, Pat Ames.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Deidra Turner to IU South Bend.

She is the new Director of Affirmative Action and Diversity.

She comes to campus from Memorial Hospital & Health System in South Bend where she was Manager, Corporate Diversity and Inclusion.

She earned a master's degree in human resource development from Webster University in Jeffersonville, Indiana and a bachelor's degree in communication from the University of Louisville.

I also want to express my thanks to Director of Human Resources Sara Ermeti for serving as interim director of affirmative action during the search process. Sara did an excellent job of in both her roles during this time.

The cabinet has some more information to share with you, so I will now invite Alfred Guillaume to the podium.

I now invite Vice Chancellor of Administrative and Fiscal Affairs Bill O'Donnell to the podium.

I now invite Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Jeff Jones to the podium.

I now invited Vice Chancellor of Public Affairs and University Advancement Ilene Sheffer to the podium.

I now invite Vice Chancellor of Information Technologies Pat Ames to the podium.

I now invite academic senate president Jerry Hinnefeld to come to the podium.

I now invite Professional Staff Co-President Kathleen Weidner to come to the podium for her announcements.

Will Bi-Weekly Staff President Maureen Muldoon now come forward with her announcements.

Thank you all for coming.

Please enjoy the continental breakfast that is available in the lobby.

Good luck in the coming year. We are adjourned.