Dear Colleagues,

I trust that everyone had a wonderful and productive summer. This academic year is off to a great start. I think most of you are aware that in the summer of 2000 we embarked on a revitalization of our student services and began to look critically at how we might bring about closer alliances between student services and academic forces. Many individuals across the campus, both faculty and staff, gave creative input to a series of workshops.

Beginning this fall, Darrell Sanders and Karen Christopher of Student and Academic Support Services will be re-assigned to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and will participate in managing the efforts to bring about a more deliberate process of change. These new appointments are consistent with the Lily initiatives on student retention and will add immeasurably to our strategic planning. I am extremely optimistic about the joint involvement of faculty and staff as we will continue our efforts. I am equally confident that the shared governance of academic affairs will continue to be an important aspect of our work. I hope to see you all there.

ENROLLMENT: Fall Semester enrollment stands at 7,419 students in 65,900 credit hours. This equals 102.02% of students and 104.68% of credit hours when compared to Fall 1999 and 98.08% of students and 99.06% of credit hours when compared to the Fall 1992 Census. There may be a modest difference in the student count due to when and how the data are pulled from these reports.

The Dean's Seminar Series: The period continues through Monday, September 10. The Office of the Registrar is open Monday through Thursday 8:00 am to 6:00 pm and on Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. All academic, athletic, and welfare activities take place in the Office of the Registrar after the student has obtained the proper signature.

TRUSTEE INITIATIVES: Three percent of this year’s mention increase is dedicated to mandate initiatives: two percent to convest directors to 1% for student retention. On the three new years we will hire 29 lecturers. With the 1% for student retention, our goals will be to begin increasing student first to second year persistence rate, increase hall to student first to second year average persistence rate, and increase Hispanic student first to second year average persistence rate. In order to accomplish these goals, we will establish an academic support center and a non-profit sector in South Bend. I hope to see you all there.

As I mentioned in last week's informal senate meeting, our strategic planning began with the Campus Directions Committee. This meeting is ongoing. We will be developing a long range plan for the university. I applaud the efforts of the faculty, staff, students, and community members who are participating in the planning process. Listed below is the themes and the task force chairs. Faculty, staff, students, and community planning, guided by the Campus Directions Committee, is making rapid progress. We are also working closely with the trustees and are in the process of preparing a formal report for the Senate Budget committee.

APPOINTMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Congratulations to Lisa Stalfer, Acting Director of Enrollment Management, who received her Ph.D. in Political Science from Purdue University this semester.
- Larry Garber has moved from the Office of Academic Affairs to the Department of Business & Economics to Act as a Director of Nursing Health Professions. The cover letter will be the acting Dean of Education.
- Professors Gary Kern and Randy Issacson are co-chairs for the academic year 2001-2002 for UCET.
- Ken Barkhouse will be joining us as the new Director of Financial Aid. Kent continues to lead the Student Oriented Campus Initiative. Faculty and Staff Initiatives.
- The new Senate meeting, formerly with Continuation Education, is being dispensed with.
- Susan Thompson is being appointed as the Director of International Programs.
- Brenda Knowles has been appointed as Director of the Honors Program.
- Matthew Thielen has been hired as the executive director of the Student Activities Center.

Planning: As mentioned in last week's informal senate meeting, our strategic planning began with the Campus Directions Committee. This meeting is ongoing. We will be developing a long range plan for the university. I applaud the efforts of the faculty, staff, students, and community members who are participating in the planning process. Due to a more deliberate process of change, there is still work to be done. I am not yet satisfied that we have systematically retrieved the pro forma with student recommendations. It is an issue of time that we will address this year.

Nonprofit Sector in South Bend.