Provost’s Update: Spring 2014

I’d like to update our faculty on some current initiatives and developments at IIT.

The Strategic Plan 2014-19

The strategic plan update has been completed and the document will be available to all after the February 6 board meeting. I would like to thank all the members of the strategic planning committee for their efforts in this rewrite of our strategic plan. Now it is time to begin work to achieve the goals of the plan.

The Innovation Center

To date, our President, supported by our board of trustees and our advancement staff, raised close to $10M towards the anticipated $40M that will be necessary to complete the center. Currently, a process is underway to choose the architectural firms who will design the building and develop the space planning and technological features within the building. Sites for the building are also under consideration at this time on the Mies campus. This is the President’s top priority – the first new academic building on our Mies campus in forty years.

Facilities Improvements

Most will have seen the improvements to Perlstein Hall, Engineering 1 and the Life Sciences building exteriors. The Alumni Hall exterior restoration is scheduled for this Summer/Fall. These are necessary improvements to our campus buildings.

The plans for the renovation of Engineering 1 are complete and construction should begin over the summer. Plans for a renovation of the Life Science building are under development and will begin when funding is complete, hopefully in this calendar year. Renovations to Crown Hall are near completion and I suggest that you take some time to see the difference that the renovation has made.

Three new general use classrooms are being set-up in the basement of Hermann Hall and, in the fall, a new computer lab, mainly for use by the business school, will also be available on the 14th floor of the IIT Tower. I have also approved a number of new chairs and whiteboards to replace worn or faulty equipment based on feedback from faculty this spring. The offices of Technology Services will move to the IIT Tower this Spring; this will allow the College of Science to reorganize its footprint in the vacated space in the Stuart building.

Future developments await funds for renovation of two floors in the IIT Tower – these floors will be used to develop a home for the Lewis College of Human Sciences.
Fueling Innovation – The Campaign for IIT

Our campaign continues to attract significant funding and 14 new endowed chairs have been added to our university. To date we have raised in excess of $150M. The President, our Deans and a number of our faculty members have been involved in significant travel, both in the US and globally, to ensure the success of our campaign. Fund raising success would not be possible without these efforts.

Spring Enrollment

As can be seen in Table 1 our Spring 2014 enrollment is robust and ahead of last year’s total. This is in line with our fall undergraduate enrollment that was the highest since 1968. Student retention from first to second semester is 96.8%; transfer student retention from first to second semester is 97.4%. This is another great achievement by our faculty and staff.

Table 1: Spring Enrollment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013 Final</th>
<th>2014 - Jan 30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>2,757</td>
<td>2,847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>4,645</td>
<td>4,694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7,402</td>
<td>7,541</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Table 2, our new student enrollment for the academic year (FY 14) is shown. This is the first year that we have attracted more than 1100 undergraduates in the calendar year and the third year that we have attracted more than 1000 undergraduates in the academic year.

Table 2: New Student Academic Year Enrollment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall 2013</th>
<th>Spring 2014</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>895</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>1,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>1,788</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>2,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,683</td>
<td>586</td>
<td>3,269</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Applications for Fall 2014

Undergraduate applications for Fall 2014 (Table 3) are 34% above that of last year at this time and already above the total application volume for first year students of the previous year (2846). Even though changes in the common application lead to software issues, our admitted students are above those of last year at this time, even though we were running two weeks behind, due to the efforts of our admissions staff.

Table 3: First Year Undergraduate Applications (Jan 31)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1704</td>
<td>2,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,900</td>
<td>2,144</td>
<td>2,878</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduate applications have also increased over last year. Although we experienced a continuing decline in Law School applications, the total number of applications to our graduate programs is 29% above that of last year at this time. Engineering applications have increased by 30%, Science by 64%, SAT by 48% and ID by 117%.

The total number of applications, undergraduate plus graduate, is above 10,000. This is very good news! The challenge we face is to yield a greater proportion of our admitted students than in previous years. This is where faculty interaction with admitted students can make the difference.

Student Placement

We report student placement statistics to the Association of Independent Technical Universities (AITU) at this time each year. Through a great deal of effort across the campus, led by our Career Management Center, the placement rate increased from 2012 by 7% to 90%. In comparison to universities in the AITU, our enhanced placement percentage positions us above those of CMU, WPI and RPI.

Our overall undergraduate placement rate was 86%, our master’s degree placement rate was 80% and our doctoral placement rate was 89%. The highest undergraduate placement percentages were in SAT (95%), Science (89%), and
Engineering (88%). ID (93%), SAT (88%) and Human Sciences (87%) had the highest master’s placement percentages.

Research Performance

We currently have been successful in 151 grant applications for a total of $26.4M awarded as of January 26, 2014. The following faculty members have had grants awarded that are above $750,000 in FY14.

- Robert Brackett, (SAT-IFSH), FDA, *Cooperative Agreement to Support IFSH*, $4,572,000
- Ali Cinar, (ChBE), NIH, *Control Systems for Artificial Pancreas Use during and after Exercise*, $2,478,076
- Carlo Segre (PHYS), DOE, *Prototype of Rechargeable Nanofluid Flow Battery for EV Motor with High Energy Density, Low Viscosity and Integrated Thermal Management Function*, $1,851,996
- Ali Cinar, (ChBE), NIH, *Fault-tolerant Control Systems for Artificial Pancreas*, $1,193,640
- Patrick Corrigan, (PSYCH), *Adherence and Empowerment: Service Participation and Meaningful Outcomes*, $837,312

This Semester

The faculty survey has now been completed and the President and I will schedule a meeting with each of the colleges/schools to discuss the survey results. This year’s survey, for the first time, asked for input concerning the leadership of the Deans in addition to the President/Provost. The other categories were unchanged.

The student speak survey is also complete and will be in an edition of TECH News in the next few weeks. The staff survey was completed last semester and discussed with staff groups.

Conclusion

The university is moving forward and the efforts of our faculty and staff have led to increased applications, increased enrollment, excellent retention statistics, increased graduate placement and research success. Congratulations to all!

The Spring Faculty Meeting will be held on April 24, 2014 beginning at 3:15 PM in the MTC Auditorium with Annual Faculty Awards and Recognition Reception following immediately thereafter in the Pritzker Club. I hope all faculty are able to attend.