Provost's Campus Update – Fall, 2012

As we begin this new semester, there have been a number of major announcements that may have been missed over the summer or were determined late in the Spring Semester. I thought it would be good for me to highlight some of these issues.

1. Innovation Center

The President has announced that the University intends to build an Innovation Center. This will be a new academic building that will allow students and faculty to transition ideas into products and products into enterprise, when appropriate. The Innovation Center is a statement that creativity and innovation is valued at IIT and that leadership and the ability to be creative and embrace entrepreneurial endeavor will distinctively define our graduates.

The Innovation Center will be a home for the following, already existing programs:

- Our IPRO Program and the Idea Shop
- The AI Self Leadership Academy
- The Entrepreneurship Academy which includes The Jules F. Knapp Entrepreneurship Center
- The Institute of Design’s leadership of a new undergraduate focus on “Design across the Curriculum”

Of course, much remains to be done and our faculty will be fully involved in developing a concept for the building layout and its programs. I will invite a number of our faculty members currently involved in the above programs to be part of the process that will lead from the concept to the reality of the building. Much work remains to be done.

2. Faculty Hiring

We have hired 16 tenured or tenure track faculty members and 26 teaching or research faculty members in the fall. We have also hired three prominent faculty members into endowed chair positions who will join IIT during the academic year.

Dean of Architecture and John and Jean Rowe Professor of Architecture

We have come to terms with Wiel Arets who will join us as our new Dean of Architecture. We are fortunate to have hired such a distinguished architect.

Wiel Arets

Wiel Arets, Dutch architect, born at Heerlen in 1955, graduated from the Technische Universiteit of Eindhoven in 1983. In 1984 he established Wiel Arets Architect & Associates in Heerlen. In 1996 the office was moved to Maastricht. He has held a
number of academic positions: between 1986 and 1989 taught at the Architectural Academies of Amsterdam and Rotterdam, between 1988 and 1992 at the Architectural Association in London, between 1991 and 1994 as Visiting Professor at Columbia University and the Cooper Union in New York, at the Berlage Institute in Amsterdam, the Hochschule für Angewandte Kunst in Vienna and at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen. In 2000 he held the Mies van der Rohe chair at the etsab in Barcelona. From 1995 to October 2002 he was dean of the Berlage Institute of Rotterdam and currently he holds the Berlage chair at the Technical University in Delft and is director of the Berlage Institute PhD program. His major works include the Academy for Arts and Architecture in Maastricht (1990-93), the headquarters of the azl pension fund at Heerlen (1990-95) and the library of the University of Utrecht (2004). He currently is a Professor of Building and Planning at the UDK in Berlin and his company won the 2011 international competition to design the IJhal at Amsterdam Central Station.

The Rowe Family Professor of Engineering

Leon Shaw

We have hired Professor Leon Shaw, a prominent Materials Scientist from the University of Connecticut. Professor Shaw is a leading researcher with worldwide recognition in nanomaterials synthesis and processing for structural and energy applications. In energy, his research interests focus on energy storage and conservation, ranging from hydrogen storage materials to supercapacitors, sodium-ion batteries, and solid oxide fuel cells. His research in nanomaterials has attracted worldwide attention and been featured in many magazines, including High Tech Ceramics News, Small Times Magazine, Chemical Engineering, Ceramic Industry, The Hydrogen Journal, Battelle Newsletter, and NSF Highlights.

The Grainger Professor of Engineering

Z. John Shen

Professor Z. John Shen joins us in January 2013 from the University of Central Florida. Professor Shen fits well with our Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and his teaching and other academic activities will support the advancement of IIT’s Power Engineering, Power Electronics, and Power Semiconductor Devices programs, contributing to further enhance the university’s prominence in energy research and engineering education.

3. Summer and Fall Enrollment

Our summer enrollment exceeded our plan and the fall enrollment is on track to meet our projections. While some schools/colleges may have had decreases in enrollment, others have increased. Discount rate should be within our projections. Of course, until all students are enrolled, we will not know our exact position.
4. College News

SAT/IFSH

The future academic programs of the Institute for Food Safety and Health (IFSH) will be part of the School of Applied Technology (SAT). Our programs related to Food Science and Health are growing and new degrees are planned that do not fit easily into any current department or college. It is time for these academic programs to become part of our normal university structure. Professors Carlson and Brackett have had their tenure moved to the School of Applied Technology by an act of our board of trustees, which makes SAT, by definition, an academic unit of the University. SAT will now work with the Faculty Council to develop tenure rules for the college and to set up all of the necessary processes and procedures that are necessary for an academic unit.

Reorganization of College of Science and Letters and the College of Psychology

Over the last six months I have been working with the College of Psychology, and the departments of Humanities and Social Science to develop a new college structure where these three groups would join to form a new college – the Lewis College of Human Sciences. Dean Mitchell has agreed to lead this new entity through the planning and initiation stages. The Lewis College name and structure was approved by the Board of Trustees at its August meeting.

Psychology will be a department in the Lewis College and Professor Scott Morris has agreed to be its interim chair. These three departments will now report to Dean Mitchell. Our plan is to spend the rest of this academic year to develop a clear vision and mission for the college, develop a marketing strategy and prepare for this transition. Next fall students will be admitted into the new college and it will have its own independent budget. At that time we will begin the process outlined in our faculty handbook to select a Dean for the new college.

The new college will be expected to become an entity that is equivalent to our other colleges and will attempt to attract a significant undergraduate body. We are building on strength at the graduate level, especially in Psychology, and wish to build strength in the digital humanities, in sociology and other areas related to the Human Sciences. This will most probably lead to the development of new undergraduate and graduate degree paths.

Of course, this change also has an effect on our College of Science and Letters, which will now become the College of Science.
These changes will give our faculty council some work over the next year as we are adding another department and changing the academic structure of the University. The new home of the Lewis College will be on the 15th floor in the IIT Tower.

**Stuart School of Business**

The Stuart School has begun its transition to our Mies Campus. Currently they are occupying new space on the 13th and 18th floors of the IIT Tower. Over this academic year Stuart will transition all of its full-time programs to the Mies campus. Part-time programs will remain at our downtown campus.

**5. University Personnel Issues**

Sharon Bostick, our new Dean of Libraries, joined IIT on July 1, 2012. Sharon’s responsibilities include the coordination and oversight of all library operations and services.

Three of our administrative personnel have decided to leave the university:

- Our legal expert and university attorney, Mary Anne Smith will retire at the end of August. Anthony D’Amato will take over as Vice President and General Counsel.

- Our Vice President of Facilities, John Collins, has retired and a New Vice President, Bruce Watts, has been hired to replace John.

- Bruce Mueller, who served as our Chief People Officer and head of Career Services, left the university in May to focus on his own company, which offers consultancy in the area of university/corporate relations.

**6. University Issues**

**NCAA Division 3**

We have decided to join the NCAA Division 3 as a home for our athletic programs. The decision to move to the NCAA was made to better align our athletic programs with those of similar technological schools. The process to transition to the NCAA will last four years and was initiated this semester. This means that in the future there will be no sports scholarships at IIT and all students wishing to participate in collegiate sports will be, by definition, scholar athletes. The NCAA requires that the average aid given to athletes must be within 4% of the average of all students; thus, our practice of increased aid to athletes had to be terminated to meet this requirement.

The University will reinstate basketball for male and female students and, in the future, we plan to add lacrosse for both male and female students to ensure that we
have the requisite number of sports for eligibility into the NCAA Division 3. There are a number of hurdles to overcome but we are confident that within four years we will be accepted into the NCAA.