Developing a Strategic Niche

You will recall that the Fisher Report suggested that Illinois State University should develop a unique niche in the higher education market. Their suggestion was that we become a Public Ivy. The Board of Trustees charged the University’s administration to begin working on developing a niche. The notion of a public ivy has not attracted a lot of attention on campus. But almost all agree that we need a niche that captures our uniqueness as a University.

At the Provost’s spring retreat, the Provost’s staff participated in a workshop designed to begin determining what this niche should be. Everyone attending the workshop enjoyed the discussions that the exercise triggered and Provost Goldfarb decided that there should be a much wider campus discussion of these issues. He conducted the exercise with members of the Academic Senate at one of their recent meetings. He also has asked Dean’s to conduct a similar exercise with their College Councils and Department Chairpersons. The CAST Council has been given the materials and will have a dialogue to develop their contributions at a special meeting on Friday, February 12, 1999. Department Chairpersons will participate in a meeting dedicated to this on February 17, 1999.

Each Dean is responsible for melding a single report for their college from the results of these group meetings. I will keep you informed as this project moves forward and our niche becomes more clear.

Area Meetings

Last year I reported to you about my first experience with the University’s Area Meetings. The Office of Admissions with the cooperation of all academic and student support units spearheads their operation. The meetings are timed to occur at the critical decision-making time for students who are selecting a university to attend next fall. The good news is that
attendance at most of these meetings this year has been up. There is good interest throughout the state in Illinois State University. Because of the importance of these meetings Assistant Dean Gentry, Associate Dean Lockwood, or I have attended each meeting to represent the College along with an Advisor from one of the Departments.

Potpourri

We are conducting over 15 searches for new faculty this year. I am pleased to report that we continue to attract graduates of excellent programs to interview for our positions. I have received excellent feedback regarding the acclimation and orientation of our new faculty. Although we have a formal mentoring program in place that is working very well, I appreciate the contributions of each of you in making our new faculty feel welcome and helping them become productive members of our faculty. Over the next ten days the University community will have a chance to look over prospective candidates for our Presidency. I hope each of you will take the time to participate in this process.

…….More later.

JRR

URG Recipients

As a result of careful reading and thoughtful deliberations on part of CAST Research Council members, 21 faculty members have been awarded University Research Grants for FY2000. Starting July 1st, 18 research projects will get underway. Please join in congratulating the recipients. Their names, along with the title of their research project, can be found elsewhere in this newsletter hidden in two puzzles.

Workshop on Survey Research

Diane O’Rourke and Linda Owens from the University of Illinois Survey Research Lab have agreed to present a 2-part workshop on survey research concerns. Diane’s title is Assistant Director of Survey Operations, while Linda’s title is Sampling Statistician. The first session of the workshop is scheduled for the afternoon of April 1 from 1-4 p.m. in Turner 104A. At this session, an introduction to survey research will be provided, including the pros and cons of different methods. Also included will be information and tips related to sampling. The second session of the workshop will follow the next day, April 2, from 1-4 p.m. This session will address survey instrument development issues. Participants will be asked to submit to Diane, in advance, a copy of a survey instrument they have developed, or a draft of one they are in the process of developing. She will look these instruments over prior to the workshop, and will incorporate them into her presentation. She calls this segment of the session a "questionnaire clinic." Refreshments will be provided during a mid-session break each day.

All CAST faculty are eligible to attend. To facilitate a true workshop environment, attendance each day is limited to 25. After faculty has had their opportunity to register for the workshop, graduate students will be able to fill any remaining seats. If you are interested in participating in this event, put it on your calendar now. Contact Vickie Carrell in the main CAST Office to register, 438-7602. While attendance for both days would be desirable, should certain schedule conflicts prevent one from doing so, a participant could attend only one of the two sessions. Please make your decision to attend and then register on or before March 17. Questions about this workshop should be directed to Assistant Dean Gentry, 438-8748 or dgentry@ilstu.edu.

Graduate Research Symposium

The last issue of this newsletter provided a reminder of the registration deadline for the
Undergraduate Research Symposium. Additionally, readers are now reminded of the registration deadline for the Graduate Research Symposium: March 26th. The date of the event itself is April 23rd. Contact the Graduate School (438-2583) or http://www.grad.ilstu.edu/grad for more information.

Criminal Justice Sciences

Dr. Mark Fleisher was invited to write a chapter entitled, "Juvenile Gangs and Sex for the Encyclopedia of Criminology and Deviant Behavior," to be published in 2000. He was also invited to deliver the keynote address at the 14th Annual Working with America's Youth Conference in St. Paul, Minnesota in July of 1999.

Family and Consumer Sciences

"Toilet Training: Children Step Up to Independence" by Karen Stephens, Child Care Center, was published in the January/February 1999 Child Care Information Exchange.

On January 25, 1999, Scott Brouette, Pam Morbitzer and Karen Stephens, Child Care Center, attended the seminar "Introduction to Brain Development for Teachers" in Galesburg.

Danielle Lindsey, Family and Consumer Sciences Advisor, and husband Shad, had a baby girl on January 28. Taylor Marie weighed 7 lbs, 2 oz.

Health, Physical Education and Recreation

John Storsved (HPER) recently presented a poster entitled "Motivation Between Students in Two Different Routes Toward NATABOC Certification" at the National Athletic Trainers' Association Professional Educators Conference in Fort Worth, Texas.

Douglas Michele Turco was an invited presenter at the European Urban Tourism Conference, 3-5 February in Madeira, Portugal. His presentation was titled, "Sport tourism: Urban impacts and implications."

Health Sciences

It is with great pleasure that the department announces the recipients of the 1998 Departmental Awards as selected by the DFSC.

Teaching: Dr. Sharron LaFollette
Research: Dr. Tim Kelley
Service: Dr. Tom Bierma

At our end of the year luncheon, the three recipients will be honored for their outstanding achievements.

Dr. Sharron LaFollette and Mr. Paul Ronczkowski attended the January 21 meeting of the Prairie Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association. Strategies for conducting Environmental Health Assessments were discussed.

The Student Section of the American Society of Safety Engineers, under the guidance of Dr. Gregory Deal, sponsored an OSHA 10-Hour Course in Construction Safety on February 5th.
and 6th. Mark Briggs, an ISU alum, was the lead instructor. Twenty safety and 40 construction majors attended.

**Drs. Chris Janicak, Teresa Bellingar, Greg Deal, Gary Erisman** and **Mr. Paul Ronczkowski** attended the American Society of Safety Engineers, Central Illinois Chapter meeting on February 9, 1999. Several students were also in attendance. It was a joint meeting with the Charter Property and Casualty Underwriters organization. A presentation was given on the role of the Insurance Institute of Highway safety by a member of the CPCU.