

ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY



*Administrative/Professional
Staff Council*

Normal, IL 61761

September 15, 2000

Dr. Al Goldfarb
Provost
Campus Box 4000
Illinois State University

Dear Dr. Goldfarb:

The purpose of this letter is to present the general sense of the Administrative/Professional Council to the "Educating Illinois: An Action Plan for Distinctiveness & Excellence at Illinois State University 2000-2007" report. While the comments below are indicative of the opinions of the Council, individual Council members have been encouraged and are likely to have presented their specific comments, commendations and concerns in other communications with you and/or the other members of the Committee for Distinctiveness and Excellence at Illinois State University.

At the outset, the Council wishes to express our most sincere appreciation to you and the Committee for the opportunity to express our support for the document. It is quite apparent from the report and the efforts made to solicit comments and further dialogue, that the Committee is seeking to build consensus regarding priorities for our great institution. This is extremely important. Illinois State has a long and distinguished history, which clearly merits the support of all in the community. We commend your efforts and your work to facilitate our working together toward the stated goal of focusing on our distinctive identity, core values, institutional goals and aspirations.

While much of the discussion of Council members focused on specific recommendations in the report, clearly the most important feedback to you is that we are fundamentally very supportive of the effort to identify and support, both current and potential areas of distinctiveness and excellence. Additionally, the identification and articulation of the five values ("Public Opportunity," "Pursuit of Learning," "Diversity," "Creative Response to Change" and "Individualized Attention") along with "the underlying themes that cut across the values..." provide the conceptual structures necessary to pursue these twin goals. The dynamic process by which the community develops specific action statements in support of these values will help insure that the next years are productive ones for Illinois State. This report is a dynamic and positive one that will give needed direction to our efforts to improve the University.

Thank you for providing the Council with this opportunity to respond to the report. We remain committed to assisting with its development and implementation and look forward to the next draft, knowing that it will have been refined and enhanced by the process employed by you and the other members of the Committee. Please consider returning at a subsequent point when the Council's input might again assist in the process of moving Illinois State forward.

Respectfully,

Michael C. Baum
Chair, Administrative/Professional Council