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LETTER OF CLARIFICATION

This morning, you received a letter from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee regarding the report of the Institutional Governance Advisory Committee (IGAC) that was submitted to President Vailas on September 9, 2010. There were a number of statements about this report, its content, and its purpose that need clarification.

The IGAC was formed by President Vailas in response to a directive by the State Board of Education, given during its June 17th meeting, that ISU conduct a review of faculty governance. The IGAC began its work during the summer, and an initial draft report was released to the faculty and university community during an open forum on August 14. The report was also posted on the ISU web site for review and comment during the period August 16 through August 31. Committee members were available to answer questions and listen to concerns during this time. Individual committee members also attended the initial open forum where the report was released, a meeting of the Faculty Senate Chairs' Governance Working Group that had been working over the summer, and a meeting of the general faculty at the beginning of the semester.

When the comment period ended, the IGAC reviewed all input it had received and revised its report. On September 14th the final report was posted and an open letter was issued to the university community thanking those who commented, reiterating the IGAC's strong belief that faculty must participate in governance for ISU to prosper and function effectively, and addressing some of the questions and concerns raised in the comments. The report and open letter were also submitted to President Vailas at that time.

During this same time frame, President Vailas met with Faculty Senate Chair Phil Cole to discuss the formation of a working group, comprised of faculty nominated by the Faculty Senate and Academic Affairs, to address concerns raised by IGAC. The President and the Faculty Senate Chair submitted a joint charge to the working group, and it has been meeting on these items. During its September 13th meeting, the Faculty Senate was informed of and accepted the formation of a working group, the charge that had been given to the group, and the Faculty Senate's nominees for service on the group.

On September 14th ISU submitted an agenda item for the SBOE's meeting on October 16th as an information item and progress report on the Board's original directive to review ISU institutional governance. The submission included IGAC's report along with a letter from President Vailas explaining that the report should be considered the initial step in a more comprehensive review and restructuring of ISU's institutional governance system that will continue. The President also informed the Board of his collaboration with the Faculty Senate Chair in forming a new working group to complete the review and alignment required by the Board's original directive.

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The IGAC's report has not been submitted to the Board for adoption or

implementation. It has been submitted as an informational item that documents the progress ISU has made on the Board's June 17th directive that ISU's governance structure be reviewed with the intent that it be made more efficient and effective and that it maximize faculty participation in the university's overall advisory system.

Although typically the Board does not like the practice of releasing Board materials before one week prior to a Board meeting, President Vailas requested and received permission to release this submission to the Senate Chair early. Pursuant to his agreement with Phil Cole, the President had the agenda item and supporting material delivered to the Faculty Senate on September 21st (yesterday), after finalizing its submission to the Board.

Office of Academic Affairs