



**Provost and  
Vice President for  
Academic Affairs**  
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November 8, 2009

**ISU Faculty and Staff**

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing with good news. As you know, two site reviewers from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities visited campus on Thursday and Friday to conduct the standard five-year interim evaluation of the institution. I am delighted to report that during the exit interview with the President's Cabinet and the Council of Deans, the reviewers announced that they will forward to the Commission three commendations and only one recommendation.

This is high praise for ISU, and it indicates just how far the institution has come over the last few years. In 2004, the Commission issued ten recommendations, and now in 2009 the Commission has only one recommendation. This is certainly impressive progress.

The single recommendation concerns building on the institution's ongoing efforts to communicate effectively with all constituencies and to increase those efforts as much as possible.

The two reviewers commended the institution for its efforts 1) to enhance student services, especially financial support; 2) to implement the Banner ERP system, which will facilitate data-driven decision making and research; and 3) to provide students and staff with a modern and innovative mixed-use facility, the Rendezvous Building.

Clearly, this is a very positive evaluation of the institution and a real tribute to all our faculty and staff who have worked so hard over the last half decade to lead the institution to new levels of excellence. You all deserve much praise and heartfelt gratitude.

I would like to thank all of our faculty, staff, and students who participated in preparing the five-year interim report for the Commission and who participated in the various forums with the site reviewers. I would especially like to thank Professors Barbara Adamcik and Alan Egger for their selfless devotion to preparing the five-year interim report. They spent countless hours in planning and steering this project to its successful conclusion.

The Commission will meet in January 2010 to consider the site reviewers' report and will issue its formal report to President Vailas shortly thereafter.

Cordially,

Gary A. Olson  
Provost and Professor

GAO/cmt