

President, Provost Forum addresses student concerns

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Anderson had some additional information to share and said, "The space the idea shop and IPROs occupy now is not a building that we own; we rent the space for \$600,000 a year. With the new building, we'll be saving money on that rental. We also rent space for the Institute of Design downtown, and rent is \$1.2 million a year." He says this new building will allow us to move out of both of the rented spaces into our own building to save money on rented space.

In addition to speaking about plans for the new building on campus, Anderson also talked about current renovations in Engineering 1 and upcoming renovations in the Life Sciences building. He stressed that the university cares about new buildings as well as modernizing current buildings.

Another question came from an audience member regarding a clerical error that Financial Aid made that resulted in her needing to pay more than she was initially billed for. President Anderson says that mistakes inevitably do happen, but the university does their best to correct them. "One thing that has happened at the university that has helped us improve more than anything else is the Student Speak Survey. There's always room for im-

provement and we always need your feedback," he said.

The next question came from an audience member who is a tutor at the Academic Resource Center; she asked if the ARC will be expanded from the small space that it currently occupies. Provost Cramb says that he has spoken to Chris White, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, regarding the situation and that White had expressed the space might need to be expanded.

Another question came from an audience member; he expressed that, when he meets with employment recruiters from various companies, they say that IIT isn't a university that many companies pay a lot of attention to. He asked whether there was a plan for IIT increase its awareness among employers. President Anderson says the primary problem is that we are a small institution. He assures students that the problem isn't the quality of graduates, but the quantity. He added that the university is always working to bring more companies to career fairs.

Student housing was the next topic of discussion. A student from the audience asked if there were any plans to improve infrastructure in residential buildings. Anderson

said, "We have continuously put physical infrastructure improvements into housing. Dean Stetz and her staff work hard with our facilities staff to make sure things improve. We're looking into a possible opportunities to renovate Bailey and Cunningham Halls, which would provide us with 300 more beds for students."

A related question was posed by a member of the audience. The asked whether there was a plan to build any new residential buildings on campus, especially considering that the university plans to increase undergraduate enrollment. Provost Cramb says the university is looking first to reopen the uninhabited buildings on campus and fix rooms in residential buildings that are empty because of maintenance problems.

As time started to run short for the event, Connors asked the president and provost if they had any additional items they wanted to discuss. President Anderson brought awareness to the 125th anniversary of the university in 2015 that will be a cause for celebration on campus. Provost Cramb again reiterated that it is important to do is to develop student life on campus and raise participation in activities outside of the classroom.

A few final questions were consid-

ered as the event began to come to a close. First, a question from audience asked why there are so few opportunities at career fairs for international students. Anderson says the situation is generally out of IIT's hands; the recruiters need to make the decision to hire international students. Cramb added, "We have a job to do to let our employers know that our students are employable. Once our companies understand that there is a low barrier to hiring international students, it will work out better." He also says that job placement statistics for domestic and international students are pretty similar; international students at IIT are able to find jobs after college.

The final question came from a student in the audience and asked if there are any future plans to improve wireless internet on campus. Provost Cramb assures students that the university does have plans to improve wireless. The university is working to address problems related to network capacity as quickly and as best they can.

After the question, the event was over. Aderle closed by thanking President Anderson, Provost Cramb, and all of the students, staff, and faculty in attendance.

