Members of the Board, President Daniels, and guests, on behalf of the Faculty, welcome to PNC! I truly do appreciate the opportunity to address the Trustees on the occasion of your visit to our campus.

I’ve been a member of the PNC faculty for 14 years, and Chair of the Faculty Senate for the past five, which means that I can remember addressing the group the last time you visited. At the time, I spoke of my own personal reasons for why I valued my opportunity at PNC; these reasons centered on my passion for undergraduate education, a passion that I share with my colleagues here and on Purdue’s other regional campuses.

Four years ago, we were also talking about an initiative called the Northern Indiana Corridor, which had as its goal a strengthening of the role of the regional campuses in the Purdue system. While that initiative has more or less faded into the pages of history, the need for a continued consideration and strengthening of the role of the regional campuses remains as pressing as ever…

Obviously, there have been some important developments on that front since I spoke at the February meeting. While I’m sure that it wasn’t intentional, I felt a bit silly knowing that I stood there talking about all of the initiatives that PNC had designed to target our student population and our plans for future improvements, not realizing that my audience had already moved on to consideration of a unification of the Calumet and North Central campuses. Nevertheless, I believe that the faculties on both campuses have responded as responsibly as possible, given the uncertainty and confusion that followed the initial announcement. At this point, the Faculty Senates have a plan for coordinating their actions, and faculty members have joined Chancellors Dworkin and Keon on Unification Committee to begin creating a plan for moving forward.

In April 2010, I closed my remarks by speaking about the vast potential that eventually drew me to the PNC campus. In 14 years, I’ve witnessed great changes on this campus, as we have grown to serve our unique student population: all of our degree programs, whether new or old, have been carefully tailored to fit the needs of the student population that we serve, and our understanding of those needs has improved greatly. We are rightfully proud of our role in our service area. Is there room for improvement? Of course; but rest assured that we have ideas for improvement, and with sufficient will and resources, we will make those improvements.

The same is certainly true at Calumet and in Fort Wayne, as well. Each regional campus has unique strengths and is already well matched to serve its constituents. My only concern is that the proposed unification might dilute those strengths in the interests of standardization and streamlining; this can’t become something that we regret or forget.

If we do this well, the proposed unification will help to accentuate the strengths of both campuses, and ultimately help Purdue University realize its full potential as a system. I remain hopeful.

Thank you for your time.