Members of the Purdue Board of Trustees,

My name is Wade Smith, and I am the newly elected IPFW Student Body President. I am from South Bend, Indiana. This is my fourth year at IPFW; I am majoring in Organizational Leadership and Supervision with a concentration in Criminal Justice. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all as Trustees for having me here to speak on behalf of IPSGA.

IPSGA has been involved in the budget conversation since the beginning of the last fall semester. We have ensured that the student’s voices have been heard and we have established a working relationship with the budget committee as well as the administration to ensure IPSGA plays a pivotal role in the budget conversation.

IPFW Administration is undergoing a transition not only in administrative roles but the new faces coming into IPFW as administrators. This transition provides IPSGA and the students with new opportunities, growth, and collaborations. IPSGA looks forward to having conversations with the new members of the IPFW family.

IPSGA is planning on working with the administration on several initiatives. Once such initiative that IPSGA is looking forward to increasing communication between the students and IPFW. We want to push for required grade posting because we feel every student deserves to know how they are doing in each class. To help increase the communication IPSGA is looking forward to conversations about campus technology applications where students can receive updated information on what is going on at IPFW.

Like many campuses around the nation IPFW is looking to make its campus more green. IPSGA is working with IPFW on its recycling system to give students a better opportunity to recycle. While going green IPSGA would like to implement a hydration station so it will give the students an opportunity to reuse their water bottles.

IPFW is proud to be celebrating its 50th Anniversary. We are in the process of unveiling Sculptures with a Purpose which are 50 artistic sculptures that also serve as bike racks. These sculptures will be placed around the Fort Wayne Community as well the IPFW campus. In conjunction with these sculptures IPSGA is looking at getting bike lanes on campus. These bike lanes will promote healthy lifestyles as well as campus safety for bikers and students traveling through campus. This being our 50th year I would like to thank you all for the support and the relationship over the past 50 years. I hope that the next 50 years continues to offer a productive relationship. However, I believe that IPFW would benefit in the long run with greater autonomy. This will allow IPFW to be able to adapt to the changing and growing needs of the Fort Wayne community and Northeast Indiana. The 50th anniversary marks a celebration of all of our past success and embodies a vision of the future success we will achieve. This is why IPFW wishes to seek for more autonomy as an institution. Fort Wayne is the 2nd most
populous city in Indiana and therefore, things may change rather quickly. IPFW needs to be able to change as new degrees, ideas and other opportunities arise. We have a wonderfully growing institution that needs to keep up with this changing atmosphere of our city.

We hope to have continued collaboration between IPFW and IPSGA. We also hope to continue improving the campus to better the student experience at IPFW. We look forward to the upcoming year and the opportunities that may arise. I would like to again thank you the Purdue Board of Trustees for all your hard work and dedication to making IPFW a nationally recognized institution.