



**Provost and  
Vice President for  
Academic Affairs**

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January 22, 2010

**ISU Faculty and Staff**

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing with my weekly update on matters affecting Academic Affairs and the University in general.

The reorganization task forces are making superb progress. In the last two weeks, the Pharmacy and Health Sciences task force held another public meeting for all faculty and staff in both Pharmacy and KCHP in Meridian and Pocatello. The committee solicited and received input from faculty on several concerns and is in the process of addressing these concerns in their redesign plan. The committee is working on its final report, and it plans to post a draft version for review and comment by faculty, staff, and students sometime next week.

Since the first of the year, the task force for the Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education has met 5 times. The committee has finalized its recommendations, and it is preparing collectively for the open forums it will host next week on Tuesday and Wednesday. At the open forums, task force members will share their recommendations for reorganization in a brief presentation and will encourage discussion and feedback. Following the open forums, the committee will meet again to incorporate faculty feedback and prepare a final report.

The Science and Engineering task force has worked to develop four models for a reorganized College of Science and Engineering, along with examining the sets of concerns and recommendations associated with each. These models, concerns, and recommendations were discussed at two open faculty forums that the committee hosted on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. Faculty attending the open forums presented sound feedback, which generated productive discussions concerning the merits and drawbacks of each model and of the reorganization in general. The committee will meet on Friday to begin finalizing their recommendations and preparing their final report.

The fourth task force—which is examining reorganization issues that do not fall within the immediate purview of the other task forces—held its initial meeting last week and will meet again on Friday. The committee members identified several issues related to its charge, and they plan to prioritize, discuss, and analyze those issues in their next meeting.

Once all of the task forces have held campus-wide discussions and have arrived at their recommendations, they will submit reports to the Office of Academic Affairs. I will then hold a joint discussion/brainstorming meeting with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, the Provost's Faculty Advisory Board, the President's Faculty Advisory Board, and the Council of Deans. Shortly thereafter, the Office of Academic Affairs will sponsor one or more campus-wide discussions where the university community can discuss the overall reorganization recommendation.

As you can see, this open and multi-layered process is meant to provide the maximum potential for input from all constituents in a variety of public forums in a number of venues, and I encourage you to become involved and participate in this interactive campus-wide process if you have not already done so.

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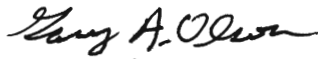
You may have read in Thursday's newspaper that some legislators believe that Idaho's economic condition may be even worse than previously thought. What *is* clear is that the fiscal situation is dire. Nevertheless, I want to remind you that it is still too early to know how ISU will fare this year because there are too many uncertainties. We don't know what our final enrollment will be (although I am pleased to report that we are up 15% over this time last year); we don't know what the state will fund; we don't know how many cuts there will be and how deep they will be. One way or the other, we will keep you informed.

Next week the president and vice presidents will be in Boise to attend the week-long Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee Budget Hearings. I have reviewed President Vailas' presentation, and I can attest that he will make a strong, cogent, and compelling case to the legislature on your behalf. You can be certain that we will continue to argue for the importance of higher education in Idaho and for the centrality of Idaho State University in that endeavor.

Finally, let me update you on ISU's budget process. As you know, the president authorized an abbreviated version of the standard budget process. All units in the University have recently prepared "budget scenarios"—plans for how next year's budget might be cut if that becomes necessary. The scenarios are for a potential two percent and a four percent cut. In Academic Affairs, we directed the deans to hold at least one college-wide meeting to gather input from faculty and staff about their unit's scenarios, and they have reported doing so. The deans presented their scenarios at a Council of Deans budget hearing on Tuesday, and I was very impressed with their collegiality and their willingness to help one another across colleges. The unit heads will make presentations to a joint meeting of the Special Budget Consultation Committee and the Faculty Senate Budget Council during the first week of February. I will remind you that no core faculty will be included in the scenarios, although some vacant positions might be cut.

As usual, I will give you periodic updates on University and Academic Affairs issues as news becomes available, and I invite you to contact me or the other professionals in the Office of Academic Affairs if we can help you in any way. I wish you a productive semester.

Cordially,



Gary A. Olson  
Provost and Professor