



**Provost and
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Academic Affairs**

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ISU Faculty and Staff

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing with another update. As you know, President Vailas held an open forum on Tuesday to discuss the Governor's proposed additional "give back" of 1.6 percent of the base budget of each institution. For ISU, this amounts to approximately \$1 million plus for the remainder of this year and another \$2 million plus for next year. We will not be able to know the exact effect on ISU for several months because we don't know what our revenue will be and we don't know yet exactly how much we will be cut.

President Vailas reiterated what we both have said repeatedly: our highest priorities are to protect core faculty (tenured, tenure-track, and clinical), to protect core academic programs, and to protect and even enhance student support services. "Protecting" core faculty means that we oppose furloughs, across-the-board salary reductions, and layoffs of tenured, tenure-track, and clinical faculty. These will continue to be our highest priorities.

All units in the University are currently preparing "budget scenarios"—plans for how next year's budget might be cut if that becomes necessary. The scenarios are for a two percent and a four percent cut. In Academic Affairs, we have directed the deans to hold at least one college-wide meeting to gather input from faculty and staff about their unit's scenarios. The deans will present their scenarios at a Council of Deans budget hearing on Tuesday. Academic Affairs will then make decisions about what scenarios will be forwarded to the Budget Council for review. If a unit cannot meet its two and four percent scenarios without affecting core faculty, it will be required to provide a detailed explanation as to why, but no core faculty will be included in the scenarios.

Remember, these are scenarios, plans that we may or may not need. It may be that the economy will improve so rapidly that these cuts will not be necessary. We hope to have real certainty by April.

President Vailas will continue to lobby legislators and other officials on behalf of ISU and higher education in Idaho in general. In fact, he will make a presentation to the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee during the last week of January.

As usual, I will give you periodic updates on Academic Affairs issues as news becomes available.

Cordially,

Gary A. Olson
Provost and Professor

GAO/cmt