



**Provost and  
Vice President for  
Academic Affairs**

921 South 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Stop 8063  
Pocatello, Idaho  
83209-8063

Phone: (208) 282-2171  
Fax: (208) 282-4487

April 28, 2010

**ISU Faculty, Staff**

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing with my regular update on matters affecting Academic Affairs.

I just returned from the commencement ceremony at ISU-Meridian, and you might be interested to learn that the campus graduated a record 180 graduates before a standing-room-only crowd at the Boise Centre. Lieutenant Governor Brad Little gave an inspiring commencement speech to the graduates, and State Board of Education member Milford Terrell also addressed the graduates. I would like to congratulate the faculty and staff of ISU-Meridian for sponsoring a flawless commencement ceremony.

This week I also attended a meeting of the Eastern Idaho Chief Academic Officers, a group recently founded by ISU. The provosts in the region have pledged new levels of inter-institutional cooperation and collaboration, and we discussed a number of potentially mutually beneficial academic partnerships. These new relationships will help strengthen ISU's leadership role in higher education in eastern Idaho.

As you know, the State Board of Education has approved ISU's reorganization plan. The next step in the reorganization process is to select interim deans for our newly formed academic units: the Division of Health Sciences, the College of Science and Engineering, and the College of Arts and Letters. These interim deans will serve until we can launch national searches for each of the dean positions (and, of course, internal candidates will be welcome to apply).

I am seeking your input and insight as we fill these critical interim positions. With this correspondence, I am calling for nominations for all three interim dean positions. Candidates should have leadership experience at the level of department chair or above. Please be sure to consult with a potential candidate before nominating him or her. Please send your nominations and/or thoughts about potential interim deans to [provost@isu.edu](mailto:provost@isu.edu) no later than the close of business **Tuesday, May 4**.

Once finalists for each position have been identified, we will solicit faculty and staff input on the finalists. The finalists will also be interviewed by staff in the Office of Academic Affairs, as well as by the vice presidents.

I understand that this is a compressed time frame for nominations, but my intent is to provide time for faculty to weigh in on the interim dean finalists before leaving campus for the summer. Since many faculty members will be away for break, it is my expectation that this process will be complete in the next few weeks.

Letter to Faculty and Staff  
April 26, 2010  
Page Two

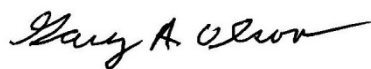
In addition, I am calling for nominations for the position of Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. As you know, Dr. Stephen Adkison will be moving on to a provostship after many years of dedicated service to ISU. I hope you will join me in thanking him for his many years of service to ISU as a faculty member, teacher, mentor, and administrator. The search for this position will follow the identical process to the search for the interim deans. Candidates should have leadership experience at the level of department chair or above. Please be sure to consult with a potential candidate before nominating him or her. Please send your nominations and/or thoughts about potential candidates for this position to [provost@isu.edu](mailto:provost@isu.edu) no later than close of business **Tuesday, May 4**. I will solicit additional input from faculty and staff when we have identified a list of finalists. The finalists will also be interviewed by staff in the Office of Academic Affairs, as well as by the vice presidents.

Once in place, the interim deans will be responsible for holding discussions with faculty and staff to develop specific procedures for implementing the reorganization in their colleges. For example, each college will hold discussions about how to form a college-wide executive committee and the precise scope of authority of that committee. In addition, the college interim deans will hold discussions with department chairs about the role and responsibilities of departmental leadership. Of course, these discussions will not be held until the fall semester when faculty and staff are on campus and can participate fully in the planning process. That is, no substantive changes will be made over the summer.

This is an exciting time in ISU's history, as it reorganizes to emerge from our dismal fiscal times stronger, more supple, and with increased faculty governance on the local level. I hope you will embrace this strategic reorganization by taking the opportunity to actively engage in the discussions about implementation as they occur in your colleges this coming fall.

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

Cordially,



Gary A. Olson  
Provost and Professor

GAO/cmt