



**Provost and
Vice President for
Academic Affairs**

921 South 8th Avenue
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Pocatello, Idaho
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December 21, 2009

ISU Faculty and Staff

Dear Colleagues,

As the semester (and year) winds down, I am writing with another update on Academic Affairs related issues. Since my last update letter, the task forces have been quite busy.

The Science and Engineering task force met again on December 18th. The discussion centered on tentative college organizational charts as well as the time line for gathering science and engineering faculty input, providing feedback to Academic Affairs, and planning for implementation of any potential college changes. Open meetings with science and engineering faculty will take place in mid-January. The task force will meet again in early and late January.

The Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education Task Force met twice last week. Several alternative models for reorganization were presented by members of the committee and discussed by the Task Force. At the most recent meeting, the Task Force members voted on several recommendations for reorganization. There are four meetings scheduled after the holidays to discuss additional recommendations. The recommendations developed by the Task Force will be presented at the Open Forums in mid to late January.

The Pharmacy and Health Professions task force hopes to have consensus on an organizational structure by the end of January. Regular updates on the committee's work are communicated through emails to all faculty and staff, and comments are solicited both via email and Google docs. The next public forum is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 15 at noon. The task force has established several subcommittees: a Transition Subcommittee is examining all of the issues associated with the merger; a Curriculum Task Force is addressing both curricular overlap across health-related programs and inter-professional education; a Clinic Committee is examining how clinic operations can expand and improve; a Translational Research Committee will make recommendation concerning how opportunities for collaborative research can be fostered; and an Outcomes Committee is charged with designing measures to determine whether the task force and subcommittees have met the goals established by the task force.

Last week, the task force chairs gave updates to the Faculty Senate on their progress. These presentations generated a productive discussion and a number of questions. One of the senators said that he had heard rumors that the potential reorganizations might "do away with tenure," and he asked me publicly if this is true. The answer is a categorical "No!" The reorganizations being discussed by the task forces are

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structural combinations of units that will lead to strengthened shared governance and a more streamlined operation but in no way related to the tenure of our faculty. President Vailas and I have reiterated on a number of instances that one of our key priorities is to protect core faculty and programs; this is still the case.

I hope that you have had a productive fall semester and that you will have a relaxing and rejuvenating holiday break. I look forward to what promises to be an exciting spring semester and new year.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary A. Olson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gary A. Olson
Provost and Professor

GAO/cmt