



**Provost and  
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Academic Affairs**

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**ISU Faculty and Staff**

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you have had a smooth beginning to your semester. I am writing with an update on issues affecting Academic Affairs.

I am delighted to report that our student enrollment continues to be robust, and all indications are that we will experience an increase in enrollment for the fifth consecutive fall semester. We also are making substantial progress in ensuring that our record number of students have access to the courses they need.

This year, one of ISU's key priorities is to increase our student retention rate. Toward that end, we created the Student Success Center, a consolidation and coordination of several student support services on campus, including Central Advising, tutoring, TRIO, the Honor's Program, and a number of other programs devoted to helping our students successfully navigate the challenges of academic work. Please alert your students to this state-of-the-art resource, and feel free to contact the center director, Cindy Hill, for more information.

Last year as a mechanism to solicit timely and constructive input on key issues of concern in Academic Affairs, we formed the Provost's Faculty Advisory Board. This group has proved to be a valuable source of advice and multiple perspectives on important topics, and I would like to thank all the members for their service. This year, half of the members will rotate off the Board so that we can continue to solicit fresh perspectives. Consequently, I am calling for nominations for five to six new members. Please send your nominations to Connie Tillotson no later than the close of business, Friday, September 24.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those members who are cycling off the Board: Kay Christensen, Christopher Daniels, Kathleen Lane, Herbert Maschner, and Laura Woodworth-Ney. Their wisdom and perspective has been much appreciated.

As you know, the Institutional Governance Review Committee has published its final report. In response, Academic Affairs has worked with Faculty Senate leadership to identify a group of six faculty (Kregg Aytes, Alan Frantz, Hal Hellwig, Erin Rasmussen, Corey Schou, and Russell Wahl) who will work to develop efficiencies in the shared governance system and to draft a constitution so as to comply with State Board of Education policy. Attached to this letter is the official charge to the committee, co-signed by President Vailas and Faculty Senate Chair Phil Cole.

As usual, I will continue to give you periodic updates on Academic Affairs issues as news becomes available. I hope you continue to have an enjoyable and productive fall semester.

Cordially,

Provost and Professor

GAO/cmt

Enclosure

### **Charge to Institutional Governance Working Group:**

The Institutional Governance Working Group (“Working Group”) is comprised of six faculty members nominated by Faculty Senate and Academic Affairs and identified as committed to the welfare and advancement of Idaho State University and the university community. The purpose of the Working Group is to assist President Vailas in implementing ISU’s response to the directive of the State Board of Education regarding a review of governance at ISU with the intent to maximize effective and efficient faculty participation and align governance with the university’s reorganized structure.

The Working Group will make specific recommendations to the President in the following areas:

1. Where appropriate, reduce the number and size of governance-related councils and committees on which faculty serve.
2. Streamline the reporting structure for governance-related councils and committees with the goal of eliminating redundant review of proposals and policies in a multi-layered hierarchal structure.
3. Establish time frames for the processing of proposals and policies through the governance system.
4. Encourage experienced faculty (defined in terms of faculty rank), both tenured and untenured, to serve on university-wide councils and committees, thereby allowing junior faculty more time to focus on teaching and scholarly activities.
5. Review the Faculty Senate structure of proportional representation and give consideration to whether equal representation from the colleges would produce a more effective deliberative body.
6. Work with the Faculty Senate and university shared governance groups in the development of a constitution and bylaws that incorporate and implement the principles stated in the five items above.

Operational premises for the Working Group are that members work for the common good of the university in a spirit of collegiality and cooperation and that they consult with all university **constituents and other resources in formulating recommendations.**

President Arthur C. Vailas

Faculty Senate Chair Phil Cole