

Idaho State UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
921 South 8th Avenue, Stop 8063 • Pocatello, Idaho 83209-8063

August 22, 2011

Dear Faculty,

I want to welcome everyone back to campus, and especially welcome the 40 plus new ISU faculty members. We have a very talented group of new faculty and I encourage everyone to meet with and welcome your new colleagues. We had a great turnout for the New Faculty Orientation last week, and I want to thank all the faculty and staff who participated in this program, helping to make this event a success.

As most of you are aware, I was appointed interim Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs in July, and have been busy this summer with a number of projects. As you may remember, the Accreditation Steering Committee this past spring presented the draft core themes and objectives at an open meeting for faculty and staff, and asked for feedback. The Committee has continued its work all summer and will have a complete draft of ISU's Standard One report by the first week of September for distribution to the campus community for comment and feedback. This report will be submitted to the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, our regional accreditor, on September 15th.

Other projects for this academic year include revision of the University Strategic Plan, initiation of a schedule and process for comprehensive review of our academic programs, focusing initially on those programs that do not have specialized accreditation, and work on our Standard Two Accreditation Report, which is due September 2012. We will need faculty participation in each of these projects.

A major focus this year will be working with the provisional faculty senators as they complete the task of developing a draft faculty constitution and bylaws for review by the faculty body and administration. I had planned to meet with the elected senators on August 15th to discuss the charge, scope, timeline, and operation of the provisional faculty senate. However, as only five of the 18 senators were present I was unable to achieve my objective, although we had a good discussion and I was able to address some questions. When I met with Dr. Phil Cole and others a couple of weeks ago, we agreed that the first official meeting of the provisional faculty senate will occur on August 29th. We will discuss the charge, scope, timeline, and operational principles at that meeting. I truly hope we can move forward this year, have a constitution and set of bylaws for the ISU faculty body approved, and elect and seat members of a full faculty senate well before the end of the academic year. I'm asking for everyone's support and help in achieving this goal. We must begin this healing process.

We have increased the funding for the Career Path Internship program, which provides employment opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, with funds this semester being allocated to the colleges/Division based on last year's student FTE data. And we have allocated funding for additional graduate teaching assistants. Your dean can provide more details about these two programs. It is important to note that despite the approximately \$20 million reduction in ISU's appropriated funding over the past three years, we have strategically invested in programs to help our students and to improve retention.

Although my plate is overflowing right now, I will always make time to discuss any concerns you have. Laura Woodworth-Ney, Kay Christensen, and I are here to assist you and will try to help as best we can. Have a great semester.

Most sincerely,



Barbara Adamcik, Ph.D.

Interim Provost/V.P. for Academic Affairs