

Over the past week there has been a series of forums and hearings about upcoming changes at ISU. There is another brown bag lunch scheduled with President Vailas on Monday, March 15, at 12:30.

Here is a list of some of the frequently asked questions from this past week:

1. Why is ISU proposing a 9.9% Tuition Increase?

The State of Idaho is reducing funding to higher education as Idaho brings down the budget. They are reducing the money that ISU has to operate within academics. We have a reduction in our budget of 20.1% or \$15.5 million over this year alone. A tuition increase even with enrollment increases only covers \$3.7 million of the reduction.

2. Why are we paying more money for tuition but seeing reductions across the University?

The cost of our education is directly related to the funding we receive from the state. As students, we pay \$33 million to help fund ISU operations. The State of Idaho has pulled \$15.5 million this year alone. And more monies will be taken in the coming weeks. ISU is forced to reduce operational expenses because of these reductions. If we do not see a tide shift at the state level, we will face an increasing burden to gain our education.

3. Why is ISU restructuring the University?

ISU has been forced to reduce its budget. The restructuring will improve the ability of Faculty to teach within their respective programs and across departmental lines. This change will help the university to save monies and work to preserve offerings at ISU for students.

4. Can ISU administration lobby?

As your student leaders, we have been working diligently with our state legislature to reduce the amount of cuts to ISU's budget. Students have asked why the President or Vice Presidents don't join us. The State of Idaho has mandated that employees of the state [in our case ISU] are not allowed to lobby.

5. Is the College of Engineering closing?

There are rumors of the closure of the College of Engineering. The restructuring of ISU calls for Engineering to move into the College of Science and Engineering. This move will allow us to preserve our Engineering programs and strengthen our offerings in both the Sciences and Engineering.

6. Why is ISU proposing a parking fee increase?

ISU has proposed increasing the parking fee for students in the coming year. The

parking fees have not increased with increased costs of maintenance and decreases in state funding. This increase is being used to address both of these issues. ISU is forced to address all areas of potential revenue because the State of Idaho is no longer funding ISU at the levels they were only a year ago.

7. The University is offering more class sections. Where is this happening?

ISU has seen a spike in enrollment, primarily in our freshman classes. This has resulted in a need to increase sections as ones fill up in the general education classes. This is handled through the new Banner System. Banner allows ISU to monitor high demand sections and add more in response to enrollment needs. This, of course, is not perfect and there are exceptions.

Please feel free to send additional questions or comments to ASISU President Ross Knight at asisupre@isu.edu.