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Date: May 27, 2014
To: University of Idaho Faculty, Staff, and Students
From: Katherine G. Aiken *Katherine G. Aiken*
Interim Provost and Executive Vice President
Subject: Focus for the Future Feedback Response

The April 23, 2014 memorandum outlining Focus for the Future, Program Prioritization proposals included 22 program proposals and 39 degree proposals.

Many constituencies spent considerable time addressing concerns during the comment period. For example, several of the degree programs presented proposals to their colleges. Colleges are already working to implement some of these.

About 350 separate comments were posted on the web and/or received via email. Most of the proposals received no comments. A number of the comments involved implementation suggestions. Proposal areas that prompted the most comments were:

- Consolidate IT Functions
- Close the French Major
- Move Interdisciplinary Programs to colleges
- Restructure the department of Biological, Chemical, and Materials Engineering

While there were no positive comments regarding closure of the French major, there were both positive and negative comments related to the others.

The complete comments are available in college dean offices, the offices of vice presidents, and at the Boise, Coeur d'Alene, and Idaho Falls Centers for anyone who wishes to read them.

Information from stakeholder meetings held across the University of Idaho has been gathered as well. The expanded Provost Council and Focus for the Future group will consider every comment as will President Staben.

The comment period accomplished the desired objective of involving the entire University of Idaho community in conversation. President Staben will make final decisions regarding Focus for the Future/Program Prioritization recommendations with a communication target date of July 1, 2014.

Detailed implementation processes for proposals that go forward will include significant opportunity for faculty, staff, and student input and we look forward to those collaborations. The implementation timeline for proposals may differ due to various considerations such as the complexity of the change, the nature of the implementation plan, and the calendars of external entities such as accrediting bodies.