Dear Alumni

I want to provide an update to questions that have been raised about student life at the University of Idaho, especially the issue of first-year housing options.

Last fall a Student Life Task Force was brought together to look at this issue and other potential student life improvements. The committee was composed of administrators, students, and Greek alumni. I asked them to look at many factors of the freshman experience at UI. They pulled together focus groups, reviewed internal and external studies, and had several meetings to examine findings and discuss approaches based on them.

The Task Force found students who live in the Greek chapter houses experience higher rates of first- to second-year retention, and that students find it important to be able to choose their living options. Based on that information, the Task Force recommended UI continue to provide an option for first-year housing that includes Greek houses. I have accepted that recommendation.

This spring the Task Force will issue further recommendations about student life, but I wanted to pass on to you that final decision about an issue I know is important for many Greek alumni. I am glad we’ve had an opportunity to review our practices and policies as we strive to provide the best possible student experience at UI. Looking for ways to improve by studying data and listening to stakeholders in order to make informed decisions is key to providing a great experience for our students. I appreciate your input throughout this process. You can keep up with the work of the Student Life Task Force by visiting their website, www.uidaho.edu/student-life-task-force.

Thank you for your concern for this great University.

Chuck Staben, Ph.D.
President