

University of Idaho

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TO: University of Idaho Faculty and Staff

FROM: John Wiencek, Provost and Executive Vice President, IPEC Chair
Marla Kraut, Chair, Academic Banner Department Workgroup
Jeff Dodge, Chair, Support Banner Department Workgroup

DATE: April 10, 2017

SUBJECT: Revised Program Prioritization Framework

The Institutional Planning and Effectiveness Committee (IPEC) and the two Program Prioritization workgroups are recommending a revised evaluation framework in response to input provided by University of Idaho faculty and staff through a recent feedback survey. The revised evaluation framework has three key elements, which will be used to evaluate all Banner departments. This revised approach also aligns our Program Prioritization and strategic planning efforts. The three elements are:

1. Impact and essentiality to the University of Idaho's mission
2. Contribution to the University of Idaho strategic plan
3. Institutional investment

The first element, impact and essentiality to the University of Idaho's mission, was included in both workgroups' evaluation criteria. To ensure more consistency across all department types, this particular assessment tool will be jointly developed by the two workgroups and applied uniformly to all Banner departments at the university.

The second element, contribution to the strategic plan, will be assessed using focused tools specific to each of four key functional areas of the university:

1. Academic Banner departments
2. Student/Faculty service Banner departments
3. Research centers/Extension/Community engagement Banner departments
4. Centrally provided service Banner departments

These tools are being developed by the two workgroups and will incorporate specific feedback received from the recent survey. Given the expanded scope of work, the workgroups will augment current committee members as needed to ensure we have sufficient depth of knowledge in each of these key functional areas represented. Workgroups plan to complete their work by the end of April. This refined toolset will allow for more customized and relevant evaluation as suggested by the UI community feedback we received.

The third element, institutional investment, will measure the relative resources available to a Banner department so the contribution to the strategic plan element is appropriately scaled to the level of resources available to the Banner department. In this element, the highest ranked programs will have minimal or no institutional investment (i.e. General Education funding) thus mitigating any bias based on size. This element will be weighted appropriately to prevent bias against either small or large Banner departments as measured by their General Education funding levels. As in element one above, this element will be applied uniformly to all Banner departments at the university.

In closing, IPEC and the workgroups have addressed most of the concerns raised by our community in the revised framework. We have more details to iron out and some concerns may remain, but we are confident that we have made significant and meaningful improvements based on your feedback. Once again, thank you for participating in the feedback process.

I am extremely grateful to the workgroups for their continued hard work and investment in this process. We anticipate finalizing the assessment tools by the end of April and forwarding them to President Chuck Staben for approval in early May. Once finalized, I will provide another update to the university community.
