

University of Idaho

Office of the Provost
& Executive Vice President

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TO: University of Idaho Faculty and Staff
FROM: John Wiencek, Provost & Executive Vice President
DATE: February 14, 2017
SUBJECT: Feedback on Draft Program Prioritization Evaluation Criteria

As many of you are aware, a few years ago the Idaho State Board of Education required all four-year colleges and universities in the state to develop and implement a program prioritization process. Last year, the board implemented a new policy that requires all four-year colleges and universities to embed program prioritization into the annual budgeting and program review processes, and to provide annual progress reports. For this reason, the university is developing a refreshed program prioritization process in order to:

1. Fulfill the board's mandate in a manageable and sustainable way, and
2. Better use our resources to achieve the goals of the university's strategic plan, which aims to grow and evolve the university further toward the next level of excellence.

To ensure this critical work is done effectively, UI Faculty Senate, Staff Council and ASUI nominated a group of Vandals to serve on the Institutional Planning and Effectiveness Committee (IPEC), which is charged with many tasks, including implementing a refreshed program prioritization process consistent with the State Board of Education's policy. IPEC and two working groups of frontline faculty and staff – one for academic units, one for support units – have developed draft criteria we will use to evaluate and rank academic and support units.

We Need Your Input

In order to help our university community understand program prioritization and provide feedback on the draft evaluation criteria, we created an informational video presentation and support materials which are available at www.uidaho.edu/program-prioritization. Please watch the video, review the support materials and provide feedback by Wednesday, March 8.

How to Provide Input

IPEC asks each department head to call an all-department meeting and watch the video together as a team. After each department has watched the video, the department should discuss the draft criteria and offer feedback and suggestions for modification. Using notes taken at that department meeting, the department head will provide feedback using the survey created for this purpose (there are support materials available on the website to help guide these discussions). The survey results will be used to improve and revise the criteria if necessary. Individuals may fill out the same survey instrument if they would like.

Once the feedback is collected, IPEC will review it and forward any suggested modifications to the working groups. The working groups will meet in mid-March to finalize their recommendations for the president. The goal is to have final criteria approved by President Staben by early April. At that point, the Institutional Effectiveness and Accreditation Office will develop data and survey instruments and conduct the program prioritization process. The new process will be implemented on July 1, 2017.

We will assess and adjust the program prioritization process annually to ensure it is effectively helping the university thrive and excel.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this important process and for providing your input. This is an important initiative – one that will help us to promote institutional excellence by directing resources to high priority needs, framed within the strategic plan – and we need your partnership to ensure it is effective.
