

# University of Idaho

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**TO:** University of Idaho Faculty and Staff  
**FROM:** John Wiencek, Provost and Executive Vice President  
**DATE:** May 25, 2017  
**SUBJECT:** Update on Program Prioritization Evaluation Progress

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I am glad to report we are making good progress toward completing the evaluation component of our Program Prioritization initiative. After incorporating UI-wide feedback, we have collectively agreed to use three criteria to evaluate departments:

1. Essentiality to the University of Idaho's mission
2. Contribution to the University of Idaho's strategic plan
3. Institutional financial investment in Banner departments

In my last update, I shared the tools developed by the Institutional Planning Effectiveness Committee (IPEC) and the workgroups to assess Banner departments on criteria #1 and #3. At that time, the workgroups and IPEC were still working on tools and measurement weights for criterion #2. I want to thank the workgroups and IPEC for completing these remaining tasks last week.

The criterion #2 evaluation tools for each Banner department

subgroup (Academic, Student/Faculty Services, Research Centers/Extension/Community Outreach, Centrally Provided Services) can be found [here](#). Each of these tools will require you to provide a narrative description of your contribution to the strategic plan and your Banner department will receive a request to provide this narrative description soon.

Initial weights for the three evaluation criteria will be assigned to eliminate any bias related to unit size. The workgroups have agreed to the methodology that will be used to set these weights, which will be documented in a final process development report expected in late summer.

IPEC and the workgroups acknowledge this process has extended beyond the spring semester, contrary to our planned goal and timeline. However, gathering university community feedback and making the necessary and substantial revisions was more important than being on schedule. We acknowledge the process unfolded piecemeal and may have caused some confusion about what was needed in the criterion #1 contextual statements. We will consider some last minute revisions to the contextual statements recently provided for criterion #1 if absolutely necessary, provided you contact us immediately. We plan to launch this evaluation tool on June 1, so we need any requested changes done in the next few days. If you have questions about whether you should make such changes, feel free to contact Lodi Price ([lodi@uidaho.edu](mailto:lodi@uidaho.edu)) or Peggy Lynd ([plynd@uidaho.edu](mailto:plynd@uidaho.edu)).

Please remember this process will be monitored annually. We will adjust for unintended or unanticipated outcomes. Thank you again for your support and participation in this critical process. We will become stronger and better together!

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