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TO: University of Idaho Faculty and Staff

FROM: John M. Wiencek, Provost & Executive Vice President

DATE: October 29, 2015

SUBJECT: Update on Program Prioritization

As many of you know, a few years ago, the Idaho State Board of Education mandated each higher education institution develop and implement a program prioritization process. The board is now looking for the process to be embedded into the budget, strategic planning and program review processes in the state's four-year institutions. Our goal is to embed the prioritization process into these other processes in such a way that it is manageable and sustainable.

UI's response to the board's mandate was a program prioritization process we called [Focus for the Future, or FFF](#). At the request of Faculty Senate leadership, I provided an overview of the FFF process from my perspective as a relative newcomer to the University of Idaho at the most recent Faculty Senate meeting. The PowerPoint slides from that presentation [are available here](#). I took the liberty of suggesting improvements to the process as well as summarized current board and legislative expectations.

In summary, we have more work to do, but we also have learned quite a bit from the FFF process. I want to express thanks to Interim President Don Burnett and Interim Provost/EVP Katherine Aiken for envisioning the process and successfully completing a difficult task in a short time frame while faced with significant uncertainty.

The subsequent conversation within Faculty Senate about FFF was direct and productive, and, in general, Faculty Senate was in agreement that we have learned a great deal from the process, which will inform and improve the next version of program prioritization. The members were appreciative of the transparency of the overview and are willing to move toward an improved methodology.

Having secured the general agreement of Faculty Senate, I will constitute a committee in the near future that will seek to improve the program prioritization process and embed the process in our budget, strategic planning and program review processes. I look forward to attaining the best of ourselves and of our great University of Idaho.