



# University of Idaho

Office of the Provost and  
Executive Vice President

**TO:** University of Idaho Faculty and Staff  
**FROM:** John Wiencek, Provost and Executive Vice President  
**DATE:** Jan. 30, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** Provost Provides Academic Affairs Budget Update

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The university is facing a \$5 million shortfall in our base budget as a result of the decline in revenue from undergraduate enrollment. Yesterday I presented to Faculty Senate an update on the budget reductions we will make starting July 1, 2019 in the academic affairs unit.

As Executive Vice President and Provost, it is my responsibility to make difficult choices on things like budget reductions in the units that report to me and I take it very seriously. In making this round of budget reductions I took a strategic approach as opposed to across-the-board budget reductions for all units. A variety of factors influenced these final decisions, including program prioritization data as well as benchmarked cost data from

the [Delaware Cost Study](#). These data were used to help us better understand the relative funding levels of our academic units compared to our internal priorities as well as national benchmarks. I also reviewed the current resources available to meet the necessary budget cut targets in a way that would avoid employee layoffs. The resulting final budget reduction plan is available on the [provost's website](#).

Reducing expenses is never an easy task and I appreciate the collaborative way we have been able to set this plan in motion. It is the right and responsible thing to do in order to position the university for success going forward. I plan to hold an open meeting via Zoom for those of you who would like to have a dialogue about this important issue, ask questions and gain a better understanding of the rationale for these decisions. I will provide more information about this event in the coming weeks.

*John Wiencek*

*Provost and Executive Vice President*

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