

University of Idaho

Divisions of Infrastructure and Finance

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TO: Staff of the Divisions of Infrastructure and Finance

FROM: Brian Foisy, Vice President for Finance
Dan Ewart, Vice President for Infrastructure

DATE: December 12, 2017

SUBJECT: Reorganization of Divisions of Infrastructure and Finance

Effective December 31, 2017, Dan Ewart, currently vice president for Infrastructure, will become vice president for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer (CIO). In this role, Dan will continue to oversee information technology and maintain town-gown relationships with the Moscow community. At the same time, Brian Foisy, currently vice president for Finance, will become vice president for Finance and Administration. Brian will continue to manage the Division of Finance but will assume management responsibilities for Facilities, Public Safety and Security, Events and Support Services, and Real Estate.

The divisions of Infrastructure and Finance have established a strong track record of collaboration and cooperation over the last two and half years, and we should all be very proud of the many accomplishments. The list of successful projects and efficiencies is significant, and our work remains critical in helping the institution achieve its goals. Even with the excellent coordination between our divisions, we have discovered a number of ways in which a reorganization can help the university accelerate progress toward realization of the goals of the strategic plan.

This change provides a more traditional organizational structure and reporting lines for administrative functions without creating new administrative positions. Consolidating key administrative units and most auxiliaries under one vice president maximizes

operating flexibility, streamlines decision-making and consolidates resources to address needs across the university much more efficiently. Importantly, capital facilities planning will now be coupled with capital facilities financing, which will improve efficiencies as almost all future capital projects will require either bond funding or complex public-private partnerships. The streamlined communication and information sharing on large projects will allow U of I to more quickly react to opportunities and challenges.

This change will also facilitate institutional information technology improvements. Coordinating technology decision-making, enabling creativity and implementing appropriate efficiencies will help us achieve a higher level of excellence as a successful research university. Additionally, providing dedicated executive leadership in this critical area will allow us to move forward in a number of key areas.

In the coming weeks we will transition the Facilities, Public Safety and Security, Events and Support Services and Real Estate units to report to Brian Foisy. Our goal is to ensure a smooth transition. University leadership is supportive of this change, and initial discussions have already taken place with the leads of the impacted units. We are thankful that the discussions focused on ways to make the reorganization a success. Even with this support, it is critical that we have your help moving forward. You can assist in the transition by continuing your excellent work in supporting our university and providing active feedback on how we can continue to improve. To that end, we are scheduling an “Ask the VPs” session for early January, at which you can ask both of us questions and provide suggestions. We look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you very much for your continued work in service to the university. We recognize that this change may raise questions for you, and we encourage you to come to the “Ask the VPs” session and talk with your supervisor. As common themes arise, we will be glad to address those, and we greatly appreciate any feedback that helps us improve. These changes will help us meet the goals we have established in the university's strategic plan and we are certain we will see improved efficiency and effectiveness going forward.