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TO: University of Idaho Community

FROM: Doug Baker 

SUBJECT: Strategic Plan Draft

DATE: October 25, 2005

I am writing to solicit your comments and feedback in reviewing the draft strategic plan for the University of Idaho. On February 11, 2005 President White presented a Plan for Renewal of People, Programs, and Place. In it, he identified five areas of strength upon which the university would build its future and address key needs in the state. During the last two months I have worked with the Deans, Vice Presidents and Vice Provosts as well as the President's Cabinet to develop a strategic plan to help us focus our activities and work toward that envisioned future.

Attached is the draft strategic plan that has emerged from those efforts. The draft strategic plan builds on a wealth of work that has been completed over the last year and a half, including:

1. President White's Plan for Renewal of People, Programs, and Place
2. Strategic Plan, 1998
3. Strategic Plan update 2004-2009
4. University of Idaho Role and Mission [Faculty/Staff Handbook]
5. State Board of Education Role and Mission [Board website]
6. State Board of Education Eight-Year Plan
7. Pappas Report
8. Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities Accreditation Report
9. University Vision and Resources Task Force Report
10. Program Mapping, Phase II dealing with curricular relationships (not the metrics and rankings section)

The referenced documents may be found on the Provost website at www.provost.uidaho.edu/default.aspx?pid=73113.

In the fabric of this plan you will find a number of threads from these documents. The plan is true to the three legs of our land grant mission (teaching and learning, discovery and creative activity, and outreach and engagement) with specific goals for each. It calls for us to undertake transformational activities for our students and stakeholders across the state and beyond. It also

identifies a goal related to improving the way we structure our institution and work with each other in a collaborative environment. The implementation of this latter goal will be critical to the fulfillment of our mission.

This plan comes at the beginning of a new era in the history of the institution. We have dedicated faculty and staff, engaged students, loyal alumni, and strong programs throughout the state upon which to build. Members of the University of Idaho and its supporters working together are reinvigorating the institution, charting a new course, and fulfilling our role as the flagship, research, land grant institution in the state.

The plan offers us the initial directions to begin that renaissance. The plan is relatively compact and offers compass points and initial paths to follow rather than a complex and detailed map. Once the draft strategic plan is edited, the important work of implementation will begin. That will require efforts at university levels on issues pertinent across the institution. It will also require that the goals be interpreted and actively addressed in colleges, departments, and other administrative units throughout the institution.

Please discuss the attached plan in your department and forward your collective wisdom on the preamble, goals, objectives and strategies to the dean or director by November 11, who in turn will work with the Provost's Council to edit the document. If that is not possible, please forward your individual comments to strategicplan@uidaho.edu by November 14. We will collate your feedback, integrate the insights that fortify the plan and send out a final working document. In December we will work on identifying the steps necessary to implement the plan and to strengthen the University of Idaho.

My thanks to all of those who developed the supporting documents over the last year as well as to those who have helped craft the draft strategic plan. I look forward to your suggestions on it.

Attachment