

**University of Idaho**  
**General Faculty Meeting Minutes**  
**August 28, 2001**

**Call to Order.** U of Idaho President, Robert Hoover, called to order the meeting of the university faculty at 3:35 p.m. in room 104 of the Janssen Engineering Building. The attendance of 153 faculty members at the meeting exceeded the requirements for a quorum (117).

**Minutes.** The minutes of the General Faculty Meeting held on May 8, 2001, were approved as written and distributed by the Secretary of the Faculty.

**Introduction of New Faculty Members.** U of Idaho Provost, Brian Pitcher, introduced a representative of each college, who in turn introduced the new faculty members from their academic area. Provost Pitcher also introduced new university administrators, new administrative appointments, interim administrative appointments, and members of the ROTC units. There were 68 new faculty members and administrators listed on the meeting announcement.

**President's Remarks.** As has become the custom at the U of Idaho, the beginning of the school year General Faculty Meeting conducts no "business" but instead greets the new members of the faculty and hears about the "state of the university" from the university president. President Hoover welcomed faculty, staff, and students back to the university for the beginning of the fall semester. He also said that it was a pleasure to note the quality of the new faculty and administrators.

President Hoover indicated that the past academic year (2000-2001) was actually quite good, with significant progress being made on meeting the goals of the U of Idaho Strategic Plan. It was a "banner year" for the U of Idaho, and that success he said, can be traced to the students, faculty, staff, members of the Idaho Legislature, and Idaho's Congressional delegation.

Hoover noted that this was the beginning of his fifth year at the U of Idaho and he proceeded to make comparisons between the "climate" of 1996 and 2001, paying particular attention to enrollment, funding, employee morale, and public opinion. He concluded that since 1996 enrollment and funding have increased, the U of Idaho's image has improved considerably, and morale has improved. The U of Idaho is no longer seen by others as an "isolated" institution of the Palouse. It is a growing and vibrant institution of higher education that has a presence all over the state of Idaho. Hoover said that he senses an atmosphere of excitement among the faculty, staff, and students about the future of the university. He said that sometimes he feels like he is "riding on the back of a tiger." That he is being "pulled along" by the campus leaders – and pulled in the right direction.

Hoover then reviewed the U of Idaho's success in meeting the objectives of its Strategic Plan:

- *Residential Campus of Choice* (to be a university of choice in the West)
  - *better qualified students*
    - number of entering freshmen has grown 7%
    - significant graduate student growth
    - growing enrollment at off-campus centers
    - FTE up over 6% from last year
    - UI Scholars now number 215
    - presidential scholarships now being offered to top 2% of high school seniors
    - Idaho's Promise Scholarships will bring more new freshmen
    - students do well in competition for national scholarships like the Goldwater, Udahl, and Fulbright awards
  - *an improved curriculum*
    - advancements and improvements in the core curriculum are challenging students to become informed and committed critical thinkers
    - originator of the POLYA Math Center hired to our campus
  - *advances in technology*
    - Internet 2 operational on our campus
    - new computer servers and seven new computer labs
    - number of "smart" classrooms have increased
    - on-line support for classroom activities
    - expanding wireless computer service around the campus
  - *an improving physical plant*
    - UI Commons completed
    - UCC remodeling into a Teaching and Learning Center on schedule
    - Agricultural Biotech Research Center completed
    - J. A. Albertson Business and Economics Building under construction – entirely privately funded
    - Vandal Athletic Center – Phase One complete
    - Sweet Avenue entrance and parking lots completed
    - new Facilities Center completed
    - Student Recreation Center – featuring 5-story climbing wall will open in January

- remodeling of the old Student Union Building completed
    - new office and classroom space for many academic departments now on-line
    - planning underway for the Lionel Hampton performance/teaching facility
  - *national recognition of the university*
    - internet raters, like Yahoo, give U of Idaho high ratings
    - magazines continue to describe UI as a university of choice
- *Globally Competitive Graduate, Professional, and Research Programs* (programs that respond to economic, environmental, and social challenges)
  - *recent research success*
    - 10% growth in contract and grant awards – \$62 million with goal of \$100 million
    - 119<sup>th</sup> in USA in Research and Development expenditures and when arbitrated by school size we rank in the middle of the top 100
    - faculty working in large interdisciplinary teams in NIH and NSF grant projects
  - *recent creative success*
    - College of Letters and Science creative writing graduate program
      - authoring and editing of books
      - authoring short stories and essays
      - authoring poetry
      - public readings
      - regional and national awards to writers and editors of poetry, non-fiction, and fiction
    - Art Department
      - half-million dollar in state grant to create art net and delivering on-line art courses to public schools
      - new information design program
      - numerous art and design fellowships and honors
      - artists works selected for exhibitions in the West
- *Outreach Programs* (to provide knowledge and leadership to meet the lifelong educational needs of the citizens of Idaho)
  - Growing instructional center enrollment in Idaho Falls, Coeur d'Alene, and Boise
  - Center for Science and Technology at University Place in Idaho Falls
    - Northwest Research Alliance – INNEL – Sub Surface Research
    - four facilities at University Place
  - Idaho Place (Boise) – education, health science, engineering, and public policy – UI Water Center - mixed use facility, some leased to other organizations
  - Harbor Center in Coeur d'Alene will be leased to the UI – five building pads available
  - Research Park in Post Falls will have its first facility available in 2002 and hope to construct new public private facility in 2003
  - City of Post Falls has asked NIC and UI to construct a science and technology institute
  - Allen Foundation of California donated 1000 acre ranch north of Salmon – new ag experiment station – calf and cow development

President Hoover then moved on to an examination of the areas and issues that the U of Idaho will be focusing on during the 2001-2002 academic year:

- Campaign for Idaho – \$90 million has been raised toward the \$100 million goal with nearly three years left in the campaign – expenditure of campaign funds will be focused on what goes inside the buildings – scholarships, professorships, programs, and completing the building priority list – expenditures critical to achieving our strategic plan goals
- state support and institutional equity – SBOE/Regents review of the distribution of funds among higher education institutions – feeling that the past distribution has been inequitable – outside consultant hired and the consultant's report has become the focus of discussions amongst the institutional presidents and they have found a solution
- increasing the recognition and rewards in graduate research, creative activities, and scholarship
- increasing the support for professional academic programs
- increasing funding from sources outside of state tax dollars –
  - pace of the revenue stream is not keeping up with the commitments made by the legislature – revenue is running behind and therefore the U of Idaho should be tightening its belt
  - although state revenues are down the job force is actually increasing – most of the revenue problems come from decreased tax revenues from just two major Idaho corporations much like the problem that the state had in 1996
  - U of Idaho is in a better position to handle budget restraints than it was five years ago
- recognition of utility costs – increased utility rates are causing a million dollar overrun – U of Idaho is engaged in an energy conservation program that has saved a good deal of money, but it is still a serious issue and all of us can do our part to help reduce energy costs
- increased federal support – U of Idaho did very well in federal support last year and the coming years will see a concentration on larger, but fewer, federal projects – ones that are integrated and multidisciplinary

- increasing grant and contract awards – the goal is to increase it by 10%
- increasing faculty scholarship and creative activities
- taking steps to handle growing academic programs, salary equity, and computing capabilities on the campus
- take steps to close the gap between expenditures and revenue by attempting to grow all sources of revenue
- exploring personnel issues – developing a more strategically beneficial U-wide vision for human resources and recruit new leadership – placing an emphasis on expanding potential professional development for faculty and staff
- exploring diversity issues on the campus
- intensifying our efforts in:
  - student recruitment and retention
  - faculty development and retention
  - gender issues
  - leadership
- recruiting a Vice Provost for Academic Support and Enrollment Management
- recruiting a Dean for the College of Law
- complete the search for the Dean of the College of Art and Architecture
- look for a leader in the area of Information Assurance
- academic area issues:
  - re-accreditation in three years
  - new core curriculum development and approval
  - increasing national scholarships – building on past success
  - planning for e-learning services – taking advantage of the growth of technology
  - refining our plans and capabilities for off-campus centers of learning
  - exploring new areas and goals for outreach and extension
  - supporting K-12 education
- join an all 1-A sports conference – hopefully a conference that is located in the West

U of Idaho President Hoover concluded his remarks to the university faculty by noting that he and his wife believe that this has been the best five years they have experienced in their lives. He said that the character of the people that make up the university community, and the support of the friends and alumni of the university are the keys to their feeling of success and happiness. Hoover said the U of Idaho is a wonderful place to work and working with you to achieve the university's goals is very rewarding. He stressed that despite the challenges that lie ahead, the U of Idaho has the ability to meet these challenges and meet its role and mission goals. He thanked the faculty for helping make the U of Idaho one of the top 100 universities in the country.

**Adjournment.** After inviting the faculty and their guests to attend a reception at the president's house following the meeting, U of Idaho President Bob Hoover adjourned the meeting at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter A. Haggart  
Secretary of the Faculty