



**BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY**

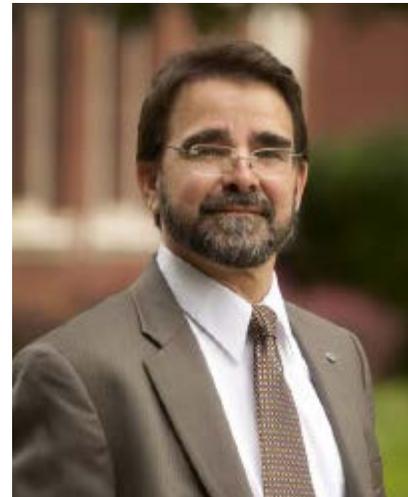


**OCTOBER 2014**

## **Greetings!**

This is the first edition of the Provost's Newsletter, which we hope to produce twice per semester for distribution to all faculty and staff in Academic Affairs. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide timely information and an update on initiatives led by the Office of the Provost. The newsletter is also intended to provide an avenue for spurring questions and providing feedback.

In general, we won't repeat information that is available to you in the Campus Update or from other web pages on the Boise State site. Instead, we'll highlight specific activities with a summary and contact information, hoping that you will ask questions and offer your observations and ideas. A link to the newsletter is on the Provost's web page at [academics.boisestate.edu/provost](http://academics.boisestate.edu/provost).



The Provost's office is committed to building a culture, along with the necessary support structures, in which faculty, staff, and students can thrive in our efforts to accomplish Boise State University's mission. Thank you for doing your part, and let us know how we can support you.

**Marty**

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## **STUDENT SUCCESS DASHBOARD**

A new tool for academic departments to more effectively and efficiently foster student success has been released and is available on the Reporting Service's webpage via MyBoiseState at [reporting.boisestate.edu](http://reporting.boisestate.edu). The Student Success Dashboard easily identifies students who might be struggling and provides a way to reach out to those students with assistance that can turn things

around.

The Dashboard identifies and counts the number of students who trip multiple indicators associated with retention and graduation, and breaks those counts down by department. In a single click, you can retrieve student contact information and details on the success indicators (e.g. number of Repeats, academic preparation, etc.). This provides an easy way to access timely information and a means to reach out to connect struggling students with useful resources and helpful relationships with faculty and staff.

For example, research suggests that students who connect with a faculty or staff within the first 6 weeks of an academic year are more likely to be successful. Identifying students who could benefit from a call or e-mail is one way this tool can be used.

The Dashboard addresses Goal 2 from our Strategic Plan: "Facilitate the timely attainment of educational goals of our diverse student population." It also speaks directly to the highest priority strategy for the coming year associated with that goal, "Ensure that faculty and staff understand their roles and responsibilities in facilitating student success." (See Strategic Plan Midpoint Survey in this Newsletter.)

As an outcome of program prioritization, many departments have been requested to develop action plans for increasing graduation rates in their undergraduate programs. Using the Dashboard and creating a process for outreach would be one effective strategy that departments can include in their plans.

The Student Success Dashboard is now available and training for users is in the process of being scheduled by Advising and Academic Enhancement.

For more information, contact Sharon McGuire, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies, at [sharonmcguire@boisestate.edu](mailto:sharonmcguire@boisestate.edu).

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## MID-CYCLE ACCREDITATION VISIT

Boise State University is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). We are now in Year Four of a seven-year assessment cycle and will be hosting a small team of visitors on October 27-28, 2014. The purpose of this mid-cycle report and visit is to determine if our outcome assessment processes are sufficient for a successful culminating visit in Year Seven. Our report, prepared by Jim Munger, Vice Provost for Academic Planning, answers one question: How do we assess and demonstrate the fulfillment of our mission?

Last year's program prioritization process has helped us answer this question in two ways. First, NWCCU has asked us to provide examples of how we have operationalized our mission related to student learning; we will be able to highlight the assessment practices of the Foundational Studies Program as well as several academic programs identified in the prioritization process.

Second, the metrics created and data gathered for prioritization will be used to prepare an extensive Year Seven self-study. The fact that we have already engaged in a comprehensive assessment of all our units, both academic and non-academic, will be both practical and powerful during this stage of the accreditation process.

This mid-cycle report and visit is designed to give us important feedback on the areas of assessment so that we know where to place our attention in the next two years. Our report, the visit agenda, and

the visitors' recommendations will be posted when they become available on the Accreditation webpage at [academics.boisestate.edu/provost](http://academics.boisestate.edu/provost).

For more information contact Jim Munger at [jmunger@boisestate.edu](mailto:jmunger@boisestate.edu).

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## PROGRAM PRIORITIZATION

### So what difference did program prioritization make?

*Three things that will happen as a result of program prioritization:*

1. In Academic Affairs, the analysis of administrative and support programs helped us to identify approximately \$1.5M of budgeted funds to be repurposed. For example, in the Library, an associate dean and staff position were eliminated so that the funds can be used to purchase library materials. Going forward, prioritization data and analyses will be used to prioritize the allocation of new funds.
2. We will create a report card that tracks implementation of each program's action plans. Each division is creating a checklist of key proposed actions that includes the expected impacts of those actions and a timeline in which they will be implemented. The report card will provide a mechanism to communicate to the campus community the changes brought about by program prioritization and ensure that actions are taken.
3. We will integrate what we learned this past year into other ongoing processes in order to sustain the value gained through program prioritization. For the first time we have identified metrics for evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of all administrative programs. We also refined the metrics used to evaluate academic departments and instructional programs. The next step is to ensure that all metrics are effective and robust as we apply them to processes such as institutional accreditation, program review, annual budget planning, and strategic goal-setting.

*Three things that won't happen as a result of program prioritization:*

1. We won't automatically transfer money from programs in the bottom quintile to programs in the top quintile. The primary purpose of program prioritization has been to improve programs and increase their alignment with the university mission. It is expected that additional resources will be allocated to programs based on the strength of the case they make that investment will result in greater relevancy, quality, productivity, and/or efficiency.
2. We won't be shutting down 20% of our instructional programs. Programs in the fifth quintile were charged with developing plans for substantial improvement. In general, the impact of proposed actions will be evaluated three years hence.
3. We won't stick the report in a drawer and forget that it ever happened. One of the greatest fears going into this process was that it would take a lot of time, cause a lot of anguish, and then be ignored when we move on to the next thing. Neither the state board of education nor the university administration wants that. Our process must be sustainable. We will integrate program prioritization with our strategic plan, Focus on Effectiveness, and with regional accreditation, which requires that we create an ongoing, systematic structure for measurement of institutional and unit-level effectiveness.

#### For more information contact

Marty Schimpf at [mschimpf@boisestate.edu](mailto:mschimpf@boisestate.edu).

Jim Munger at [jmunger@boisestate.edu](mailto:jmunger@boisestate.edu).

## FOCUS ON EFFECTIVENESS: STRATEGIC PLAN MIDPOINT SURVEY RESULTS

At the halfway point in our five-year strategic plan, the provost asked all divisional vice presidents and their leadership teams to provide their observations and perspectives on our progress. This input confirmed that we have made headway on our strategic priorities, while the comments provided direction for our focus over the next year. Complete survey results, including comments, are available on the Strategic Plan webpage.

This summary shows the rating of our progress toward achieving each goal and the strategy associated with each goal that was considered by respondents to be the highest priority for the coming year.

GOAL <i>Highest Priority Associated Strategy</i>	Significant Progress	Some Progress	Little Progress
<p><b>Goal 1:</b> Create a signature, high-quality educational experience for all students.</p> <p><i>Invest in faculty development, innovative pedagogies, and an engaging environment for learning.</i></p>	24%	64%	12%
<p><b>Goal 2:</b> Facilitate the timely attainment of educational goals of our diverse student population.</p> <p><i>Ensure that faculty and staff understand their roles and responsibilities in facilitating student success.</i></p>	17%	83%	0%
<p><b>Goal 3:</b> Gain distinction as a doctoral research university.</p> <p><i>Build infrastructure to keep pace with growing research and creative activity.</i></p>	31%	66%	3%
<p><b>Goal 4:</b> Align university programs and activities with community needs.</p> <p><i>Collaborate with external partners to increase Idaho students' readiness for enrollment in higher education.</i></p>	11%	83%	6%
<p><b>Goal 5:</b> Transform our operations to serve the contemporary mission of the university.</p> <p><i>Provide widespread and timely access to reliable and understandable data, and use it to drive decision-making across the university.</i></p>	9%	57%	34%

### For more information contact

Marty Schimpf at [mschimpf@boisestate.edu](mailto:mschimpf@boisestate.edu).

Jim Munger at [jmunger@boisestate.edu](mailto:jmunger@boisestate.edu).

Cindy Anson at [canson@boisestate.edu](mailto:canson@boisestate.edu).

## Have questions, comments, or suggestions for newsletter topics?

Contact Marcy Harmer at [marcyharmer@boisestate.edu](mailto:marcyharmer@boisestate.edu).

## Wonder who to contact in the Provost's Office for general questions?

Visit the Office of the Provost website to see the [staff listing](#).

### PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

#### Dr. Martin Schimpf

Dr. Martin Schimpf joined the faculty at Boise State University in 1990. He has held several administrative appointments at the University, including Chair of Chemistry, Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Dean of Arts and Sciences. He currently serves as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, a position he has held since 2010. Dr. Schimpf holds degrees in chemistry from the University of Washington and the University of Utah. His interdisciplinary research on thermophoresis and the characterization of nanomaterials has led to more than 80 internationally distributed publications in the scientific literature.



#### OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

The Provost's office is committed to building a culture, along with the necessary support structures, in which faculty, staff, and students can thrive in our efforts to accomplish Boise State University's mission. Thank you for doing your part, and let us know how we can support you.

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