

**2024 – 2025 Faculty Senate****Meeting # 13**

Tuesday, November 5, 2024, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Zoom only

- Approved 11/12/2024,  
FS Mtg #14

**Present:** Barannyk, Borrelli, Chapman, Corry, Hagen, Haltinner, Hu, Kenyon, Kirchmeier, Torrey Lawrence (w/o vote), Maas, McKenna, Miller, Murphy (vice chair), Pimentel, Ramirez, Raney, Remy, Rinker, Roberson, Roe, Sammarruca (w/o vote), Sowisdral, Strickland, Tohaneanu, Thorne.

**Absent:** Shook (excused), Aus

**Guests:** Franca Nurczynski, Erica Tabor.

**Call to Order:** Chair Haltinner called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

**Approval of Minutes (vote):**

The minutes of the 2024-25 Meeting #12, October 29, 2024, were approved as distributed.

**Special Communication:**

- Strategic planning information session with Huron Consulting Group – Franca Nurczynski, Erica Tabor.

Franca gave a brief report on the status of the strategic planning project, followed by an interactive virtual exercise. A survey to be completed in real time presented two questions, (with pre-populated options to select from), about UI strengths to leverage and barriers to overcome, respectively. Dedicated faculty and staff, commitment to our land grant mission, breadth, and depth of the academic portfolio, were the top three strengths selected by the senators. A close 4<sup>th</sup> choice was the growing research portfolio and expenditures in the university's trajectory towards R1 status, followed by the university's ability to reach across the state of Idaho, through regional centers and extension offices. The selected themes were consistent with those identified by other groups that met with the Huron team.

Discussion on the results of the survey:

Generally, the outcome was expected. Senators were asked whether they thought other important items were missing from the survey. A senator noted that breadth and depth are often at odds with each other – we sacrifice depth for breadth, and vice versa. It would help us have a more focused understanding of our programs' breadth or depth. It was also brought up that the university went through a crisis phase around 2019 and lost several programs that are essential to the land grant mission. Another senator interpreted “areas of strength” in the survey question as something that makes UI stand out compared to other universities, such as, for example, innovative programs in cybersecurity, health, and medical professions.

A senator said that the university's broad interdisciplinary work is something they would add to the list proposed in the survey. Franca reported having heard that colleges in the state lack infrastructure or incentives to help promote interdisciplinary collaborations.

There was a brief conversation on the best survey methodology to engage as many people as possible.

Insufficient transparency and communication were brought up – an example is the way the Phoenix transaction was first communicated. A senator argued that shared governance would have been among the top 3 choices, had it been an option on the survey.

Kristin Haltinner mentioned a survey sent to faculty in August about senate priorities this year. Some of those suggestions relate heavily to the issue of recruitment and retention of faculty. Salary was also among the priorities. But, even if we are unable to get more money

from the state legislature or other sources, there are other benefits associated with working in higher education. One of them is shared governance and the ability to be involved in the creation and the operation of your workplace. There are other, less tangible benefits in higher education that are not typical of the corporate sector, such as sabbaticals, tuition benefits for dependents, dual career accommodations. Moreover, we have things like relationships with our peers.

Aging infrastructure was brought up as one of the challenges. There are buildings that have asbestos tiles or are not ADA compliant. Insufficient administrative support for managing large grants was also mentioned.

The rising cost of housing in Moscow was seen as a major problem for recruiting and retention of employees.

The conversation moved to reduced legislative support of higher education. As an example, a senator mentioned a cooperative program with universities in China, and one cooperative agreement with Hiroshima University. Legislative efforts are killing these successful programs because students from China cannot come here, and our students cannot go there. The programs are financially beneficial for both sides, as Chinese students pay a considerable amount of money to come and study here.

A senator mentioned frequent changes in procedures as barriers to research productivity. A plan must be put in place that improves our research as opposed to impeding it.

In closing, Franca encouraged senators who are interested in doing this type of engagement and exercise with their departments to obtain a QR code from Kristin.

### Chair's Report:

- Do not forget to vote.
- Dependent tuition benefit. President Green will allow 50% tuition reduction for one dependent of the employee, and 25% for a second dependent.
- Do not forget to make your benefit elections.
- Who We Are – Debb Thorne, Senator from CLASS.

Debb started with some background about herself. Her research is interdisciplinary. She studies consumer bankruptcy, which is not the bankruptcy addressed by Chapter 11 for corporations. Consumer bankruptcy is about individuals who are struggling. Debb merged social science and law because I work on the Consumer Bankruptcy Project. It was started back in the eighties by Elizabeth Warren, Terry Sullivan, and Jay Westbrook, and has been a merged relationship between the social sciences and law ever since 1981. After graduation, Debb got involved with the Consumer Bankruptcy Project and moved to Cambridge for a postdoc. She has been working on that since 2,001 and has published a range of articles. She looks at gender relationships among families or couples who are in bankruptcy. Debb and her collaborators collected 11 years of continuous data and have a book coming out in August of next year. Her favorite chapter is the one that focuses on American seniors. They are the fastest growing group among the bankruptcy population and the most vulnerable.

### Provost's Report

- **November faculty gathering:** November 13, 4:30-6:30pm PT, Bruce M. Pitman Center, Vandal Ballroom, hosted by COS. <https://www.uidaho.edu/provost/faculty-gathering>  
RSVP: <https://forms.office.com/r/EMhEPnEdNB>
- **Annual training:** It is on a rolling calendar, so every employee has a unique time line. Please see memo of October 3 and don't forget the November 13 deadline.  
<https://www.uidaho.edu/governance/edl/required-training/annual-training>

### **Announcements and Communications:**

- Discussion on senator's perspectives on past strategic efforts, the university's status, and our visions for the future.

Barb Kirchmeier is the senate member on the strategic planning team. She has an interview with the consultant team, who will focus the conversation around 3 questions or 3 ideas. Barb created a shared doc where senators can start adding ideas. Barb said that she has been asked to reflect on her perspectives on past strategic efforts, current strategic planning, what she thinks about the current state of the university, and then her vision for the university's future. As she is tasked with representing the Senate, she wants to take more than just her perspectives to this conversation.

A senator asked if there are limits to the scope of the strategic planning team. Provost Lawrence replied that we have a blank slate to work with, which makes the task both exciting and challenging. Identifying major pillars is helpful.

Kristin added that one of the pillars needs to be the preservation and maintenance of the excellent scholars that we have here at the University.

Barb said that her visions for the future of the U of I are inspired by thinking of her children and grandchildren at the U of I.

The senator representing Idaho Falls expressed concerns that the long-term strategic vision and planning process are primarily pointed directly at the Moscow campus. We do ourselves enormous disservice by overlooking the potential of centers and extension sites off campus.

A senator asked what the axioms or principles of strategic plans are. Who oversees the definitive version of the strategic plans? How does that happen? Is it a menu of presented options from which to choose? Are there guidelines?

Faculty Secretary: From the last meeting of the SLC, she formed the impression that people think the previous plan was too complex, hard to read and understand, and did not help prioritize.

Provost Lawrence, addressing the last two questions, said that the strategic plan is meant to be a tool that guides the institution through decision making. It should be a document that drives how we operate the institution. The people who put together the last plan worked hard, and no offense is meant. The plan became overly complicated, with too many points, 30 or 40, to focus on. This new effort aims at something that is more focused and more clear, such that everybody can latch onto at least part of it. Not every single point of the plan can help everyone, but everybody should be able to fit into part of the plan. There may be something that a unit focuses on, and another pillar that a different unit focuses on. But we all should fit into the plan in some way. Regarding a previous comment on off-campus sites, this should not be a Moscow-driven plan. It will apply to the entire institution.

Barb has a meeting with the Huron team on Thursday morning. Please give your input to the shared document tomorrow. Barb will keep senators updated.

### **Adjournment:**

There was no other business. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Francesca Sammarruca  
Secretary of the University Faculty & Secretary to Faculty Senate

**University of Idaho**  
**2024 – 2025 Faculty Senate Agenda**

Meeting #13

Tuesday, November 5, 2024, at 3:30 pm  
Zoom Only

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes (Vote)
  - Minutes of the 2024-2025 Faculty Senate Meeting #12 (October 29, 2024)  
**Attach. #1**
- III. Special Communications
  - Strategic planning information session with Huron Consulting Group – Franca Nurczynski, Project Director & Erica Tabor, Project Manager
- IV. Chair’s Report
  - Who We Are – Debb Thorne, Senator from CLASS; Professor of Sociology
- V. Provost’s Report
- VI. Announcements and Communications
  - Discussion on senators’ perspectives on past strategic efforts, the University's current state, and our vision for the future – Barb Kirchmeier, Senator; Kristin Haltinner, Chair of Senate; Tim Murphy, Vice Chair of Senate
- VII. New Business
- VIII. Adjournment

Attachments

- **Attach. #1** Minutes of the 2024-2025 Faculty Senate Meeting #12 (October 29, 2024)

**2024 - 2025 Faculty Senate - Pending Approval**

**Meeting # 12**

Tuesday, October 29, 2024, 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Zoom only

**Present:** Aus, Barannyk, Borrelli, Chapman, Corry, Hagen, Haltinner, Hu, Kenyon, Kirchmeier, Torrey Lawrence (w/o vote), Maas, McKenna, Miller, Murphy (vice chair), Pimentel, Ramirez, Raney, Remy, Roberson, Roe, Sammarruca (w/o vote), Shook, Strickland, Tohaneanu, Thorne.

**Absent:** Rinker.

**Guests:** Rachel Halverson, Florian Justwan, Eric Aston.

**Call to Order:** Chair Haltinner called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

**Approval of Minutes (vote):**

Minutes of the 2024-25 Meeting #11, October 22, 2024.

The minutes were approved as distributed.

**Chair's Report:**

- Tim Murphy was in Moscow last week. We met and had great conversations about the senate priorities outlined in August.
- We will have conversations about the public-school calendar. Lyudmyla and I were communicating with the superintendent and the Board of Trustees about the possibility of moving the start of the public-school year back to match UI's academic year. I was asked to serve on the Public-School Calendar Committee. It would be helpful to have a clear idea of what faculty and staff need most.
- Barb Kirchmeier is the senate representative on the strategic plan team. Huron will attend our next Faculty Senate meeting for about 45 min. Please come prepared with any questions or items you would like to talk about. We will use the remaining meeting time to talk about what we would like for Barb to bring to their conversations.
- Who We Are - Xiao Hu, Senator from CAA.  
Xiao provided some background about himself. He has been at the UI for 17 years and teaches planning and design of urban spaces. He has worked with government agencies and stakeholders in the region and helped with local space challenges. Since 2012, he has led a group of UI students (from all disciplines in their college) to Asia. This is a unique multicultural and interdisciplinary learning experience. Between 2012 and 2019, 80 students participated in the program, and 8 obtained working internships. One of the focal points of his research addresses urban planning for cities in highly unique situations. A second focus area is the transformation of architecture in China under the communist regime. Xiao also studies the impact of the urban environment, such as distance to the nearest public transit or population density in the neighborhood, on public health.

**Provost's Report**

- **November faculty gathering:** November 13, 4:30-6:30pm PT, Bruce M. Pitman Center, Vandal Ballroom, hosted by COS. <https://www.uidaho.edu/provost/faculty-gathering>  
**RSVP:** <https://forms.office.com/r/EMhEPnEdNB>

- **Annual training:** It is on a rolling calendar, so every employee has a unique timeline. Please see memo of October 3 and don't forget the November 13 deadline.  
<https://www.uidaho.edu/governance/edl/required-training/annual-training>
- **UI Theatre production: The Addams Family.** Thursday through Saturday at 7:30pm. Sunday at 2:00pm.

### Committee Reports (vote)

- University Curriculum Committee
  - UCC 191 Global Business Language Studies (BA) – Rachel Halverson.  
This is a name change from Modern Language Business to Global Business Language Studies. The previous name is linked to the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, which no longer exists. Since August 2022, the language programs, international studies and ALCP have been housed in the school of global studies. The new name more clearly describes the focus of the major.  
There were no questions.  
Vote: 20/20 yes. Motion passes.
  - UCC 318 Political Science (BS) – Florian Justwan.  
They want to make the BS in Political Sciences fully available remotely.  
Discussion  
In response to questions, Florian said the entire program will be offered online, with most classes delivered asynchronously. There are no scope restrictions for the online degree. They will continue to offer the in-person program. A senator asked whether there are restrictions for international students. Florian said they will follow the existing UI policy.  
Vote: 20/20 yes. Motion passes.
  - UCC 555 Political Analysis and Methodology Undergraduate Academic Certificate – Florian Justwan.  
In the political science curriculum, many classes are meant to teach two higher order skills. One of these higher order skills is policy analysis. With this certificate, they are trying to achieve two different goals. First, this certificate is going to be of interest to students in neighboring disciplines, such as history, journalism, international studies, or sociology, who take political science classes as electives. The certificate will give some guidance in choosing those classes. The second benefit is internal to the unit. By launching this certificate and the other one that follows on the agenda, we hope to make the higher order skills a bit more salient to the department majors, who may choose their own classes more thoughtfully.  
There were no questions.  
Vote: 20/20 yes. Motion passes.
  - UCC 556 Public Policy Analysis Undergraduate Academic Certificate – Florian Justwan.  
The higher order skill here is everything you need to evaluate and generate hypothesis and testing political science research. The purpose is the same as for UCC 555, but the skill referenced here is slightly different.  
There were no questions.  
Vote: 20/20 yes. Motion passes.
  - UCC 561 Chemical Engineering of Semiconductors Undergraduate Academic Certificate – Eric Aston.

A significant fraction of Chemical Engineering students goes into the semiconductor industry, both in the state and abroad. The department recently resuscitated the semiconductor class, which is called Integrated Circuit Fabrication, and we packaged that with one of the other electives, Surfaces and Colloids. People other than chemical engineers might be interested in this certificate as well. It should be an open door for students in other STEM fields who seek some training or preliminary foundational knowledge in the subject.

There were no questions.

Vote: 20/20 yes. Motion passes.

- UCC 217 English as a Second Language Teaching Minor – Taylor Raney  
They are just going back to the original version, to match SB code.  
Vote: 20/20 yes. Motion passes.

### Other Voting Items

- Creation of an Ad Hoc Committee for intercollege curricula and university-wide programs – Kristin Haltinner.  
[Please see attach. #8.]  
There was some discussion about other options, such as relying, at least partially, on our standing committees (UCC), the size of the committee, and the approximate timeline.  
Motion on the floor: To create an ad hoc committee to work on the intercollege program structure, as described in the Binder. Moved to approve (Kirchmeier, Chapman).  
There was no additional discussion.  
Vote: 15/18 yes; 3/18 no. Motion passes.

### Announcements and Communications:

- University of Phoenix Update – Torrey Lawrence (**Please see attached documents.**)  
An extension of the asset purchase agreements has reset the timeline for June 10, 2025. The main difference is in some financial commitments from the University of Phoenix to the University of Idaho. At the time of signing, we received a 5 million dollars payment from Phoenix, that was applied to expenses we already incurred for this transaction and the agreement. Part of that agreement stipulates that, if we do not close by June 10, 2025, Phoenix would pay an additional 5 million dollars. This is not an exclusive agreement, which opens the option of them going to another university or another partner. If they did that, the University of Idaho would receive an additional 15 million for a total of 20 million, as outlined in a memo (dated June 28) which will be included in the minutes. At this time, there is no firm commitment or definite plan. We are working with stakeholders to build support in the Legislature and to address legal challenges. So, there are both legal and political concerns, and we are trying to find a path forward through those two areas. In the meantime, the University of Phoenix has done well. Both their enrollment and revenue have grown. Their persistence and graduation rate have also increased. In conclusion, there is still a path forward, but also some barriers we need to overcome by June 10 of next summer. It will be a topic for the legislative session in the spring.

#### Discussion:

Senator: Initially, the argument was that negotiations needed to be behind closed doors because some other entity could come in and offer more money to the University of Phoenix. Now, with an open contract, it seems that (approximately) 20 million is the differential that a new buyer would have to offer, since Phoenix would have to pay the 20 million back to us. As an economist, my point is: if no one has produced a better offer, the market may not think the deal is worth the price we are paying, plus 20 million dollars. Provost Lawrence: I do not think the 20 million dollars is related to the market. It is related to expenses we have put in



and what we have to lose if they were to go with another party. That was a number that the President negotiated with them. So, I do not think it was based on market value. Senator: There is a misunderstanding. The private sector now knows the price we offered, and I am thinking of a scenario where no other entity comes forward to match that price. Provost Lawrence: Phoenix continues to grow financially. There are many moving parts in assessing what the organization could be worth. A lot of information and analysis was needed for us to determine that it was a very good deal. But things change. What you are saying could be true, but we do not have enough information to know.

Senator: Have there been any lawsuits against Phoenix last year? Provost Lawrence: All institutions have a history of lawsuits, but many of them are dropped or rejected by the courts. Sometimes, the media may portray claims as lawsuits, even though many of them will not meet the criteria.

- Our shared futures – Philip Hagen, GPSA President  
Philip is a 4th year Ph.D. student in electrical engineering. His research is in small antennas and matching circuits. He has worked for the Air Force trying to make antenna systems that can communicate through either ionized air around an aircraft traveling faster than the speed of sound, or spacecrafts re-entering the atmosphere through the ionosphere. There is plasma that surrounds the aircraft that prevents wireless communications through. We are trying to find ways to measure that plasma frequency and shoot wideband signals at the plasma to create an electromagnetic window to communicate through that plasma. This year, there are exciting initiatives with GPSA. There is a large reserve fund, some of which can be spent to improve campus life. A major idea is to put water bottle filling stations in every building without one, which also helps the university meet their sustainability goals. They also plan to spend a considerable amount of funds to put some crosswalk lights around campus at crosswalks that are especially dangerous. They also started a regalia rental program for graduating graduate students (Ph.D. regalia are expensive). They have about 18 robes and hoods of assorted colors that graduate students can rent. They are working with President Green to expand health insurance coverage for graduate students. They have their own ad hoc committee like the senate salary ad hoc committee and working with Jerry at COGS to make TA pay a little more equitable across departments. [Kristin added that Jerry will come to senate in November to talk about TA pay and target salaries for TAs by college.]  
In response to an inquiry, Philip talked about GPSA travel awards. Most of their budget funds go back to their students as travel grants and publication awards. Working with several MFA students, they found that these awards favored people in STEM, because they publish more, while there are disciplines that do not publish at all. So, for this upcoming November 15 cycle, they added an entirely new award for MFA, art exhibitions or architecture, such as final thesis projects. Students can get reimbursed for supplies up to \$700. Graduate students can get \$700 to travel to a conference and present their work domestically, or \$900 internationally. If you publish a paper in a journal, GPSA will reimburse \$700 of that.
- Grade Deadline Discussion – Lyudmyla Barannyk, COS Senator.  
Lyudmila wants to talk about grade roll out and have this discussion placed in the minutes and talking points to get feedback from faculty and staff and toss around potential ideas. Currently, final grades are rolled out once per semester, Tuesday after final exam week, at noon. This deadline creates a lot of pressure for faculty and staff. A suggestion could be to roll grades out daily, or more frequently, starting from Monday. Grades could continue to roll out until Wednesday or later, just to avoid missing grades and additional stress on faculty and staff. Lindsay mentioned it would be better to do this once per day to avoid technical problems.

### **New Business:**

- Secretary Sammarruca mentioned the ULC meeting that took place in the morning, which included conversations about **strategic plans** led by members of the consulting team hired for that purpose. The President's Office will send to the participants a link and a code to share with their respective teams.
- Senator Barannyk brought up the benefits of a **short semester break in October**. Provost Lawrence said that the calendar is approved by Faculty Senate. It is a collaboration between the Provost Office and the Registrar's team, and it is referred to in the catalog. The university approves school days years in advance, and it is time to do that as part of our policy. It also must go to the State Board for approval. So, there is some interest and potential benefits. On the other hand, any calendar changes imply contractual changes for our 9-month faculty contracts. The provost thinks it is an interesting idea, and he appreciates Lyudmyla bringing it up.
- As a member of the School Calendar Committee, Kristin Haltinner wants to understand the concerns of faculty before the committee meeting. The top priority is the UI early start date. Presently, UI starts about two weeks ahead of the public school system, which leaves parents struggling to find places for their kids, especially because most of the camps have ended at that time. Next year, the lag will be only one week. December is lining up with the public-school calendar for next year already. So that is another concern that normally would exist. The second issue is people struggling to know what to do with their kids on early release days, which are Fridays, where kids get out at 2:15. Schools have an expanded Adventure Club program, at least for elementary school kids. We used to have a lag of only two days with the school calendar – we would start on Monday, and school would start on Wednesday. They shifted the start of the year to September, because they do not have adequate cooling in most of the buildings. Idaho has the least per capita spending on school infrastructure in the country. Tim Murphy heard that the biggest issue for parents is the differential in spring break. There was a brief discussion about bringing children to the office when school is out, which is not allowed as a matter of liability. Some senators shared their positive experience with the accommodation provided by their units. Kristin Haltinner will take these comments to the school district.

### **Adjournment:**

There was no other business. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Francesca Sammarruca  
Secretary of the University Faculty & Secretary to Faculty Senate



Dear Vandal Family,

Vandals innovate, drive change and solve problems. Right now, higher education is facing possibly the most challenging time in its history. Declining traditional enrollment along with decreasing financial support of legislatures across the nation is juxtaposed with increased needs of industries for trained employees and growing adult learner populations.

Our University of Idaho is poised to lead new ways of thinking about and delivering education. That is why I am pleased to report that today, June 28, the University of Idaho Board of Regents unanimously approved the University of Idaho's request to extend the Asset Purchase Agreement for the University of Phoenix transaction through June 10, 2025.

There is no commitment to a closing at this time and any amended transaction will go to the Regents for consideration and approval in a public meeting.

The extension allows us time to incorporate feedback from legislators and other Idaho stakeholders into the transaction. We remain committed to working with the Idaho Legislature on the path set forth in last session's [HB 708](#) or other mechanisms.

The extension includes other measures:

- Non-exclusivity, allowing other potential buyers to be considered by the owners.
- In return for University of Phoenix owners' ability to entertain other offers, University of Idaho will receive \$5 million upon signing of the extension agreement.
- If the deal is not closed by June 10, 2025, U of I will receive an additional \$5 million (for a total of \$10 million).
- If University of Phoenix sells to another entity, U of I will receive \$15 million (for a total of \$20 million).

First and foremost, we remain committed to this affiliation because it will provide more opportunities for Idaho's place-bound adult learners to earn more money and will help Idaho industries by adding to Idaho's educated workforce.

Further, the business merits of this affiliation have never been stronger. University of Phoenix continues to show strong enrollment growth at 8%, and its retention and graduation rates continue to improve. Its financial performance exceeded the very high returns projected just a year ago, with EBITDA\* well in excess of \$150 million and its free cash flow for the last year well over \$200 million.

Like you, I care deeply about the University of Idaho and carrying out our land-grant mission to serve the people of Idaho. We look forward to working with the Idaho Legislature, the University of Phoenix and our passionate alumni in leading new ways of delivering high-value education to our citizens.

Thank you and Go Vandals!

**Scott Green**

President

\* EBITDA is company's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization. It is a useful metric for understanding a business's ability to generate cash flow and for judging a company's operating performance.

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# 7

## Will University of Phoenix capabilities be accessible for all colleges and universities across the state?

**Answer:** Yes, the affiliation will support collaboration with other Idaho educational institutions, giving them access to University of Phoenix's advanced online systems. With \$600 million invested over the past five years, University of Phoenix's capabilities have been refined with the help of more than 85,000 current students. This partnership allows Idaho to adopt a proven and tailored online education solution, freeing up resources for other state priorities.

# 8

## How will the affiliation impact the reputations of both University of Idaho and University of Phoenix?

**Answer:** University of Idaho's leadership believes that the affiliation will support the university's long-term stability. If approved, University of Phoenix would transition from a for-profit institution to a private non-profit university and further emphasize its commitment to educating and re-skilling working adults. This shift can enhance the reputation of both institutions by broadening access to education and addressing workforce needs in Idaho and beyond.

# 9

## What should I do if I want more information about the affiliation?

**Answer:** Submit comments, ideas or questions to [phoenixquestions@uidaho.edu](mailto:phoenixquestions@uidaho.edu).

# U of I – UOP Affiliation FAQs



University  
of Idaho

A public institution of the state of Idaho



University  
of Phoenix®

A privately held institution

# 1

## Why does University of Idaho want to affiliate with University of Phoenix?

**Answer:** The universities share a commitment to expanding educational opportunities and helping students succeed in their careers and lives. This affiliation will enable University of Idaho to reach more adult learners, offer new educational pathways and support Idaho's workforce needs. By working together, they aim to broaden access to higher education for place-bound and working students, ultimately benefiting Idaho's communities and industries.

# 2

## How does this affiliation advance the goals and mission of University of Idaho?

**Answer:** The affiliation supports University of Idaho's goal to expand educational access, aligning with the 2017 Governor's Higher Education Task force recommendation for statewide digital solutions. It advances University of Idaho's land-grant mission by reducing barriers for place-bound and time-bound students, bringing university programs and research to more Idaho citizens. Through innovative teaching methods, technology and additional resources, University of Idaho aims to enhance education across the state, supporting the state's priorities, employers' talent needs and the university's commitment to serving all Idahoans.

# 3

## How will the affiliation benefit the citizens and state of Idaho?

**Answer:** The affiliation will create new opportunities and lower-cost educational options for Idahoans. By partnering with University of Phoenix, University of Idaho will enhance access for adult learners and boost the state's economy through targeted workforce development, including certificates and skills mapping. It will also create new pathways for enrollment across Idaho's four-year institutions, strengthening the entire state's education system.

# 4

## How is the state involved and will this impact Idaho taxpayers?

**Answer:** University of Idaho is working with state leaders and University of Phoenix to establish a clear affiliation structure that complies with constitutional requirements. The affiliation, as currently designed, contemplates a separate legal entity to acquire University of Phoenix's assets and liabilities using borrowed funds with no need for taxpayer dollars. As no taxpayer dollars are directly invested, Idaho taxpayers will not bear the cost of the affiliation.

# 5

## What are the key risks to the State of Idaho and University of Idaho?

**Answer:** University of Idaho has agreed to guarantee up to \$50 million over the first ten years of the affiliation, with a limit of \$10 million per year, in case the legal entity misses debt payments. This financial risk is mitigated by setting aside licensing fees in a rainy-day fund specifically for this purpose. To further manage risk, U of I conducted extensive due diligence, using global experts to evaluate University of Phoenix's financial stability and outlook. Additionally, University of Idaho will co-sign University of Phoenix's federal financial aid agreement. These considerations, along with other risk mitigation measures, were built into the purchase price to ensure a balanced approach to potential challenges. University of Phoenix has performed well financially and is continuing this trend in FY24. It also enjoys moderate growth in enrollment and increasing graduation rates. This growth and financial performance provide confidence in its ability to meet the obligations of bond payments with no assistance from University of Idaho.

# 6

## What will University of Idaho do with proceeds from the affiliation?

**Answer:** The affiliation will strengthen University of Idaho's financial position, supporting stability, strategic initiatives and the university's land-grant mission. Proceeds will first be used to create a rainy-day fund to secure the bond guarantee. Additional funds will then reduce costs for Idaho students, create new scholarships, enhance existing programs and develop new courses and initiatives aimed at enriching the educational experience and expanding student opportunities.