Ad Hoc Subcommittee: Efficiencies and Effectiveness via Centralization

Objective: Make a recommendation on whether a substantial improvement in University of Idaho functions (IT, HR, Finance, Development, Advising, Communications/Marketing, Research Support etc.) can be achieved via a shift from highly distributed managerial oversight to a more centralized approach. Make a recommendation of what functions to centralize (if any), whether it should be wholesale or partial centralization, and projected impact on the University of Idaho (i.e. what will improve, what will change and how would the transition best be handled).

Committee Members: Greg Fizzell (Chair), Andrew Kersten (Dean, CLASS), Ben Hunter (Associate Dean, Library), Kathy Canfield-Davis (Department Chair, Leadership and Counseling), Philip Scruggs (Faculty, Movement Sciences), Bernhard Stumpf (Faculty, Physics), Patrick Wilson (Faculty, CNR), Deb Eisinger (Staff, Finance), Chad Neilson (Staff, Web Communications & Operations).

This Subcommittee shall

1. Invite each VP and Presidential direct reports to discuss whether there are opportunities to improve effectiveness (not necessarily cost savings, but also improved quality and consistency of service) via centralization or other means. If so, sketch out a proposed range of possible change scenarios and anticipated benefits

2. Meet with the Deans, Directors and key administrators as a group to discuss the relative merits and challenges with centralizing some of these service areas as well as the relative preferences on which areas make sense for centralization (if any)

3. Meet with other key constituents such as faculty and those staff that might be impacted by centralization

Final report:

Provide a final report for review by the IPEC by March 27, 2017. The report will be forwarded to President Staben after IPEC review. IPEC may add its thoughts on the report in a cover letter sharing the report with the President. Fundamentally, the report should summarize discussion on the above points, and make a recommendation on whether to pursue centralization of some or all of the proposed areas and, if needed, suggested next steps to start a process that would result in centralization of services that are deemed to be best managed centrally.