

photo: Bruce Heglund

IDAHO

ARCHITECTURE NEWS

OUR FUTURE: SUSTAINABLE DESIGN AND STEWARDSHIP

UI PRESIDENT WHITE SETS COURSE FOR BUDGET STABILIZATION, FUTURE SUCCESS

[On February 11, 2005 President White announced his vision for UI's future. Since it strikes a chord of hope to those of us in Architecture and Design, I've rerun the press release below.—bth]

MOSCOW – University of Idaho President Timothy P. White this afternoon outlined a “Plan for Renewal in People, Programs and Place” at the institution and explained a five-step action plan to bring the institution’s budget into balance and five strategic academic themes to guide the university into the future. “Now is the time to summon the will for change and exhibit the resolve to be successful,” White said. “The need to align our resources with focused priorities is pivotal for achievement of our aspirations for the future and to serve the people of Idaho, the nation and the world.”

White’s “Plan for Renewal of People, Programs and Place” focuses the vision of the institution and calls for investment in competitive compensation to recruit and retain quality faculty and staff. It also calls for investment in five strategic, inter- and multidisciplinary academic themes:

- Promoting science and technology
- Advancing the liberal arts and sciences
- Catalyzing entrepreneurial innovation
- Stewarding the environment
- Understanding sustainable design and lifestyle

In addition, the president’s plan calls for investment in advancement of the university to serve Idahoans, including redesigning and energizing outreach activities; being more strategic in enrollment management; implementing a university-wide diversity plan; reorganizing and downsizing administration; and preparing for a capital campaign.

“The future will be based on a plan designed to strengthen the university internally, while promoting the alignment and synergy of efforts with the University of Idaho Foundation and University of Idaho Alumni Association, so that we all can work together to strategically advance the interests and mission of the university,” White said. He also outlined steps for an immediate and permanent budget reduction of \$4.75 million, approximately 1.5 percent of the institution’s overall budget, and outlined a multi-year approach to solve accumulated deficits at \$2 million per year.

The president’s presentation is the culmination of a planning process that began right after his appointment last spring. White appointed the University Vision and Resources Task Force, a group of distinguished faculty, staff and students who spent the summer developing a plan for refining the institution’s vision for the future and outlining ways to bring its resources in line with its offerings. That report was delivered to White in late September. An open comment period on the document ran from October through November last year.

President White’s memo on UI’s Strategic Directions, the text of his PowerPoint presentation and streaming audio/video files of his university-wide address are available at <http://www.its2.uidaho.edu/webcast/archives.htm>.

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The electronic newsletter of the Department of Architecture, featuring Architecture, Interior Design, and the IURDC.

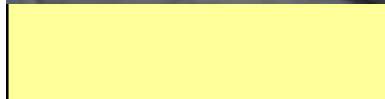
photo: Bruce Haglund



President White vows that the next UI building will be green.



How sustainable are recent additions to the UI campus?



UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO SIGNS TALLOIRES DECLARATION

As the result of almost six years of effort by ASUI senator Jonathan Teeters, March 3 or 4, 2005 was the official signing day for the Talloires Declaration at the University of Idaho. The event was celebrated with a keynote address by the declaration’s author Anthony Cortez. The *Argonaut* reported that Jay Kenton, departing UI VP for Finance & Administration, declared, “The university has nothing to lose and much to gain from adopting sustainability as a mantra on campus. I believe a commitment to sustainability is important for a variety of reasons. First, I think it represents prudent stewardship of the state’s assets and our environment. Second, it shows concern for the future by exposing and educating tomorrow’s leaders (our current students) about the societal benefits of such a program. And lastly, as an institution of higher learning, I believe that the public expects the university to provide leadership and contribute knowledge in this regard—thus it is part of our basic mission and purpose.”

This move is welcome news to architecture, a program that has addressed sustainability with increasing vigor beginning with the OPEC oil embargo of the mid 1970s. We’re hoping that the signing will bring as positive a change and as significant a role for architecture as occurred at Ball State University, which has established a campus-wide Council on the Environment, five interdisciplinary clustered minors in sustainability, a sustainability lecture series, and a biennial Greening of the Campus conference—Greening 6 will be held in September. See <<http://www.bsu.edu/provost/ceres/cote/#announce>> for more info.

Just before signing the President White declared that the next campus building will be sustainable. Which of the recent UI buildings pictured here are green? White is also establishing a President’s Council on Sustainability and Bruce Haglund is a member of the steering committee that is helping to form the council.

—Bruce Haglund

WHAT IS THE TALLOIRES DECLARATION?

Composed in 1990 at an international conference in Talloires, France, this is the first official statement made by university administrators of a commitment to environmental sustainability in higher education. The Talloires Declaration (TD) is a ten-point action plan for incorporating sustainability and environmental literacy in teaching, research, operations and outreach at colleges and universities. It has been signed by over 300 university presidents and chancellors in over 40 countries.

ULSF is the Secretariat for signatories of the Talloires (pronounced Tal-Whar) Declaration. For more info visit <http://www.ulsf.org/programs_talloires.html>.

THE TALLOIRES DECLARATION

We, the presidents, rectors, and vice chancellors of universities from all regions of the world are deeply concerned about the unprecedented scale and speed of environmental pollution and degradation, and the depletion of natural resources.

Local, regional, and global air and water pollution; accumulation and distribution of toxic wastes; destruction and depletion of forests, soil, and water; depletion of the ozone layer and emission of “green house” gases threaten the survival of humans and thousands of other living species, the integrity of the earth and its biodiversity, the security of nations, and the heritage of future generations. These environmental changes are caused by inequitable and unsustainable production and consumption patterns that aggravate poverty in many regions of the world.

We believe that urgent actions are needed to address these fundamental problems and reverse the trends. Stabilization of human population, adoption of environmentally sound industrial and agricultural technologies, reforestation, and ecological restoration are crucial elements in creating an equitable and sustainable future for all humankind in harmony with nature.

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO SIGNS TALLOIRES DECLARATION

Universities have a major role in the education, research, policy formation, and information exchange necessary to make these goals possible. Thus, university leaders must initiate and support mobilization of internal and external resources so that their institutions respond to this urgent challenge.

WE, THEREFORE, AGREE TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

1. Use every opportunity to raise public, government, industry, foundation, and university awareness by openly addressing the urgent need to move toward an environmentally sustainable future.
2. Encourage all universities to engage in education, research, policy formation, and information exchange on population, environment, and development to move toward global sustainability.
3. Establish programs to produce expertise in environmental management, sustainable economic development, population, and related fields to ensure that all university graduates are environmentally literate and have the awareness and understanding to be ecologically responsible citizens.
4. Create programs to develop the capability of university faculty to teach environmental literacy to all undergraduate, graduate, and professional students.
5. Set an example of environmental responsibility by establishing institutional ecology policies and practices of resource conservation, recycling, waste reduction, and environmentally sound operations.
6. Encourage involvement of government, foundations, and industry in supporting interdisciplinary research, education, policy formation, and information exchange in environmentally sustainable development. Expand work with community and nongovernmental organizations to assist in finding solutions to environmental problems.
7. Convene university faculty and administrators with environmental practitioners to develop interdisciplinary approaches to curricula, research initiatives, operations, and outreach activities that support an environmentally sustainable future.
8. Establish partnerships with primary and secondary schools to help develop the capacity for interdisciplinary teaching about population, environment, and sustainable development.
9. Work with national and international organizations to promote a worldwide university effort toward a sustainable future.
10. Establish a Secretariat and a steering committee to continue this momentum, and to inform and support each others efforts in carrying out this declaration.

