State of Student Affairs, Dr. Lisa Harris  
September 21, 2011

Good Morning! 
I hope you are enjoying the breakfast, conversation and fellowship. This is just the beginning of many of these kinds of activities that will bring us together periodically.

Six months ago I stood before you and talked about what I would do if I were to join you as your vice president. Since that time, I have begun to learn more about you, the division, and the university. I know more now than I knew then, although not nearly as much as I hope to know in the future. I have a better idea about what I plan to do in the first six months and the academic year. And finally, I am honored and delighted to have been chosen and to have made the move to Boise.

So, what do I know about you that I didn’t know before?
- You are genuine, kind and friendly. The special hospitality shown to me by Kelly Weak and the Housing office gave me a taste of how gracious you are.
- You love Boise State, our students, and our work.
- Your hard work and your enthusiasm shine through.
- You are laid back and adventurous at the same time. You are truly unique.
- You have more toys than any other group I have seen. Your garages are full of boats, skis, bicycles and ATVs.
- There is so much talent in the division and I hope to tap into it as we continue to go forward.
- I hope today that you will make the effort to know each other and say hello to people you may not now know.

So, what do you need to know about me that you may not already know?
- I am passionate about the work we do together.
- I am a working parent, so I understand what that means, although my kids are older now.
- What you see is what you get. I mean what I say.
- I believe very strongly in continuous improvement.
- I love to have fun, but I know when to be serious.
- I show up. I do my homework.
- Do I need to mention football? I thought not....
- I promise I will listen.

So, what are my first priorities?
- I have been working through the division, meeting with the departments. I have enjoyed it and hope you continue to let me know about things going forward.

- Mara Affre has been promoted to the position of assistant vice president of Student Affairs.
• Blaine Eckles will report to me due to responsibility changes. The SOS, or “Save Our Students” program, is shifting to CARE, which is more in line with national and local programs. Recommendations are still coming in, and when the transition is complete, I will tell you.

• We have moved SHIP back to the newly-created University Health and Recreation Services. Thank you so much, Kim, for your leadership. And thank you for willingness to take over, Libby.

• I’ve asked Jeff and Leslie to look into a forum that will take the place of “The VP is In,” using a “Your Voice Matters” theme. Others will have a chance to participate, and more on this will be forthcoming.

• I will be meeting with a group of department heads I have asked to work with me this fall to develop some clear directions for the future of our division. We will review mission, core values, goals, listen to department priorities, and come away with strategies for our future.

• The Professional Development Committee has had meetings with me to discuss ideas about how to go forward with a new program. We hope to design new and inclusive programs for the division that will launch later in the semester.

• Lynn has helped me to design a new funding model for carry-forward and Coke money to help departments now and next semester.

So, what am I working on?

• The Veterans Center. This is not specifically my project, but I am very supportive of RK, Steve and the others on campus who are working to find a location to house services for veterans. Their new space is in the current Alumni Center. They will be moving in stages, more to come on that.

• The Dean of Students Office. I am interested in exploring putting this back in place at Boise State.

• I am going to be meeting with the Student Affairs marketing groups across the division to get us a better presence.

• I am going to be exploring new ways to place the first-year housing experience as an even more important focus of both the process of attending Boise State and as a standout experience for freshmen in particular.

• I am going to keep listening, because I need to learn as other events go forward.
• This does not include all ongoing projects, ideas, programs and activities in our area. Many, many other things are going on and I am always keeping my eyes and ears open.

So, what do I need from you?
• Respect and civility. All voices matter and should be heard.
• Keep working harder, smarter, better, stronger caringly, insightfully and with kindness and intent.
• Help me see how we are going to be more collaborative, across the division and with outside partners.
• Keep the communication flowing. We need it.
• Continue to be organic and flexible. That may be the most important skill we can have as Student Affairs folks/professionals. We are ALL Student Affairs professionals.

I hope you have enjoyed breakfast this morning, as well as learning more about me and where we are going as a division. I’m very honored to be your VP, and I am looking forward to what we will build together.