Good morning!
I hope you have enjoyed breakfast and the conversation. It’s the annual divisional kick-off to the semester breakfast. As I highlighted in June, you have done a great job this year and I am honored to serve as your VP. This has been an amazing year for us after building upon the foundation of the last few years. Fall is the time to look ahead, so let’s talk about this year going forward.

There have been a number of changes in the division.
I’m very pleased to introduce two new members of the team: a new Dean of Students, Dr. Chris Wuthrich, and the new director of Children’s Center, Bethani Studebaker. We have just said goodbye to Dr. Jeff Hale, and now we will be saying goodbye to Mara Affre as she leaves us at the end of the month to join UC San Diego. Housing and Career Services will now report to Leslie Webb as these are all engagement opportunities for students and this arrangement will enhance all of the departments. Additionally, I will be asking Lynn Humphrey to do other things for the division. I also want you to meet our executive assistant to the VP, Neshia Brown. Many of you may know her by her emails. Here she is and let’s thank her for coordination details for breakfast. Thank you, Neshia!

- Good work has been done on the strategic plan and I hope to have it completed and discussed within the month.

- The Professional Development Committee has been hard at work this summer, and information about orientation for staff will come out soon. They have also planned some “get-togethers” which will start now that the academic year is underway.

- Plans have commenced to relocate Veterans Services and the Disability Resource Center. We did not initiate the plans, but I think the plans are good and I am excited.

- Excellent work has been done in forming a CARE team and I want to thank Blaine Eckles again. Now Chris Wuthrich will take it forward to finalize the Boise State model. Leslie, Libby, Felice, Karla West and Lauren Oe are also involved.

- The university strategic plan will set priorities for us soon and many of us will be working on this process.

- The Executive Enrollment Committee will have a very large part to play in the university’s strategic plan.

What is ahead for Student Affairs?
I will continue to discuss projects and ideas with you...and continue to visit all of you in department meetings, because I always want to listen and have meaningful conversations about our work, even if it is only once a year. I will keep asking questions about budgets, data and the “why” of what we do. Our voice, our message must be unified.

**Our work can be summed up in two words: recruit and retain.**
I encourage each of you to view the president’s website to see his message. He discusses our changing times, our new challenges and our path ahead, including urgency about what we do, and an accelerated pace of change. He also challenges us to employ innovative thinking about what is possible, and creating incentives to encourage innovative behavior. The president has given us our marching orders and we are going to follow them. Go read them.

Our business is to build relationships and change lives by connecting others to Boise State. We engage their minds and their hearts. We need to intentionally commit to working together – we do not do this enough. We are getting better, but we still make decisions without each other. There is great strength in working together and sharing resources and credit.

**What do I still need from you?**
Be aware of the president’s message. We need to keep working harder, smarter, better, stronger, caringly, insightfully, with kindness and intent. We need to keep talking to each other about our shared work. I urge you to continue to be flexible and organic. Change will continue and we must flex to grow strong and stay healthy.

I pledge to you, as I told you last year, that I am passionate about the work we do together and that I will be prepared. I will show up and I will do my homework. I expect you to do the same. We are partners in this exciting work we do together.

**In closing, here are some of my quotes that all carry the same message: challenge.**
- “Do one thing every day that scares you.” Eleanor Roosevelt
- “What would you do if you weren’t afraid?” Spencer Johnson (Who Moved My Cheese)
- “Fear is the mind killer.” Frank Herbert
- “Do or do not...there is no try.” Yoda
- “Success demands singleness of purpose.” Vince Lombardi

This will be an amazing year. Be intentional. Concentrate on the “why” of what we do. Let’s go forward to embrace the president’s challenge, to serve students and constituents with intentionality and purpose. We are world changers. Let’s do it.