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Idaho Legislators

Subject: Correcting a false narrative about U of I position on abortion law

It has been brought to our attention that a message is circulating entitled “Did you hear about this? U of I paying abortion travel expenses.” This is not too surprising as abortion is arguably the most emotional and divisive issue in the country today and we would expect the conflict entrepreneurs to try to monetize it. We appreciate those who brought this to our attention so that we could address it head on.

There was an article in *The Meteor* written by a high school student who conducted a survey of universities to determine if they supported abortion rights. In that article, the author implied that the U of I has a student emergency fund - normally used for food, shelter or medical emergencies - that could, unbeknownst to the university, be used for abortion services since it is illegal for us to ask a student about their medical condition.

Let me be clear, it is and always has been the policy of the U of I to abide by all state laws in word and spirit. Our general counsel has made the details of the law clear to our employees, that they cannot counsel a student or employee about abortion or refer them to abortion providers and that any deviation exposes an individual to criminal prosecution.

We anticipate a number of false narratives this legislative session. It has been made clear to us that the conflict entrepreneurs, who do not believe any money should be spent on public education, are targeting the U of I this session. Many false narratives have been published by them in the past – all of which were discredited through an external investigation report that can be accessed [here](#).

By signing the Morrill Act, President Lincoln set in motion the creation of the greatest education system in the world. We are proud to be Idaho’s land-grant university and to be recognized nationally as the Best Value of any Public University in the West, and #2 in the nation only behind the University of North Carolina. We have over 60,000 proud Vandal alumni, active students, and employees living and working in Idaho.

Again, if any salacious accusations or slanderous narratives surface during the session, please let us know and we will respond quickly. You can be assured that you will get the truth, one you can feel confident about. If we have made a mistake, we will correct it, but we will not let the good work at our university be tarnished by those who want to destroy public education. Together we can do what is right for the future of our state. We look forward to working with you in the coming session.

Sincerely,


C. Scott Green
President