

MINUTES
SENATE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Thursday, January 26, 2023
- TIME:** 8:00 A.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW53
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Hartgen, Vice Chairman Nichols, Senators Foreman, Schroeder, Carlson, Zuiderveld, Semmelroth, and Taylor
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Hart
- NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.
- CONVENED:** **Chairman Hartgen** called the meeting of the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:00 a.m.
- WELCOME:** **Chairman Hartgen** welcomed all to the meeting.
- PRESENTATION:** **Dr. Michael Parrella**, Dean, University of Idaho, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences emphasized the Land Grant Mission - the Morrill Acts of 1862, the Agricultural Experiment Station (Federal Hatch Act of 1887), and the Cooperative Extension (Federal Smith-Lever Act of 1914). These Acts expanded the opportunity for all citizens to obtain a higher education in applied sciences, particularly agricultural science and engineering. Congress granted the Idaho Endowment Trust land for the sole purpose of funding the agricultural college. Article IX, §10, made the University of Idaho - College of Agriculture, and Land Grant Mission part of the Idaho State Constitution.
- Dr. Parrella** mentioned the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station (IAES) had created solutions that impacted Idaho directly. The IAES breeding program developed new varieties of wheat, oilseed and potatoes, like the Russet Burbank used for McDonald's fries. It supported research and experimental farms (living laboratories) like the Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (CAFE) project and Rinker Rock Creek Ranch.
- Dr. Parrella** pointed out that President Lincoln created the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which dramatically moved agriculture forward in the United States. He remarked that the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) ranked 22nd in the country. He cited in-demand careers, one being agriculture education teachers in high school and large animal veterinarians. The We Move Program was focused on the veterinary medical program. **Dr. Parrella** stated Idaho had 185 different crops, it made Idaho one of the most diverse agricultural states in the country. (Attachment 1)
- DISCUSSION:** **Senator Zuiderveld**, questioned if University of Idaho was going to have a horticultural program, since the College of Southern Idaho dropped their horticulture program. **Dr. Parrella** stated the College of Western Idaho was building a horticulture program. **Senator Schroeder** remarked the research of insects and diseases of plants at the University of Idaho, was vital to Idaho Agriculture.
- ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Hartgen** adjourned the meeting at 8:47 a.m.

Senator Hartgen
Chair

Melissa Price
Secretary