

FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE CHAIN

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Sometimes, as a faculty member serving on a departmental committee considering one element of our department's move toward BYU-Idaho, I feel like the krill at the bottom of the food chain—about to be swallowed by a large event in which I am only a small actor.

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Sitting in the crowd in the Hart Building in June, I was excited by and even a bit overwhelmed by the prospect of the coming changes and the part I might play in those changes. The Spirit confirmed for me immediately that this was an inspired move. Again, later, listening to President Bednar during the August employee meeting, I felt carried by the excitement of change. I wondered what revolutionary insight I might introduce that would distinguish BYU-Idaho from the pack.

But my excitement was tempered by the knowledge that many others would be affected by the change much more than I would be. Some would be sacrificing much. I knew that my friends in athletics were being asked to give up more than I was as a member of a fundamental academic discipline. As best I could see, the cheese was being moved in ways that would mean change and work for me, but the change and work would be expanding and exciting, not a painful sacrifice.

Ultimately, I remembered the basic principle that we each receive revelation for our individual stewardship. I had received revelation confirming the decision to become a four-year college. Each of us will receive revelation betimes as befits our position, our needs, and our efforts to earn it. But I knew that, though I would have some opportunity for input, the final decisions would be the stewardship of others. The challenge for the majority of us is to seek for and receive revelation for our tasks and not for the school.

Seeing myself as a krill providing for the larger good may not be the best metaphor. Perhaps the Biblical "And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you" (1 Cor. 12:21) would be a better way of seeing the situation. ☺