

# Breaking News

**10:31 a.m.:** New UI president to be announced Wednesday

*April 21, 2009, 10:31 am*

MOSCOW — The State Board of Education will hold a special telephonic meeting Wednesday morning to name the next University of Idaho president.

The leading contender appears to be Kansas State University Provost Duane Nellis, who earlier turned down the job, citing salary issues. But earlier this month, UI alumnus and former U.S. Sen. Steve Symms mounted an effort to raise private funding to supplement Nellis' salary.

Nellis could not be immediately reached for comment, nor could board spokesman Mark Browning. A UI spokeswoman would only say the president would be selected from the list of five finalists announced in January.

The two leading contenders were Nellis and Montana State University Provost David Dooley. Dooley also dropped out of the search, citing differences with the board over the future direction the UI should take. Another of the five finalists, California State University Stanislaus President Ham Shirvani, withdrew in February.

The remaining two finalists are UI College of Law Dean Donald Burnett and former Colorado State University President Larry Penley. Burnett could not be immediately reached for comment, and Penley's phone number is not listed.

The state board would have to change its policy to allow a privately funded supplement to the UI president's salary, Browning said earlier this week.

The Wednesday meeting is scheduled for 10:15 a.m. A news conference will follow in the Administration Building Auditorium on the Moscow campus, according to a news release from the board.