

## As the Semester Begins

*The following items were compiled in the Office of the Faculty Secretary, University of Idaho, for the information of the academic community. This is a condensed version of the original with items of special interest to Idaho Falls faculty.*

INSTRUCTORS ADMIT TO CLASS ONLY THOSE STUDENTS WHOSE NAMES APPEAR ON THE CLASS ROSTER OR FOR WHOM THEY HAVE SIGNED AN “ADD” CARD.

Students have the right to know the names of the instructors who will teach the course sections. Departments must make information about adjustments in teaching assignments available to students, advisors, and deans whenever they occur.

At the first or second class session, instructors are to discuss course objectives, explain the grading system, including the extent to which grades are affected by attendance, and inform students of any authorized class meetings to be held at times other than those shown in the *Class Schedule*. **(Any meeting time outside of those published must be approved by Dr. Carol Baldwin, Associate Registrar. Call 282-7991.)**

In courses in which P (pass) grades are to be used, instructors must make the method of grading known at the beginning of the semester.

Students are protected against improper disclosure of their records. The complete texts of the student records policy, the “Statement of Student Rights,” and the “Student Code of Conduct” are in *Policies & Information of Interest to Students*.

The posting of individual student’s grades (final, midsemester, or on examinations, quizzes, projects, term papers, daily assignments, or any other academic work) violates the rights guaranteed to students. The same is true of leaving graded papers (for students to search through and find their own) in hallways, offices, etc.

Students engaged in any activity requiring faculty or staff time and consultation, or the use of any UI facilities, must register (e.g. in a directed study or an appropriately numbered research course, 500, 599 or 600) for the number of credits appropriate to the effort expected of the students as well as the effort required of the faculty member.

A student who is absent from class because of illness may explain the absence to the instructor, who will decide whether the explanation justifies excusing the absence.

### Consensual Romantic or Sexual Relationships

Because the relationship between faculty members and students is central to the academic mission of UI, it is essential to establish that the standard of expected conduct in a relationship between any faculty member and a student of that faculty member goes beyond the proscription of sexual harassment as defined in section 3220 of the “Faculty-Staff Handbook.” Consensual romantic or sexual relationships should not be allowed to interfere with the academic integrity of the faculty-student relationship.

In the university’s view, the faculty-student relationship is comparable to that of other professionals and their clients. Codes of ethics for most professional associations forbids professional-client sexual relationships. On this basis, a consensual romantic or sexual relationship between any faculty member and his or her student, while not expressly forbidden, is generally deemed unwise.

Relationships that may appear to be consensual, even to the parties involved, are influenced by the position of authority held by the faculty member that is inherent to the faculty-student relationship. Any faculty member who enters into a romantic or sexual relationship with his or her student should realize that, if a charge of sexual harassment were subsequently lodged, either by the student or by an affected third party (e.g., a student who believes that he or she has been denied an educational benefit because of the preferential treatment related to the faculty member’s romantic or sexual relationship with another student), it would be exceedingly difficult to prove immunity on grounds of mutual consent.

It is generally deemed equally unwise for a student to enter into a consensual romantic or sexual relationship with his or her professor.

Updated 1/10/10