University of Idaho
2021 – 2022 Faculty Senate Agenda

Meeting # 7

Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 3:30 pm
Zoom Only

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes (Vote)
   • Minutes of the 2020-2021 Faculty Senate Meeting #6 (September 21, 2021) Attach. #1

III. Consent Agenda (Vote)

IV. Chair’s Report

V. Provost’s Report

VI. Committee Reports

VII. Other Announcements and Communications
   • FSH 1470 University Archives – Francesca Sammarruca

VIII. Special Orders

IX. New Business

X. Adjournment
Attachments:

- **Attach. #1:** Minutes of the 2020-2021 Faculty Senate Meeting #6
- **Attach. #2:**
- **Attach. #3:**
- **Attach. #4:**
2021 – 2022 Faculty Senate – Pending Approval
Meeting # 6
Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Zoom only

Present: Ahmadzadeh, Bridges, Chapman, Dahlquist, Gauthier, Hickman, Hoffmann, Torrey Lawrence (w/o vote), McIntosh, Meeuf (Chair), Paul, Quintett, Rashed, Rinker, Roberson, Rose, Sammarruca (w/o vote), Schiele, Schwarzlaender, A. Smith (Vice Chair), R. Smith, Tenuto, Thorne
Absent: Becker, Lee-Painter, Wargo (excused), Mittelstaedt (excused), Fairley (excused), Ogborn, Stroebel

Guests/Presenters: Chris Nomura, Dean Panttaja, Barb Kirchmeier

Call to Order: Chair Meeuf called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm.

Approval of Minutes (vote):
• Minutes of the 2021-22 Meeting #5 – Attach. #1.
  The minutes of the 2021-22 Meeting #5 were approved as distributed.

Chair's Report:
• The Dean of Students office is still collecting Donations for Joe's Closet, their project that provides professional clothing for students preparing for interviews or headshots. If you email Joana Espinoza, they can also arrange for items to be picked up at your office!
• Nominations are open for U of I honorary degrees to be recognized at the Spring 2022 Commencement Ceremony. Submit nominations to provost@uidaho.edu by Monday, Nov. 15. Nomination instructions can be found in FSH 4930.
• Vandal Fest’21 is a combination of traditional Homecoming activities, the ICCU Arena Grand Opening and the announcement of “Brave. Bold. A promise to Idaho’s Students,” the university’s launch into a focused fundraising campaign. Faculty, staff and students are invited and encouraged to volunteer on Friday, Oct. 8, and Saturday, Oct. 9, to help us host our extended Vandal Family.

There were no questions for the Chair.

Provost’s Report:
• 2021 VIP Grants: The PI names and the abstracts of the funded proposals are posted here for U of I personnel.
• Update on COVID-vaccine incentive program: The first $1,000 and the first $5,000 scholarships have been awarded. To date, over 3,400 students have submitted proof of vaccine and received $50 gift cards. Our next $1,000 drawing will be on Thursday.
• The mask mandate remains unchanged and will be re-evaluated by October 11.
• Katy Benoit Campus Safety Awareness Month: Take Back the Night is an event to increase awareness of interpersonal violence and to show support for those affected by it. This year’s event features a keynote address and rally at the Theophilus Tower Lawn at 7:00 pm, followed by a candlelit march around campus at dusk.
• Larry Stauffer, former dean of the College of Engineering, has been named acting executive officer of the U of I Coeur d’Alene center. A national search for a permanent center executive
The officer will be launched in the coming weeks. Search committee nominations (including self-nominations) may be submitted online.

- This is Postdoc Appreciation Week. Let’s show appreciation to our postdoctoral associates!

Discussion:
On behalf of his constituents, a Senator asked whether vaccinated employees will pay a lower health coverage premium. The Provost replied that U of I considered this briefly but decided not to go that route because potential problems with benefits.

Provost Lawrence noted that more questions can be asked at the first of three “Talks with Torrey,” tomorrow, September 22, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. https://www.uidaho.edu/provost/talks-with-Torrey

Announcements and Communications:
- Q&A with Chris Nomura.

Vice President for Research and Academic Development Chris Nomura presented an overview of the P3-R1 program and the U of I progress towards R1 status, starting with Carnegie classification. The next update is confirmed for December 2021. J. McMurtry, Wes McClintick, and Brad Ritts are preparing for the December-January review period. Chris Nomura noted that U of I metrics drawn from FY19, FY20, and Fall 2020 will reflect numbers prior to P3-R1 and budget reduction. The metrics are not fundamentally different from the 2018 analysis for U of I. Research expenditures grew from $111M to $113M – U of I was #151 in FY18 and #152 in FY19. The number of nonfaculty research staff with doctorates moved from 102 to 105. The number of faculty is down from 529 to 520, whereas doctoral degrees moved up from 39 to 80 – note that the R1 working group analysis shows that large increases in doctoral production and postdoctoral researchers are necessary to move the U of I position. Also, significant changes in other institutions provides opportunity to shift the R1-R2 line. For instance, the University of Oregon had a drop in research expenditures and ranking. Wyoming fell considerably in ranking. On the other hand, the University of Montana increased its expenditures from $90M in FY18 to $104M in FY19. University of Nevada, Las Vegas and Montana State also climbed up strongly.

In response to a Senator question, Chris Nomura clarified that research expenditures refer to total expenditures, from federal, state, foundations, and other sources. Research expenditures is one of the metrics to assess progress towards R1, along with postdoctoral researchers, research scientists, non-tenure-track faculty. There are additional metrics from the last Carnegie formula – which is not static. For instance, in FY20 people couldn’t travel, and some universities shut down completely. We do not know how COVID impact is going to be taken into account. In 2018, we were approaching the R1 border and, had all other institutions remained static, we would be very close to the (ever changing) R1 mark.

Chris Nomura proceeded to show P3-R1 commitments by fiscal year (as of July 2021). From those data, one can see that we are essentially on track towards a $3M annual program with current criteria. As of August 2021, 35 awards were funded. Chris Nomura said that his office will continue to compile data for the 2022 review.

In reference to the mechanism of matching competitive externally funded grants, the Secretary asked whether it may be possible to provide one RA for every RA – instead of every two – funded by a single new external award. Chris Nomura replied that it can be considered.
A Senator expressed concern about the lack of flexibility with regard to F&A rates – some funding entities are not willing to pay our rates, in which case the award is rejected by the university. Vice President Nomura explained that P3 funds are a long-term loan for the university – a 50-year contract where the company paid money upfront. Because of the escalating form of the return, F&A funds must be used to offset the increasing costs over time. Increased enrollment, for instance, could offset some of those charges.

Another Senator raised the issue of interdisciplinary research and/or collaborations with teams outside the university. These projects require a lot of effort and time and should be more appreciated, including at Promotion and Tenure. Chris Nomura agreed that interdisciplinary research is important. In fact, his office is working on establishing programs with the Idaho National Laboratory and the Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES). New avenues may also open up. For instance, partnership with Avista, the main supplier of power in our region, may provide the opportunity to address a broader range of issues. They are trying to foster relations with external partners with whom we have traditionally not partnered.

Are there any historical records from which we can see how much we have advanced, overall? Chris Nomura will check how far back our records go for R2 data.

- Accreditation presentation – Dean Panttaja and Barb Kirchmeier
  Interim Vice Provost for Academic Initiatives Dean Panttaja started a presentation titled “Why We Accredit,” starting with the definition: “Accreditation is a voluntary process of recognizing educational institutions for performance, integrity, and quality that entitles them to the confidence of the educational community and the public.” Failure to maintain accreditation prevents the institution from utilizing federal funding for education. Basically, accreditation signifies that: the institution is committed to continuous improvement and to provide quality education consistent with its mission; meets identified standards; has established an internal system of self-evaluation and welcomes peer evaluation.

Dean Panttaja proceeded to introduce the newly formed University Assessment and Accreditation Committee (UACC), chaired by Barb Kirchmeier. He then elaborated on the meaning of an internal self-study process, based on data addressing Student Success and Achievement (Standard 1), and Institutional Compliance (Standard 2). The outcome of a self-study should be, among others, the development of a strategic action plan to address NWCCU recommendations. Dean Panttaja moved on to the steps involved in preparing for the accreditation visit – a team effort – and went over the timelines. He described the tasks of the External Review Team. From our side, we need to show that we are committed to continuous improvement – to ensure alignment with the institutional mission and the strategic plan – through an ongoing cycle of assessment. We understand that all components of the institution play a role in accreditation, assessment, and their importance for the future of our students and the institution. More information on assessment and accreditation can be found through the following resources:

Assessment & Accreditation Website:
https://www.uidaho.edu/provost/ir/assessment-evaluation

Anthology Links & Training Videos:
https://www.uidaho.edu/provost/ir/assessment-evaluation/anthology
Barb Kirchmeier reported that UAAC is currently gathering questions from the university community and focusing on a broad communication plan.

Vice Chair Smith asked whether UAAC will provide clarification to Faculty Senate and, generally, faculty. Barb Kirchmeier responded that, in fact, they are in the process of gathering information and listening to concerns. She encouraged everyone to ask questions to and share concerns with the committee. Dean Panttaja added that they are seeking feedback to fine-tune the process and make it easier for faculty and administrators.

How about departments that have their own accreditation process? Dean Panttaja replied that they are not completely “off the hook,” but they will be assessed to a lesser degree.

Responding to Chair Meeuf, Dean Panttaja confirmed that the accreditation team actually approaches people and ask them what they know about accreditation—everybody should be part of the process of making the institution great.

Barb Kirchmeier encouraged Senators to let her know if they identify a group that may benefit from this presentation.

**New Business:**
Chair Meeuf brought up the topic of first- and second-year seminars. Dean Panttaja noted that this is an ongoing conversation at UCGE. We need conclusive data. The real issue is retention between the first two years and graduation: why are we losing students in those middle years? There may be multiple pathways to keep our students engaged.

A Senator and member of UCGE reported on recent discussions within the committee. It is not clear that we have the data to determine whether first-year experience courses are beneficial to students. Another Senator noted that some programs (for instance, in CNR) already have their first-year experience courses. On the other hand, a Senator reported that his department tried first-year experience courses for several years, but their experience was not good. Moreover, resources are thin.

A Senator, whose team has been involved with research funded by Amazon Catalyst during the past years, pointed out the opportunity of receiving support for undergraduate education from Amazon, see link below:  
https://www.google.com/search?q=Amazon+750+00+undergraduates&rlz=1C5CHFA_enUS954US954&oq=Amazon+750+00+undergraduates&aqs=chrome..69i57.8687j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8
Chair Meeuf asked to send him any additional information which he will forward to the appropriate individuals. Ideas and suggestions about first-year experience courses can be sent to Ann Abbott, chair of UCGE, cc Dean Panttaja.

Adjournment:
The agenda being completed, Chair Meeuf adjourned the meeting at 4:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Francesca Sammarruca
Secretary of the University Faculty & Secretary to Faculty Senate

Commented [K(1)]: I believe folks should contact Ann Abbott for ideas/suggestions related to FYE classes.
People should email me or Dean if they have suggestions about groups who should see the presentation Dean shared.

Commented [S(2R1)]: That's right! Thanks!!