

Faculty Senate Talking Points, February 9, 2021:

- Please remember to reach out to your constituents to gather questions and input to inform and guide our conversations with Senate guests. Next week: Brandi Terwilliger (HR issues), Brian Smentkowski (Peer Observation of Teaching), Lisa Miller (Update from the Staff Compensation Committee).
- Update on COVID-19:
 - Positive test rate continues to be low – most recently, 1.13%. Employees are encouraged to participate in surveillance testing if invited.
 - Concerning the timeline for U of I employees to receive the vaccine, we will know more after February 19.
- Presentation and discussion on mental health on campus: Brandi Terwilliger, Emily Tuschhoff, Greg Lambeth, and Amanda Ferstead talked about various resources available to U of I employees to support mental, physical, and social health. Five topics were selected for the on-going series of wellness workshops: *Creating a Resilient Mindset*, *Effective Stress Management*, *Building Resilient Muscles*, *Healthy Mind Toolkit*, and *Creating an Inclusive Team*. Suggestions for additional topics are welcome. Please visit: <https://www.uidaho.edu/vandalhealth>
<https://www.uidaho.edu/vhe-events>
<http://www.uidaho.edu/wellbeingambassadors>
- Class schedule update: In the summer, we will be mostly online. For the fall, the current plan is to be primarily in person. For some classes, a virtual meeting section may be added.
- Online education initiative: The Working Group has recommended a new unit with central leadership. The unit will be supported by P3 funds, which must be used for projects with potential for return on investment. The goal is to increase enrollment, which, in turn, will generate additional revenue. Some Senators expressed concerns about rolling out a new program and hiring an upper-level administrator when faculty and staff positions are being eliminated. These conversations will continue.

Important dates:

- The deadline to request delay for promotion and/or tenure is March 14, 2021.
- Nominations for Honorary degrees for the December 2021 commencement are due March 15, 2021.
- Sabbatical applications for the 2022-2023 year are due March 31.

All Faculty Senate agendas (including attachments and supporting documents) and meeting minutes are made available on the new Senate webpage: <https://www.uidaho.edu/governance>

Remember to share this email with faculty and staff in your colleges!



University of Idaho
Faculty Secretary