Faculty Senate Talking Points, April 20, 2021

- Next week Suzi Ball will provide updates on the Vandal Gateway Program.

- COVID update: The number of surveillance tests is decreasing as more people are vaccinated. Of 474 tests done last week, 3.59% were positive. At this time there are no plans for any changes to our COVID-19 safety protocol through the end of the semester.

- Senate discussed two emergency actions that FSL plans to submit to the President for his approval. One concerns changes to admission standards for 2022-23. The other is to increase the number of credits that a student may withdraw from during his or her undergraduate career. Both actions seeks to support students through extenuating circumstances brought on by COVID-19.

- Senate voted to adopt the following Statement of Faculty Values:

  As a challenging semester comes to an end, the Faculty Senate of the University of Idaho wishes to reaffirm our commitment to the values of education, integrity, and respect for all others. As scholars and researchers, we have dedicated our careers to discovery and reasoning. We believe in science and in seeking knowledge by weighing appropriate evidence and rejecting intentional misinformation. As citizens and educators who serve the university’s land-grant mission, we prepare students to be thoughtful, civic-minded participants in our local, state, and national communities. We are committed to democracy and due process, and to civil discourse and respectful communication. We condemn in the strongest terms any form of violence and terrorism.

  To support these goals, we encourage all faculty, when appropriate, to directly address the issues and challenges facing our world, including misinformation, radicalism, racism, bigotry, and violence. We call for a collective commitment to shine light on the root causes of polarization and extremism. Whether by analyzing our histories and culture, or cultivating information literacy, or teaching responsible communication skills, faculty must continue to provide a transformative and ethical education for the next generation of leaders.

- There was some preliminary discussion on the structure of future Senate and General Faculty meetings. It was noted that, with zoom meetings, everyone is on equal footing, regardless location. Also, virtual meetings have made the presence of a quorum much more likely. These conversations will continue.

- Important reminders:
  - New senators will meet with this Senate on Tuesday, 4/27. The 2021-2022 Senate will meet for the first time at 4:30 on Tuesday, April 27 to take nominations for chair and vice-chair.
  - The final University Faculty Meeting of the year will be held via Zoom on May 5 from 2:30-4:00pm PST
  - CETL’s 2021 Student Success Virtual Conferences is April 28 from 3:30-5:00pm
  - CETL’s 2021 Celebration of Collaboration is Thursday, May 6 from 3:00-5:00pm
  - The provost’s office will host a P&T training on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 9:30 AM via zoom. The zoom link is https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/89086903403. The training will be useful for faculty going up for promotion and/or tenure in the upcoming academic year. A recording of it will be available via the provost’s office website.

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!