Faculty Senate Talking Points, February 23, 2021:

- Joana Espinoza is leaving the Provost’s Office. A special thank you message was delivered to Joana for her hard work and dedication in support of Faculty Senate. We all wish her the very best and we will miss her!

- Please remember to reach out to your constituents to gather questions and input to inform and guide our conversations with Senate guests. Next week: an update from the Staff Compensation Committee.

- Commencement plans are in progress. They may involve in-person events and multiple ceremonies.

- Toni Broyles visited Senate for a conversation on COVID-19 activities.
  - Positive test rate continues to be low – less than 1% the week before last. After the long weekend and the snow day, the number went up to about 1.2%. Surveillance testing continue to take place every week.
  - No news on when U. of I. employees who are not in a priority group will receive the vaccine – waiting to hear from the Idaho State Vaccine Advisory Committee in early March. The university has created an internal priority list within its faculty and staff. The order is: frontline food workers, faculty and staff who work with children, people who work in the classroom, and people who telework.

- Brian Smentkowski and Barb Kirchmeier spoke about using peer observation of teaching as a way for faculty to support one another and build evidence of their teaching efforts in a collaborative and collegial culture.

Important dates:

- University Faculty Meeting: Thursday, February 25 at 2:30pm, via Zoom.
- 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 April 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!