

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.
 - The COVID dashboard is live. It reflects COVID-19 activities at the Moscow campus and is updated weekly. Visit <https://www.uidaho.edu/vandal-health-clinic/coronavirus/dashboard>.
- 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!

