

Faculty Senate Talking Points, September 1, 2020:

- Welcome to a new year of Senate activities! This is going to be a challenging year, but, with your help, we can move forward and continue to advocate for faculty, staff, and students.
- The option to exclude spring and summer teaching evaluations from any review process ends on September 15. Please remind your colleagues of this opportunity and upcoming deadline.
- Update on COVID-19 testing from Provost Lawrence: to date, we have completed 7,700 tests, with about 1.1% positive results. We are now in an interim phase before entering a phase of surveillance testing, which may start next week (more information to come). Please direct any questions to covid19questions@uidaho.edu.
- David Lee-Painter, chair of the COVID-19 Advisory Committee, provided a brief update on the committee's progress. The committee is proceeding well and moving forward.
- Jan Johnson gave an update on the recent activities of the UBUNTU committee. They have been working on a diversity resolution with several groups and faculty. Soon, UBUNTU will bring the resolution before Senate for a vote. Interesting ideas were exchanged, such as working with the Sociology department to include in the curriculum classes on systemic racism.
- FSH 6990 Communicable Disease Emergency Response.
Senate discussed this newly proposed policy. The purpose is to have a permanent policy to replace FSH 6990 COVID-19 Emergency Response, which is valid for 180 days and will expire on September 16, 2020. The discussion will continue next week.

Important dates:

- The first University Faculty Meeting of the year will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, September 16 at 2:30pm. There will be a voting matter, so please encourage faculty in your colleges to attend and help us reach a quorum.

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!

