

## Faculty Senate Talking Points, September 15, 2020:

- Update on COVID-19: Six hundred students from dorm areas where the wastewater revealed the presence of the Corona virus were tested, and 6 were found to be positive. To date, 8,500 tests have been performed, and the positive rate is still around 1.1%.
- The air quality situation is serious. Air filters are being clogged by the oily smoke. For the time being, we are back to online/virtual instruction. If you need to access a building, contact Campus Security at 885-2254. Watch out for updates.
- “Talks with Torrey” will restart on Thursday 9/24 at 11:30am, alternating between Thursday and Wednesday.
- Senate approved new FSH 1590 Unit Bylaws. The policy allows more uniformity across the various units, thus facilitating the process of developing and reviewing bylaws.
- Brian Smentkowski, CETL Director, visited Senate to celebrate faculty success. In Spring 2020 and Summer 2020, faculty have invested 13,338 and 15,120 faculty development hours, respectively.
- Suzi Ball, Vandal Gateway Coordinator, gave an overview on the current status of the program. There are presently 24 students, a smaller cohort than anticipated. An interesting discussion developed around possible next steps.
- **Important dates:**
  - The Women’s Center will partner with Violence Prevention Programs and other campus entities to host Take Back the Night—an event to spread awareness of interpersonal violence on campus and to show support for those affected by it—on Thursday, September 17.
  - The University Committee for General Education is seeking feedback on plans for using the six institutionally designated general education credits. Please contact your UCGE representative for more information and to provide feedback. <https://www.uidaho.edu/-/media/Uidaho-Responsive/Files/governance/committee-members/2020-2021/university-committee-for-general-education-20-21.pdf?la=en&hash=993BC2C13F2C80ED7AF6911F7C315DF004351CF0>
  - Three upcoming deadlines to keep in mind:
    - The Common Read Committee is soliciting titles for consideration for the next academic year. Send your suggestions to Dean Panttaja by Monday, Sept. 21.
    - Sabbatical applications are due on October 30.
    - Honorary degree nominations are due on November 16.

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>

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**University of Idaho**  
Faculty Secretary