

## Faculty Senate Talking Points, September 29, 2020:

- Update on COVID-19: We had two weeks of increased infection rate due to “hot spots” in the Greek system. Surveillance testing has increased significantly – about 1,200 tests were done this week. Anyone who received an invitation to participate in surveillance testing is strongly encouraged to participate.
- By Friday, we should know whether we return to in-person instruction or move online. In any case, there will be a communication this Friday.
- Homecoming is next week – largely virtual, with few in-person events following standard protocol. The focus will be on current students rather than alumni returning to campus.
- Spring schedule: There was a discussion about possible options to maximize safety. A survey to collect broad feedback will go out as soon as possible. A document explaining the available options will be attached to the email announcing the survey.
- Roundtable on employee and student morale. The purpose of the roundtable is to create a space where all voices are heard and ideas for improving morale can be proposed. Please see the minutes of Senate Meeting #7 (in the Binder you’ll receive this Friday) for a report of the discussion.
- Congratulations to our Chair Barb Kirchmeier! She received – for the second time – a state recognition as this year “Most Innovative Educator for Written Communication.”
- We need your help finding undergraduate students to fill open positions on our committees. Please send your nominations to Russ Meeuf as soon as possible.

### Important dates:

- Two upcoming deadlines to keep in mind:
  - 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>

**Remember to share this email with faculty and staff in your colleges!**

