**Faculty Senate Talking Points, October 13, 2020:**

- Registrar Lindsey Brown, IT Vice President Dan Ewart, and Ubuntu Co-Chairs Kristin Haltinner and Jan Johnson visited Senate for a conversation on the use of preferred names *vs.* legal names for students. Already last year, a working group recommended to move forward, but it will take time and resources. Senate strongly recommends to start with BbLearn, which is the primary mode for faculty to engage with students.

- The Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) is considering proposing FSH changes to address course delivery issues which have come up during the pandemic. Rich Seamon, Chair of FAC, and the Faculty Secretary, ex-officio FAC member, initiated an input-gathering discussion with Senate.

- COVID-19 update: The news is generally good. Campus-wide testing showed a clear downward trend. Two weeks ago we ramped up testing and saw the rate go down last week and even further this week. Plans to return to original class formats will be definite once all the on-going comprehensive testing will be completed.

- The Palouse Literary Festival will be on Zoom this week. This festival is organized by MA and MFA graduate students in the department of English. This year's events include readings by MFA alum and award-winning author Joe Wilkins. Zoom link for all events: https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/7242893322

- Tuesday October 20, the 2020 Community Talk will be delivered by Common Read author Cristina Henriquez, who will be talking about her book, *The Book of Unknown Americans*. It's open to the public. register in advance.

**Important dates:**

- Sabbatical applications are due on October 30.
- Honorary degree nominations are due on November 16.
- Deadline to request delay for promotion and/or tenure is March 14, 2021.

  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