

## Faculty Senate Talking Points, October 27, 2020:

- The Ubuntu committee presented a Resolution on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice. (The document can be found attached to the minutes of Senate Meeting #11.) The Senators voted unanimously to support the Ubuntu Resolution. Thanks to Jan Johnson and all who have contributed to this important effort!
- COVID-19 update: Last week testing showed 2.3% positive rate. No Greek Houses are presently on formal quarantine, from 14 a few weeks ago. The recent Governor's order has put Idaho back to stage 3, with exemptions for educational (and some other) activities. It is not yet clear how our events will be impacted.
- The VandalStar Team – Kristin McMullin, Cynthia Castro, Mary Oswald, Madison Domka, and Lisa Ormond – gave a presentation on various features of VandalStar. They reported positive student feedback for tools such as “My Success Network,” “Appointment scheduling,” and “Course Performance Feedback.” The Vandal Star Team is available and happy to help faculty.
- Director of General Education Dean Panttaja came back to Senate to address any follow-up questions from his last week presentation on Online Idaho. There was a lively discussion on the Canvas Learning Managing System, which the university can use at no charge for one year, vs. Blackboard.

### Important dates:

- Sabbatical applications are due on October 30.
- Teaching Questionnaire is due on October 30.
- Nominations for faculty to sit on the University Promotion and Tenure Committee are due on October 30.
- Brian Smentkowski from CETL and Diane Kelly-Riley from the Provost's Office will host a session entitled “Mid-Semester Check-in: How's It Going?” This discussion-based session will check in to see how things are going for faculty and their classes. In that session, they will brainstorm ideas on navigating through the rest of the semester. This session takes place on November 4, 2020 from 10:30-11:15 am.
- 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>

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

