Faculty Senate Talking Points, October 26, 2021, Meeting #11

- We are looking for Senators to sit on additional committees to ensure that faculty voices are heard.
  - The Senate position on the Benefits Advisory Group is currently vacant. This group makes recommendations concerning employee benefits offered through the university, which has been a topic of conversation in recent meetings.
  - We will need to find a new Senator to serve on the VandalStar Implementation Committee, preferably a Senator who uses VandalStar regularly and can provide some feedback to the committee

- COVID update:
  - Test kits are available and can be obtained without medical referral, from 9am to 5pm daily, by students, faculty, and staff. A facility will be set up just outside the Vandal Health Clinic.
  - Vaccine clinic: Wednesday, Nov. 3, from 1 to 3 pm in the ISUB Vandal Lounge.
    https://www.uidaho.edu/vandal-health-clinic/coronavirus/vaccine/pre-register
  - COVID vaccine mandate for federal employees: there is a conflict between federal and state mandates. The university is working with the State Board, our state government, and other institutions to find a path forward. Watch for news.

- Dean Kahler, Cynthia Castro, Bart Sonnenberg, Shawna Bertlin, and Kristen McMullin gave a presentation on current student success initiatives. They include academic support programs – such as tutoring and academic coaching – and a number of other (personal and academic) support services. Please see the presentation slides attached to the binder of meeting #11 for more information and links.

- Senate approved a number of academic certificates from the College of Business and Economics. It seems that interest in credentials below a bachelor’s degree is growing, especially among non-traditional students.

- The transition to Canvas is happening on January 2022. CETL seminars and various forms of training are being made available online after live events. See link below for available resources.
  https://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/cetl/canvas-transition.asp

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!