Faculty Senate Talking Points, November 3, 2021, Meeting #12

- The Senate position on the Benefits Advisory Group is still vacant. This group makes recommendations concerning employee benefits offered through the university, which has been a topic of conversation in recent meetings.

- COVID update:
  - The mask mandate will remain in place until November 23.
  - Update regarding the mandatory COVID vaccine for federal employees and entities that hold federal contracts: the state of Idaho entered in a multi-state lawsuit against the federal mandate. More communication is expected soon.

- All results from the “Great Colleges to Work for” survey are available to the university. They will be posted on the webpage shortly.

- ASUI leadership visited Senate to discuss the issue of timely feedback from instructors to students. The conversation addressed several important points, including the impact of insufficient feedback on retention, and the importance of streamlining faculty workflow through technology improvements.

- Update on the Vandal Gateway Program (VGP). Torrey Lawrence, Suzi Ball, and Annette Folwell updated Senate on the status of the program since it was introduced. The VGP team presented their idea for a three-year pilot program. They welcomed comments and suggestions from Senate about the best way forward in the interest of broader access to higher education.

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!