Faculty Senate Talking Points, February 21, 2023, Meeting #20

• Check out the events in celebration of Black History Month!  
  https://www.lib.uidaho.edu/blackhistory/  
  https://www.uidaho.edu/diversity/edu/oma/events/black-history

• Sydney Freeman, Kristin Haltinner, Janis Johnson, Colin Mannex (Executive Director of the Kenworthy Performing Arts Center), spoke to senate about the importance of increased presence of faculty and staff of color to improve retention of students of color – among other intellectual benefits for UI. Supporting data are available to anyone.  
  Janis focused on the need to strengthen the Africana Studies program. The film *Clusterluck*, to be featured February 28 at 7pm at the Kenworthy Theatre, addresses strategies to attract more diversity to the university, and offers the opportunity to connect the Moscow community with the U of I.

• The search for the new dean of CBE is well underway. The three finalists will visit campus this Friday and next week, Monday and Wednesday. Everyone is invited to attend the open sessions. Feedback will be collected until March 7.  
  https://www.uidaho.edu/provost/administrative-searches/cbe-dean

• The discussion started on whether SAT/ACT scores should be part of our admission requirements. The discussion revealed diverse opinions. Some would make the inclusion of standardized test scores optional. Others felt strongly that standardized tests are not representative of student success and causes inequities. Concerns were also expressed about potentially reducing the academic preparation of our students. Some suggested to revert to our pre-Covid criteria and, in the meantime, collect more data to make an informed decision. A straw poll was taken, just to gauge how to best direct future discussions. Outcome:  
  1/23 support requiring ACT/SAT scores;  
  9/23 support looking at more data before making a decision;  
  13/23 support dropping ACT/SAT.

Important dates:

• Annual evaluations are due March 1.

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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