Dear Faculty Senate Members,

Weekly greetings from the Faculty Secretary!
Below are the Talking Points from the January 21, 2020 Faculty Senate Meeting.

Faculty Senate Talking Points: January 21, 2020

- Senate approved the revisions proposed by the Faculty Affairs Committee on FSH 3240 (and related changes in 1565 and 3120) concerning faculty office hours. The committee felt that office hours should be defined as regularly scheduled synchronous communication, consistent with contemporary concepts of online teaching and communication. Some aspects of the revised sections contained outdated language and had no flexibility to incorporate online office hours.

- The Provost gave an update on the on-going Program Prioritization process, which has the primary purpose to determine cost-effectiveness of programs. Another important assessment is mission essentiality. The committee will be using objective (data driven) measures to evaluate programs. Those programs identified for closure will have the opportunity to deliver a presentation and answer questions. The President will decide on the closure of programs, at which point a last appeal will be possible, again through a presentation and Q&A.

- A newly formed Research Working Group, chaired by Associate Vice President for Research Brad Ritts, will examine the University of Idaho’s steps to R1 status under the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. The group will deliver a report which outlines the best path to obtain R1 status for U of I.

Important dates:

- Deadline for all faculty and staff to provide confidential feedback about the performance of their administrators (provost, vice provosts, deans, chairs, directors, etc.) is 5:00pm, Friday, January 31. Feedback will be collected through an online survey. Follow this link to the Survey: Take the Survey

All Faculty Senate agendas (including attachments and supporting documents) and meeting minutes will be available on the new Senate webpage: https://www.uidaho.edu/governance

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