Faculty Senate Talking Points: January 28, 2020

- There was a brief update on the Online Educational Resources (OER) matter: Policy III.U, “Textbook and Instructional Material Affordability”, was adopted by the SBOE last Fall. Under this policy, every common-indexed core course (that is, listed across all institutions) must, by the academic year 2021-22, offer at least one section that uses only online instructional resources. From Zoom meetings with Jonathan Lashley, Associate Chief Academic Officer and the Board’s new Chief Academic Officer T.J. Bliss, it seems likely that SBOE will consider revising the policy before implementation. Important issues need to be considered when moving forward, such as textbook cost vs. academic freedom, and the instructor’s ownership of the course content. Faculty Senate Leadership will continue to update the Senate as this discussion evolves.

- So far, fifty people have returned the contract for either the Optional Retirement Incentive Program (ORIP) or the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP). The deadline is about a week away.

- By next week, more information is expected to be available about the on-going Academic Program Prioritization.

- Senate approved a number of proposals from the University Curriculum Committee. Details can be found in the meeting records, see link below.

  Important dates:

- The first University Faculty Meeting of the Spring semester will be on Wednesday, February 26, 2:30pm PT. More information is to come. Save the date!

- One more reminder that all faculty and staff are invited to provide confidential feedback about the performance of their administrators. 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!