

Faculty Senate Talking Points, January 16, 2024, Meeting #17

- **Optional Retirement Plan (ORP).** Brandi Terwilliger, Director of Human Resources, provided a brief background on the upcoming (December 2024) change from TIAA-CREF to Fidelity as the sole vendor for ORP. This was a state-wide decision from SBOE. See FAQ at <https://boardofed.idaho.gov/resources/optional-retirement-plan-transition-to-fidelity-as-sole-retirement-plan-provider/>
- **SUCCESS.** It's a task force charged by the President with identifying three initiatives with the objective of increasing our current six-year graduation rate of 61% to 77% (the average for R1 universities). The President's charge focuses on instruction and curriculum based initiatives for which there is evidence of success. Campus-wide feedback will be collected. The team is especially interested in success stories, namely, what is being done in departments/units that has been effective in increasing graduation rates. This way, they can identify existing U of I strengths to build on. (Point Persons: Daniel Eveleth, Erin Chapman.)
- **Vandal Gateway Program (VGP) update.** The team (Annette Folwell, Program Coordinator Brian Dulin, and Sean Quinlan) presented an update on VGP. They compared available data for the AY 2023-24 cohort with those from AY 2022-23. They are pleased with the success of the program (e.g. improvement in academic standing). The presentation is attached to the minutes of this meeting.

Important dates and announcements:

- The next faculty gathering is hosted by CBE in the Albertson Atrium, January 24, 2024, 4:30 – 6:30pm. Please RSVP at <https://www.uidaho.edu/provost/faculty-gathering>
- Check out the Daily Register for interesting events coming up, such as: <https://www.kenworthy.org/events-calendar/backcountry-film-festival-2/> and <https://www.uidaho.edu/cogs/resources/workshops> (particularly the CIRTLL workshop series)

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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