

University of Idaho
2019 – 2020 Faculty Senate



Talking Points: Meeting # 3
Tuesday, September 3, 2019, 3:30 pmFS
Paul Joyce Faculty- Staff Lounge & Zoom

Talking Points:

- President Green and Provost Wiencek are assembling Working Groups. One of the them is the Sustainable Financial Model Working Group, whose membership will be made known shortly.
- Provost Wiencek (PI), Jerry McMurtry, and Yolanda Bisbee wrote a grant which has been funded by the NSF in the amount of 1M for 2 years (renewable). The funds will be utilized to attract and support Native American students who wish to pursue a Ph.D. in a STEM discipline.
- The new Faculty Senate website is now functioning! <https://www.uidaho.edu/governance>
- The Student Evaluation System is in the process of being restructured. Contact Professor Dale Pietrzak (dalepietrzak@uidaho.edu) for detailed information. Professor Pietrzak is Director of Institutional Effectiveness & Accreditation and the NWCCU Accreditation Liaison Officer.

Important Dates:

- September 13, 5:00 p.m. PDT: Award for Excellence Nominations are due.

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!

University of Idaho
2019 – 2020 Faculty Senate

Talking Points: Meeting # 4
Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 3:30 pm
Paul Joyce Faculty- Staff Lounge & Zoom

Talking Points:

- The Sustainable Financial Working Group membership has been announced last week by the President’s Office. They are expecting to begin their work in October. Other future working groups include Sustainable Athletics Model, Enrollment Management, Student Experience, ICCU Arena, CAFÉ, and Online Education.
- The recommendation by the Benefit Advisory Group (BAG) to eliminate coverage for “Other Eligible Adults” (OEA) is in conflict with FSH 3705. Adopting the current plan as recommended by BAG will require repealing FSH 3705. Retaining coverage for OEA will result in significant additional costs for everyone. The open enrollment period is between October 21 and November 1. The Senate is engaging in discussions with Vice President Brian Foisy, who will provide detailed information. Based on those discussions, the Senate will decide how to proceed and potentially go to a vote within the next 2 weeks.
- Vice Provost Hendricks gave a summary of the SBOE request for choosing peer (benchmark) institutions for the purpose of tracking our graduation and retention rates. SBOE sent a list of institutions and their methodology and asked the Senate for feedback to be provided by October 23rd. The task is to identify 10 peer (benchmark) institutions and 3 “aspirational” institutions.

Important Dates:

- First Fall University Faculty Meeting: September 18, 2019, 2:30 p.m.—4:00 p.m., International Ballroom, Bruce Pitman Center.
- “Take back the night”, hosted by the Women Center, September 19, 2019. The rally begins at 7:30 p.m., Ag Sci Auditorium.

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!

University of Idaho

2019 – 2020 Faculty Senate

Talking Points Meeting # 5

Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 3:30 pm

Paul Joyce Faculty- Staff Lounge & Zoom

Faculty Senate Talking Points:

- At the Senate meeting of 09/17/2019, more information was provided by VP Brian Foisy concerning the issue of coverage for Other Eligible Adults (OEA). Prior to the meeting, a spreadsheet had been distributed to the Senators to disseminate widely among their colleges and units. The Senate will vote on Tuesday 09/24/2019 on whether to retain or repeal FSH 3705.
- The current vote from Staff Council on the OEA matter is as follows: 12 to keep OEA, 10 to repeal OEA, and 1 abstention.
- Executive Special Assistant to the President Chandra Zenner Ford gave an overview on the present status of the Working Groups. In particular, Chandra Ford said that the Sustainable Financial Model (SFM) is separate from the current budget situation. The Group will work on a higher-level model to improve the way the institution will do business in the future. The nomination process for some of the Working Groups is not yet closed.

Important Dates/Events:

- “Banned Books Week”, September 22-28, 2019, is an annual event to celebrate the freedom to read. Get involved, it’s fun!

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!

University of Idaho

2019 – 2020 Faculty Senate

Talking Points Meeting # 6

Tuesday, September 24, 2019 at 3:30 pm

Paul Joyce Faculty- Staff Lounge & Zoom

Faculty Senate Talking Points:

- The EDL offers training sessions for search committees. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
https://webpages.uidaho.edu/PDL-Training/Search_Committee/content/index.html/
- September is Katy Benoit Campus Safety Awareness Month.
<https://www.uidaho.edu/events/safety-month>
- After comments from VP Brian Foisy and additional discussion, Faculty Senate proceeded to vote on the motion to repeal FSH 3705. The votes were as follows:

 YES (FSH 3705 removed from FSH, OEA coverage not offered, no additional costs for covering OEAs): 1
 NO (FSH 3705 stays in FSH; OEA coverage will be offered, approximate additional annual costs between \$38 and \$108): 18
 ABSTENTIONS: 4
- In view of the vote, HR is requested to update the 2020 Health Care plan to include OEA coverage.

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!

University of Idaho**2019 – 2020 Faculty Senate****Talking Points Meeting # 7**

Tuesday, October 1st, 2019 at 3:30 pm

Paul Joyce Faculty- Staff Lounge & Zoom

Faculty Senate Talking Points:

- Changes to health insurance are coming, including increased costs and changes in benefits, see email sent from HR on September 4, 2019. Open enrollment will take place between October 21 and November 5, 2019. Staff Council and Faculty Senate Leadership are in communication with HR regarding an open forum prior to the start of open enrollment. An important issue is UI moving to a state-funded insurance plan.
- A concern among the faculty is that the university administration is growing more rapidly than the colleges. The Provost presented an analysis to address such concern. Read more on the Meetings page of the Faculty Senate website (see link below).
- The University Policy and Compliance Coordinator is a newly created position held by Diane Whitney. Read more about Diane's role in the shared governance process.

Important Dates:

- Members of ASUI, Faculty Senate, Staff Council, GPSA and the Student Bar Association are invited and encouraged to join us for an important meeting with Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, President of the NWCCU, on Oct. 24 from 11:00-12:30pm, in the Panorama Room, Commons/ISUB building.
- Office of Technology Transfer discusses "Intellectual Property Basics for Academics" at noon on Thurs. Oct. 3rd, in IRIC Atrium. Note that FSH 5300 covers Copyrights, Protectable Discoveries and other intellectual property rights.
 - Link: https://www.uidaho.edu/news/news-articles/faculty-staff-news/2019-september/092619-lunchandlearn?utm_source=University+of+Idaho&utm_campaign=b796dea2b1-daily_register_042219_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_18a9cb4835-b796dea2b1-77923641
- The Athena Mentorship Program is now accepting applications for mentors and mentees for the 2020 cohort. This program, sponsored by the president's office, promotes the professional growth of female staff and faculty working at U of I. Applications are due by Friday, Oct. 11.
 - Link: https://www.uidaho.edu/diversity/edu/womens-center/athena/mentorship?utm_source=University+of+Idaho&utm_campaign=1c8848535d-daily_register_042219_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_18a9cb4835-1c8848535d-86347341&utm_source=University+of+Idaho&utm_campaign=4dee7363a7-daily_register_042219_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_18a9cb4835-4dee7363a7-77923641

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!

University of Idaho

2019 – 2020 Faculty Senate

Talking Points Meeting # 8

Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 3:30 pm

Paul Joyce Faculty- Staff Lounge & Zoom

Faculty Senate Talking Points:

- Substantial revisions to the Tenure & Promotion policy from the Faculty Affairs Committee are approaching their final version. Representative(s) of the Faculty Affairs Committee and Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Torrey Lawrence will join the next Faculty Senate meeting (Tuesday, October 15, 2019, 3:30 pm) for a preliminary discussion.
- A selection of vendors to manage the UI bookstore is in progress. The possibilities are: 1) Barnes & Noble; 2) Texas Book Company (books only); 3) Follett Corporation; 4) continue to have Auxiliary Services manage the bookstore. Senator Alistair Smith volunteered to be the Faculty Senator representative on the Bookstore Vendor Committee.
- The General Education Steering Committee (GESC) is working on ways to realize our goals of integrative and inclusive education. The Committee invites colleagues to participate in three subcommittees: (1) curriculum and pedagogy, (2) communications and (3) creating a sustainable budget model. If you would like to be considered for one of these committees, contact Dean Panttaja or the Faculty Senator from your college no later than Friday, Oct. 25. To learn more about GESC's work, visit the General Education website.

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!



Faculty Senate Talking Points: October 15, 2019

The majority of the October 15 Senate Meeting was devoted to a preliminary discussion about the extensive revisions on the current Promotion & Tenure policy. Torrey Lawrence, Vice Provost for Faculty, presented the new policy and took questions from the Senators. The latest version of the document will be distributed broadly in a few days. You can submit questions and comments through the [P&T Policy Feedback Form](#).

This is an important policy for all of us, whether we are P&T candidates or P&T committee members. Be sure to get involved and provide feedback!

Important dates:

- [Homecoming events this weekend](#).
- Benefits Open Forum – Tuesday, Oct 22, 1:00 pm @ ISUB Summit Rooms (Zoom available).
- NWCCU president will meet with campus on Thursday, Oct 24, 11:00 am @ ISUB Horizon Room (Zoom available).
- University Leadership Weekend: Thursday, Oct 31 – Saturday, Nov 2.
- Sabbatical applications are due Oct 31; however, pay attention to college deadlines that are likely before Oct 31.

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>

Attached is the PDF

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

Faculty Senate Talking Points: October 22, 2019

- Faculty Senate engaged in a discussion with Vice President Dan Ewart (Information Technology) and Director Brian Cox (Customer Experience and Engagement) about information technology on campus. Some senators expressed concerns on behalf of their colleges that the IT needs of researchers are not well served by the current IT standards. The conversation is ongoing and will be revisited in the Spring. (Read more in the upcoming minutes.)
- The State Board of Education (SBOE) will add Program Prioritization in the Academic Section of the SBOE policy. (It already existed in the Financial Section.) The process of university-wide program evaluation and rankings will be required at least once every 5 years.
- Enrollment figures are in. There will be a press release shortly. Overall, enrollment has remained flat.
- Based on recent communications of the President with his leadership team about the budget challenges, the Provost will meet with Faculty Senate Leadership soon. This is part of a joint effort (including the Provost's office, the Deans, Faculty Senate, and Staff Council) to develop appropriate actions.

Important dates:

- Sonny Ramaswamy, President of the NWCCU, will host an open forum on Thursday, Oct. 24th, 10:30-12:00 ISUB Horizon. (Note the change of time from 11AM to 10:30AM.)
- Tommy Orange, author of "There There", the 2019 UI Common Read, will be on campus Nov. 5th, 7pm, International Ballroom.

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!

Faculty Senate Talking Points: November 5, 2019

- The Senators engaged in a discussion with President Green, Provost Wiencek, Senate Chair Grieb, and Staff Council Chair Neilson about budget and finance planning. A “flow chart” of the planned process was presented. Some committees are charged by Senate and others by the Administration. The tasks of the various groups include identifying, ranking, and implementing policy-complying tools and strategies to address the current budget shortfall. The President is committed to a transparent and collaborative process to balance the budget and move us towards a long-term sustainable financial model. (More information on the discussion and supporting material will be available in the Faculty Senate meeting minutes.)
- The Committee on Committees Appointment Survey went live on November 4, 2019. Vice-Chair Kirchmeier encouraged everyone to participate in this important part of the shared-governance process. Please note: if you fill and return the survey, you are making a commitment to serve on a committee. The appointments will be announced in late Spring semester.

Important dates:

- The budget open forum is scheduled for 3pm Thursday, Nov. 7th in the International Ballroom of the Pitman Center. Please note new location due to temporary closure of the ISUB. (Note: ISUB and TLC remain closed until further notice due to flooding in the basement. Updates on the status of re-opening and interim rescheduling are available at the ISUB updates [website](#).)

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!



Faculty Senate Talking Points: November 12, 2019

- Some updates were provided (T. Grieb, J. Wiencek) on the work-in-progress of the Policy Review Group and the structure and membership of the other budget committees. The Tools Ranking Taskforce will soon begin to schedule their meetings. IPEC will consist of two “subcommittees”, to be involved with academic and non-academic areas, respectively. The Sustainable Financial Model Working Group is charged with recommending a long-term model to allocate resources on an annual basis. A brief discussion followed. The concerns raised by some Senators included: the timeline for the process to unfold; the risk that, in a tendency towards managerial style, the university may lose its values and character as an institution of higher education.
- Most of the meeting was devoted to an in-depth discussion of the proposed revisions to the Tenure and Promotion policy. Vice Provost for Faculty Torrey Lawrence and Chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) Alexandra Teague led the discussion. There have been further revisions to the policy since the last discussion at the October 14 Senate meeting. Changes were based on feedback from Senate, FAC, and university counsel. Feedback was also gathered from all faculty by sending a link to an online survey (October 18-25). The discussion at the November 12 Senate meeting covered up to Section F, and will continue next Tuesday, November 19. The Faculty Senate is scheduled to vote on the proposal on November 19th.
- Jeannie Matheison (Director, Sustainability Center) delivered a presentation on solar energy initiatives. As an institution, we have made commitments to sustainability and to achieve a carbon neutral footprint by 2030. The current UI Solar Initiative is in the fundraising stage. More information can be found at the UI Solar Initiative crowdfunding website at: <https://uandigive.uidaho.edu/project/16664>

Important dates:

- The next **University Faculty Meeting will be on Wednesday, December 11, 2019**, 2:30pm-4:00pm (Pacific Time), International Ballroom, Pitman Center (and Zoom). Save the date!

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!

Faculty Senate Talking Points: November 19, 2019

- The discussion of the proposed restructuring of the Tenure and Promotion policy continued from the previous Senate meeting. Vice Provost for Faculty Torrey Lawrence and Chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) Alexandra Teague were present and available to address questions and comments. The Senators voted to approve the new policies **FSH 3500** and **FSH 3510**, delete policies **FSH 3520**, **FHS 3560**, **FSH 3570**, and approve the proposed revisions on **FSH 3530**.
- Provost Wiencek delivered an update on the Institutional Planning and Effectiveness Committee ([IPEC](#)). Provost Wiencek provided some background on IPEC, its role, and its previous activities. Questions from the Senators centered around participation of faculty in IPEC and how to learn from the past to improve the current process.
- University Policy and Compliance Coordinator Diane Whitney presented a document intended to serve as a reference for groups working to identify solutions to the University of Idaho's budget shortfall. The document, "Budget-related Policy Report", can be found on the University Policy website.
- Senator A. Smith gave a short update on the Bookstore RFP Committee. It is not yet known which vendor (Barnes&Noble, Follett Corporation, or Texas Book Company) will be awarded the contract. Barnes&Noble's presentation was received more positively, although none of the three vendors focused on what faculty would like to see in a bookstore.

Important dates:

- The next University Faculty Meeting will be on Wednesday, December 11, 2019, 2:30pm-4:00pm (Pacific Time), International Ballroom, Pitman Center (and Zoom). *Save the date!*

All Faculty Senate agendas (including attachments and supporting documents) and meeting minutes will be available on the new Senate [webpage](#).

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



Faculty Senate Talking Points: December 3, 2019

- The evaluation process for faculty and staff is beginning, see FSH 3320 and 3340. Details for faculty are provided on the Provost's [webpage](#) and for staff on the Human Resources [website](#).
- There has been significant interest in the on-going Voluntary Separation and Optional Retirement Incentive Programs.
- The Institutional Planning and Effectiveness Committee has begun their work on program prioritization.
- Senator A. Smith gave an update on the activities of the Tools Ranking Task Force. The group met before the Fall break and will meet again this week. They looked at a large number of suggestions to reduce the budget deficit received by the President's Office, about 138 unique ones, which they regrouped into "most favorable" to "least favorable" categories. More to come.
- Vice President B. Foisy gave a presentation about three major outsourcing initiatives: 1) Bookstore RFP, 2) Facility Service Department, and 3) Utility Operations. Some of the discussion addressed the impact that outsourcing may have on the employees of a smaller community such as UI.
- There was some discussion about voluntary furloughs. Some questions were raised about the possibility of mandatory furlough. B. Foisy said that President Green is not interested in imposing furloughs.

Important dates:

- The next University Faculty Meeting will be on Wednesday, December 11, 2019, 2:30pm-4:00pm (Pacific Time), International Ballroom, Pitman Center (and Zoom). *Save the date!*
- December Commencement: Saturday, Dec 14. Line-up at 11:30am, procession starts at 12:30 pm.

All Faculty Senate agendas (including attachments and supporting documents) and meeting minutes will be available on the new Senate [webpage](#).

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



Dear Faculty Senate Members and Guests,

Weekly (and season) greetings from the Faculty Secretary!

Below are the Talking Points from the December 10, 2019 Faculty Senate Meeting.

Faculty Senate Talking Points: December 10, 2019

- 61 applications for the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP) and 93 for the Optional Retirement Incentive Program (ORIP) have been received (as of 12/10/19). Next week, letters with offers will go out to those employees. They will then have 45 days to consider the offer. By federal guidelines, employees older than 40 years of age will have an additional 7 days to consider the offer.
- Senator A. Smith gave an update on the activities of the Tools Ranking Task Force. The report has been reviewed by the Policy Coordinator and will be posted on the Senate website shortly. The community feedback portal (accessible through the Office of the President website) for providing budget-related suggestions will remain open until January 1, 2020.
- The importance of a resolution from Senate of our commitment to diversity was reiterated. These conversations will continue in the Spring, together with representatives/leaders of various offices on campus (Equity and Diversity, CAMP, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the LBGTQA Office, the Women's Center, UBUNTU, and the Ombud's Office).
- In October the SBOE mandated that institutions of higher education develop and/or adopt Online Educational Resources (OER) for common-indexed courses, see SBOE website at <https://boardofed.idaho.gov/board-policies-rules/board-policies/higher-education-affairs-section-iii/iii-u-textbook-and-instructional-material-affordability/>

This is an important issue involving academic freedom, which Senate will continue to discuss in the Spring semester. Senate Leadership teams from higher education institutions in the state are planning a Senate Leadership Summit next semester to discuss this matter (and other topics of common interest).
- In closing the Fall semester series of Senate meetings, Chair Grieb extended thanks and holiday wishes to all senators, committee members, and guest speakers.
- Special thanks to the faculty who participated in the December 14 Commencement.

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!



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!



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!



Faculty Senate Talking Points: February 4, 2020

- Encouraging news on the Open Educational Resources (OER) matter, Policy III.U. After productive communications with the Board's new Chief Academic Officer, T.J. Bliss, SBOE recognized the importance of academic freedom and that the current policy may have been too strong. The chair of the IRSA (Instruction, Research, and Student Affairs) committee, Dr. Clark, and T.J. Bliss discussed best practices for OER. The Provost, who was part of the IRSA meeting, confirmed that Jonathan Lashley and T.J. Bliss have the necessary experience to communicate effectively with the Board.
- Update on Dean searches: The interview process is completed for CLASS. A comparable internal search is taking place for CNR. The search committee for Arts and Architecture will be inviting finalists to campus soon. The search has begun in the College of Law, but candidates will be brought to campus in the Fall.
- Dean Kahler, Vice Provost for Strategic Enrollment Management, and Chris Cook (Director of Career Services) presented the Vandal Gateway Program (VGP). The intent is to increase the number of students at U of I who would not be admitted under ordinary circumstances. Although everyone understands and agrees with the importance of growing enrollment as well as greater access to higher education, a number of serious concerns were raised, including procedural issues which circumvented shared governance policies. Faculty Senate Leadership is in the process of assembling a taskforce to advise on future developments of VGP.

Important dates:

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

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!



Faculty Senate Talking Points: February 11, 2020

- Follow-up discussion and update on the Vandal Gateway Program (VGP). There was a general sense that the conversation from the previous Senate meeting was productive and helped us move forward in the best interest of students, faculty, and the university as a whole. While comments from Senators indicated their support of broader access to education, many aspects remain to be worked out (regarding admission requirements, curriculum, etc...) In the meantime, a “temporary emergency policy” to allow admission of the VGP students is being developed. The proposed policy will be a topic of discussion at the next Senate meeting.
- A number of policies from the University Curriculum Committee were discussed and approved by Senate. (Please see supporting documents included in the Senate Meeting #19 binder.)
- A Senator noted that Vandal Cards have no expiration date. A valid student ID card is accepted as proof of residence when registering to vote. Often times, students whose “permanent” address is elsewhere have no other way to prove that they live here. Thus, the point raised by the Senator is about facilitating the exercise of voting rights for our students.

Important dates:

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

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!



Faculty Senate Talking Points: February 18, 2020

- VSIP/ORIP final numbers are in. University: 112 agreements totaling \$8,446,431 in base salary (36 VSIP agreements + 76 ORIP agreements). Academic Affairs/EVP: 61 agreements (20 VSIP + 41 ORIP) totaling approx. \$4,559,796.
- Faculty and Staff awards will be united into a University Excellence Awards. This will provide a more unified experience between faculty and staff.
- The majority of the meeting was spent on further discussions on the Vandal Gateway Program (VGP). The Senate approved a resolution to support a Temporary Emergency Policy for admittance to VGP. The full resolution, as approved by Senate, is included below:

Title: Resolution on Temporary Emergency Policy for Admission to the Vandal Gateway Program

Author: University of Idaho Faculty Senate

WHEREAS The University of Idaho intends to enroll a pilot cohort for the Vandal Gateway Program (VGP) beginning in the Fall 2020 semester;

WHEREAS Students being accepted to the VGP do not meet the current standards for acceptance to the University of Idaho;

WHEREAS The University of Idaho wishes to admit students to this pilot VGP cohort without requiring a petition to the Admissions Committee as stated in the Faculty Staff Handbook and the Catalog;

WHEREAS It is deemed that the VGP has potential to improve access to higher education and to increase diversity in the student body.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO FACULTY SENATE SUPPORTS the implementation of a Temporary Emergency Policy by President Scott Green as allowed by FSH 1460 C-3 to allow qualifying students to be directly admitted to the Vandal Gateway Program until 100 students matriculate or June 30th, 2020, whichever comes first.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE FACULTY SENATE RECOMMENDS that, in conjunction with the implementation of the pilot cohort of the VGP, the administration work with the faculty to define the areas of accountability, the tools to assess the program, and the reporting mechanism for the assessments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE FACULTY SENATE RECOMMENDS that SEM work in conjunction with faculty and administrators from the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Science and the College of Science to develop an academic curriculum and a program of support for students admitted to the pilot cohort of the VGP.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE FACULTY SENATE SUPPORTS efforts to provide VGP qualified students with a program that provides reasonable support to help them succeed at the University of Idaho in a way that also recognizes the serious budget challenges facing the university.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE FACULTY SENATE REQUESTS a report later in the Spring 2020 semester, and in each subsequent semester thereafter for this cohort, regarding matriculation rates, program budgets, curriculum, and other performance metrics for the VGP.

Important dates:

- The first University Faculty Meeting of the Spring semester will be on Wednesday, February 26, 2:30pm PT, in the Pitman Center, International Ballroom.

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!



University of Idaho
Faculty Secretary

Faculty Senate Talking Points: February 25, 2020

- The Senate resolution to support a Temporary Emergency Policy regarding the Vandal Gateway Program (VGP) admittance was communicated to the President, who expressed gratitude for the Senate's help in properly implementing the VGP. We anticipate that this policy will be enacted shortly.
- The Chair of the Academic Program Prioritization Taskforce (APPT), Rachel Halverson, delivered a presentation on the current status of the APPT work. The presentation was followed by a lively discussion, with Senators expressing support or disagreement with the APPT methodology. Discussion included the importance of understanding the entire program prioritization process, which adopts both quantitative and qualitative measures for reviewing programs. The report from the APPT chair will be included in the minutes of this meeting.

Important dates:

- 2020 Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival dates: February 28-29, 2020.

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!



Faculty Senate Talking Points: March 3, 2020:

- An update on the Infectious Disease Response Team was given by Vice Provost Torrey Lawrence. Dean of Students Blaine Eckles has taken the lead and has put together six subgroups who are planning for different scenarios. There is no real emergency at this time.
- With regard to the Academic Program Prioritization, we are getting close to the final plan to be implemented. Academic Affairs is finalizing the plan to meet their targeted budget cuts. More information will follow.
- The majority of the meeting was dedicated to presentations and discussions on Library issues. Ben Hunter (Dean of Library) and Marco Seiferle-Valencia (Open Education Librarian) spoke on “Library budget and resources” and “Open Education Resources”, respectively. Presentation slides can be found in the binder for this Senate meeting. See also <https://tinyurl.com/UoflOER>.

Important dates:

- Sabbatical applications for the 2021-2022 academic year are due March 31st. Completed applications must be submitted to provost@uidaho.edu

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!



Faculty Senate Talking Points: March 10, 2020:

- For this week, campus operations will proceed normally. On Monday and Tuesday after Spring Break, all classes must be offered online only, as a “test run”. On Thursday March 19th, a communication will go out to inform whether the online mode will continue past the 24th. CETL is offering additional training online. ITS is making sure their system is ready for increased traffic and working to support students who do not have access to technology at home.

Useful information on available resources:

CETL is available for 1:1 and departmental prep sessions-- call or email Brian Smentkowski, Director of CETL, to set up a prep session, bsmentkowski@uidaho.edu or cetl@uidaho.edu
Workshops and Resources available for teaching online during university closures:

[CETL Home Page](#) (WHAT'S NEW)

[Workshops](#) for Online

[Zoom for Teaching & Office Hours \[Part 1\] \[Part 2\] \[Slides\]](#), by Cassidy Hall

[Moving Online in a Hurry?](#), by Doug Habib

[Tools](#) for Online - Teaching Online During University Closures (PDF)

[ZOOM](#) for Online

[Zoom for Teaching & Office Hours \[Part 1\] \[Part 2\] \[Slides\]](#), by Cassidy Hall

[COVID-19 Info](#)

- We are ready for the transition to CampusLabs, the new software for course evaluations. This is just a change in how the data are collected, not in the substance of the actual evaluation process. The old system is not sustainable.
- Russ Meeuf gave a report from the Facilities Outsourcing Committee Report. The discussion covered a broad spectrum of opinions with regard to the pros and cons of outsourcing as a money-saving strategy.

Important dates:

- Sabbatical applications for the 2021-2022 academic year are due March 31st. Completed applications must be submitted to provost@uidaho.edu

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!



University of Idaho

Faculty Secretary

Faculty Senate Talking Points: March 24, 2020:

- Everyone is encouraged to share problems/concerns (for instance, faculty challenges in delivering classes, advising, and carrying out their other duties) with a member of Faculty Staff Leadership. One member of FSL will attend the COVID-19 daily response calls and can transmit those concerns.
- President Green, Provost Wiencek, and Mr. Nelson elucidated the rationale and the scope of COVID-19 Virus Emergency Response Policy, FSH 6990. Its main purpose is to allow some latitude for the administration to act quickly in response to COVID-19. It cannot overwrite Regents' policy and it is not an expansion of the President's power beyond the scope of FSH 1460 C-3. Transparent communication with faculty, staff, and students will continue.
- To increase flexibility in this challenging situation, discussions are currently going on about moving to a P/F grading option and extending the deadline for a student to withdraw from a course.
- A budget update was provided by Vice President Brian Foisy and Budget Director Trina Mahoney.

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!



University of Idaho
Faculty Secretary

Faculty Senate Talking Points: March 31, 2020:

- This meeting was spent in conversations and Q&A with President Green and Provost Wienczek on a variety of issues mostly related to the budget and academic affairs. We encourage everyone to look up the meeting records for a detailed account.
- Faculty Senate Leadership would like to acknowledge the hard work, flexibility, and community spirit that everyone has demonstrated under these difficult circumstances.
- From Erin Chapman and Brian Smentkowski: **CETL** and the transdisciplinary online teaching and learning support group are harvesting strategies and "what's working/what's not and what I can do" plans from all colleges to further support teaching and learning in these times....” Also, keep an eye out for upcoming 30 minute zoom sessions--these are timely, tailored, super popular and effective. The official titles/dates/times for the following are in development. Tentative workshop titles/topics include the following:
 - "I'm afraid my students will cheat!": Here's what you can do
 - "Labs, Studios, and Fieldwork: Creative solutions that work" --UI faculty from vastly different disciplines share transferable strategies
 - "How's It Going?: Faculty and student perspectives

Visit <https://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/cetl/teaching-online.asp> for more information. Thank you, Erin and Brian!

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!



University of Idaho

Faculty Secretary

Faculty Senate Talking Points: April 7, 2020:

- We wish Provost Wiencek all the best for his future endeavors at the University of Akron!
- A reminder to fill out the COVID-19 timesheets. This will help the university with emergency federal funds. From Vandalweb, choose: Employees→Payroll→Webtime Entry/Supervisor Approval. Then click on “time sheet” and pick “COVID-19 Telework”. Click on a day within the appropriate pay period and enter the desired number of hours in the little box at the top of the page. Save and submit. The procedure is the same as the one to request furlough.
- Senate considered and approved a number of proposed revisions to FSH policies and the Catalog, including FSH 1640.89-90 (join the UCGE and GEAC committees), and FSH 1540 A-1 (allow any eligible member to participate remotely with vote at university faculty meetings).
- Brian Smentkowski (CETL) spoke to Senate about Online Delivery. He presented data on recent usage of Zoom and BbLearn, and results of faculty surveys on teaching challenges and strategies. CETL is impressed by how faculty and students are working together to find the best path forward.

Important dates:

- For those colleges who need to elect new Senate representatives: results of the elections must be communicated to Senate Leadership by April 21st.
- Next University Faculty Meeting: May 6th, 2020. More information will follow.

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!



University of Idaho
Faculty Secretary

Faculty Senate Talking Points: April 14, 2020:

- The report from the Academic Program Prioritization Taskforce was approved by the Institutional Planning and Effectiveness Committee and is presently with the President.
- Two new COVID-19 emergency policies are about to be published. They concern: 1) extension of Promotion and Tenure timelines, which is not automatic but can be requested); and 2) course evaluations for Spring and Summer 2020. Faculty will have the option to have their Spring 2020 and Summer 2020 course evaluations erased from their records.
- COVID-19 update: The President's current plan is to reopen the university in the Fall, pending changes in state/federal orders.
- Senate considered and approved/amended a number of FSH policies and Catalog items.

Important dates:

- A reminder that the results of Senate 2020-21 elections must be communicated to Senate Leadership by Tuesday, April 21st.
- Next University Faculty Meeting: May 6th, 2020. More information will follow.

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!



University of Idaho

Faculty Secretary

Faculty Senate Talking Points: April 21, 2020:

- The CARE Act will provide about \$7M in federal funds, based on enrollment. One-half is intended only for students and will be administered through the Financial Aid office. The other half will go to the University as cost-recovery for COVID-19 expenses, although our expenses far exceed that amount. Most likely, the majority will go for housing and food refunds to students. More updates will come later.
- Promotion & Tenure (P&T) extension: the extension of the P&T timeline was approved yesterday by the President. This Emergency Policy provides opportunity for faculty to apply if they wish. P&T training will be offered *via* Zoom. The audience is everyone involved in the P&T process (faculty, administrators, staff), and training will cover the new P&T policy. We will offer the training twice, but the presentations will be recorded for those who are unable to attend.
- Long-term COVID-19 response: we are going to be online in the Summer. In the Fall, the plan is to be open as usual while we continue working with public health officials. At the moment, no decisions are final. We will continue to monitor, be safe, and prudent. We will be ready for quick changes if necessary and have contingency plans in place.
- Budget update: besides the cuts for fiscal year 2021, more cuts are coming from the state. With COVID-19, we suffered lost revenue, additional expenses, anticipated drop in Fall enrollment, and more. The recent memo from President Green has informed everyone about a state-wide hiring moratorium. To those people who have offered help, the suggestion is to work with their colleges. The most critical item is enrollment. Everyone is asked to do anything they can, such as a calling or writing notes to prospective students.
- Senate considered and approved/amended a number of FSH policies and Catalog items.

Important dates:

- The input requested by President Green from Faculty Senate and Staff Council on the recommendation regarding outsourcing of facilities is due on April 23rd, by noon.
- Next University Faculty Meeting: May 6th, 2020, 2:30-4:00 pm (PT), Zoom only. More information will follow.

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!



University of Idaho
Faculty Secretary

Faculty Senate Talking Points, April 28, 2020:

- Welcome to the new members of the 2020-21 Faculty Senate! They are: Jerry Fairley (COS), Amin Ahmadzadeh (CALs), Dan Hickman (CBE), Elizabeth Wargo (CDA Center), Kelly Quinnett (CLASS), Robert Rinker (COE); Deb McIntosh (LAW), Teresa Cohn (CNR).
- Faculty Senate expressed gratitude and best wishes to Provost Wiencek, who attended his last U of I Senate meeting.
- COVID-19 update and Fall reopening: The Governor has published a 4-stage plan to reopen Idaho businesses, called “Idaho Rebounds”. We are developing our own plans based on those stages. More should be known by the end of the week.
- An update on the CARE Act will probably be available next week. We hope to be able to get those funds to the students soon.
- This semester the planned combined award ceremony for staff and faculty will not take place due to COVID-19. However, a great website has been developed with information, pictures, and acknowledgments about the awards (visit: <https://www.uidaho.edu/governance/faculty-staff/University-awards>).
- Provost Wiencek, speaking as the chair of the Institutional Planning and Effectiveness Committee (IPEC), summarized the work completed by the Academic Program Prioritization Taskforce (APPT). Rachel Halverson (Chair of APPT) was available to address questions. More information can be found in the document attached to this meeting’s binder.
- Nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the 2020-2021 Faculty Senate were collected. Elections will be conducted on Tuesday, May 5th, 2020.

Important dates:

- Next University Faculty Meeting: May 6th, 2020, 2:30-4:00 pm (PT), Zoom only. More information will follow.

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!



Faculty Senate Talking Points, May 5, 2020:

- Thanks again to the retiring senators for their diligent service: Alan Caplan (CALs), who served two terms; Ann Kern (CDA); Joe DeAngelis (CLASS); Barb Cosens (LAW); Alistair Smith (CNR); Krishnan Raja (COE); and Clinton Jeffery (COE). Thanks also to Jerry Fairley (COS) and Ben Bridges (Staff Council) who are completing their terms and retuning in the fall for new terms. In addition, thank you to Dean Marc Chopin who has served as the Dean's representative for the last two years. And of course, to Terry Grieb for his 3 years of service at the Senate and great leadership during this past year.
- Part of the last 2019-20 Senate meeting was spent on a conversation with President Scott Green, Vice President of Finance Brian Foisy, and Executive Special Assistant Chandra Zenner Ford about the work done by the Sustainable Financial Model Working Group (SFMWG). The April 2020 White Paper by the SFMWG can be found in the binder of Senate meeting #30.
- Update on COVID-19 response and Fall reopening by Provost Lawrence: The University will basically follow the Governor's four-stage Idaho plan. We are now in Stage 1. We continue to work from home and teach classes online, while staying in close touch with Public Health and the State Board of Education. We will follow up with regular campus-wide communications. We are assessing classroom technology capabilities and faculty technology needs. ITS is being a great partner in these efforts. CETL offers summer opportunities and support to faculty who need help with their class development. We are working through HR about personnel processes. We hope to have soon more definite information on Fall class schedules and options for faculty and students.
- Elections of the 2020-21 Senate Officers: Barb Kirchmeier (English) was elected Chair of the 2020-21 Senate and Russ Meeuf (JAMM) is the new Senate Vice-Chair. Congratulations to the 2020-21 Faculty Senate Officers!
- We wish everyone a safe and productive summer.

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!

