

### Faculty Senate Talking Points, September 5, 2023, Meeting #3

- Chair Gauthier opened the meeting with reflections on the importance of shared governance moving forward. Regarding University of Phoenix, he spoke about creating academic pathways with University of Phoenix including an invitation to John Woods, University of Phoenix Chief Academic Officer, to a next session of the Faculty Senate and sending feedback to the accreditation body. He and Vice Chair Haltinner reviewed the Senate priorities for this year, set at the August 17 retreat.
- Childcare availability was identified at the Senate retreat as an issue of concern. Dean of Students Blaine Eckles was at the meeting to provide insight and answer some questions. The UI Children's Center is at full capacity, with multiple waiting lists. They are hoping to double its size through a grant, with the President Green's approval. The DOS team is exploring several options, but there are no easy or quick solutions.
- Each week, the Provost will answer a couple of questions on the University of Phoenix acquisition. The Phoenix question page continues to be updated.
- Enrollment: As of last Friday, the enrollment was up by 2.2% compared to the same day last year – the 10<sup>th</sup> day benchmark. After the 10<sup>th</sup> day, things can change, mostly because of dual enrollment.
- There has been some increase in COVID cases lately. Rapid tests and masks are available at the ISUB, the Pitman Center, or the REC information desk. Efforts to offer COVID-19 boosters and flu vaccines are in progress.
- Erin James and Karen Humes presented an undergraduate certificate in sustainability developed by an initial interdisciplinary committee comprising of faculty. Last spring, UCC provided feedback on both the academic content and faculty jurisdiction issues, and the Working Group worked on revising the proposal *per* UCC recommendations. They seek official empowerment from Faculty Senate to propose and maintain the certificate's academic curriculum. Pursuant FSH 4120, the relevant units or colleges submit curricular proposals to UCC. But this is a university-wide program, not suitable to be housed in a single college.
- Common Read: The choice for 2023-24 was "The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier and More Creative," by Florence Williams. The keynote for the 2023-24 choice is October 17 in the International Ballroom. You can send suggestions for the 2024-25 Common Read to Dean Panttaja by September 30.

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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