

Faculty Senate Talking Points, January 30, 2024, Meeting #19

- **2024 MLK Jr. Art and Writing contest.** The deadline for (digital) submission is February 16, 2024, by 5pm. Please share with students in your departments or units. To commemorate the life, work and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., University of Idaho undergraduates, graduates and professional students enrolled for the 2024 spring semester are invited to create a written work or piece of art in any medium of their choice about equality and social, racial and ethnic justice. The contact person is Caitlin Cieslik-Miskimen, caitlinc@uidaho.edu . Visit <https://www.uidaho.edu/student-affairs/ubuntu/mlk-art-and-essay-contest>
- **Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) Transition to Fidelity.** Brandi Terwilliger responded to some of the questions about ORP. Rankings: Fidelity is a mutual fund company and does not hold reserves in a general account, so ratings are not applicable. Bitcoin: Fidelity made some announcements about making bitcoin investments available through retirement plans. This will not be an option for the ISBOE plans. Currently, the self-directed brokerage is limited to mutual funds and therefore bitcoin is not (and will not be) an option for this plan.
- **School of Health and Medical Professionals.** In the state of Idaho, there is shortage of medical professionals, poor health care, high suicide rate. We rank 50th in the country in the number of mental health professionals and health professionals. Faculty Senate approved a novel medical program to meet critical needs in the state. The school will be housed in the College of Graduate Studies. Read more: attachments #3-8 in the meeting #19 binder.
- **Enrollment.** 10th day enrollment was measured last week. It indicated an increase of 6.8% over the same time last spring. This percentage is likely to change and stabilize around 3-5% (increase).

The Talking Points are approved by Faculty Senate Leadership as an informal communication tool to engage constituents and get quick feedback on issues discussed at the Faculty Senate weekly meetings. 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

Check the [Faculty Senate website](#). Please send your questions, concerns, and feedback.