

## Faculty Senate Talking Points, September 1, 2020:

- Welcome to a new year of Senate activities! This is going to be a challenging year, but, with your help, we can move forward and continue to advocate for faculty, staff, and students.
- The option to exclude spring and summer teaching evaluations from any review process ends on September 15. Please remind your colleagues of this opportunity and upcoming deadline.
- Update on COVID-19 testing from Provost Lawrence: to date, we have completed 7,700 tests, with about 1.1% positive results. We are now in an interim phase before entering a phase of surveillance testing, which may start next week (more information to come). Please direct any questions to [covid19questions@uidaho.edu](mailto:covid19questions@uidaho.edu).
- David Lee-Painter, chair of the COVID-19 Advisory Committee, provided a brief update on the committee's progress. The committee is proceeding well and moving forward.
- Jan Johnson gave an update on the recent activities of the UBUNTU committee. They have been working on a diversity resolution with several groups and faculty. Soon, UBUNTU will bring the resolution before Senate for a vote. Interesting ideas were exchanged, such as working with the Sociology department to include in the curriculum classes on systemic racism.
- FSH 6990 Communicable Disease Emergency Response.  
Senate discussed this newly proposed policy. The purpose is to have a permanent policy to replace FSH 6990 COVID-19 Emergency Response, which is valid for 180 days and will expire on September 16, 2020. The discussion will continue next week.

### Important dates:

- The first University Faculty Meeting of the year will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, September 16 at 2:30pm. There will be a voting matter, so please encourage faculty in your colleges to attend and help us reach a quorum.

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, September 8, 2020:

- The option to exclude spring and summer teaching evaluations from any review process ends on September 15. Please remind your colleagues of this opportunity and fast-approaching deadline.
- Update on COVID-19 from Provost Lawrence: Surveillance testing has been moved up last week as a reaction to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in Whitman County. We have started testing wastewater for evidence of Corona virus. Results from last Friday showed noticeable amount of COVID-19 in two dorm areas. Students who live in those areas will be tested. Our isolation protocol continues to work well. As the situation evolves, updates will be provided on a weekly basis.
- David Lee-Painter, chair of the COVID-19 Advisory Committee, gave a brief update on the committee's progress. Please direct any questions to [davidlp@uidaho.edu](mailto:davidlp@uidaho.edu).
- FSH 6990 Communicable Disease Emergency Response: The discussion continued from the previous meeting. The Senators agreed on an amended version of the policy, which will be presented to the faculty for a vote at the first Fall faculty meeting. The purpose is to have a permanent policy to replace temporary FSH 6990 COVID-19 Emergency Response, which is about to expire.
- Senators are encouraged to use the "New Business" part of any future meeting to propose new ideas for later discussion. Let your Senator know if you have an issue which you like Senate to take on!

### Important dates:

- The first University Faculty Meeting of the year will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, September 16 at 2:30pm. There will be a voting matter (FSH 6990), so please encourage faculty in your colleges to attend and help us reach a quorum.

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**University of Idaho**  
Faculty Secretary

## Faculty Senate Talking Points, September 15, 2020:

- Update on COVID-19: Six hundred students from dorm areas where the wastewater revealed the presence of the Corona virus were tested, and 6 were found to be positive. To date, 8,500 tests have been performed, and the positive rate is still around 1.1%.
- The air quality situation is serious. Air filters are being clogged by the oily smoke. For the time being, we are back to online/virtual instruction. If you need to access a building, contact Campus Security at 885-2254. Watch out for updates.
- “Talks with Torrey” will restart on Thursday 9/24 at 11:30am, alternating between Thursday and Wednesday.
- Senate approved new FSH 1590 Unit Bylaws. The policy allows more uniformity across the various units, thus facilitating the process of developing and reviewing bylaws.
- Brian Smentkowski, CETL Director, visited Senate to celebrate faculty success. In Spring 2020 and Summer 2020, faculty have invested 13,338 and 15,120 faculty development hours, respectively.
- Suzi Ball, Vandal Gateway Coordinator, gave an overview on the current status of the program. There are presently 24 students, a smaller cohort than anticipated. An interesting discussion developed around possible next steps.
- **Important dates:**
  - The Women’s Center will partner with Violence Prevention Programs and other campus entities to host Take Back the Night—an event to spread awareness of interpersonal violence on campus and to show support for those affected by it—on Thursday, September 17.
  - The University Committee for General Education is seeking feedback on plans for using the six institutionally designated general education credits. Please contact your UCGE representative for more information and to provide feedback. <https://www.uidaho.edu/-/media/Uidaho-Responsive/Files/governance/committee-members/2020-2021/university-committee-for-general-education-20-21.pdf?la=en&hash=993BC2C13F2C80ED7AF6911F7C315DF004351CF0>
  - Three upcoming deadlines to keep in mind:
    - The Common Read Committee is soliciting titles for consideration for the next academic year. Send your suggestions to Dean Panttaja by Monday, Sept. 21.
    - Sabbatical applications are due on October 30.
    - Honorary degree nominations are due on November 16.

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**University of Idaho**  
Faculty Secretary

## Faculty Senate Talking Points, September 22, 2020:

- Update on COVID-19: Yesterday's email from President Green contained the latest information about COVID-19 testing. An increased rate of positive results was found among those who traveled for the holiday weekend. We will continue to be vigilant.
- University Ombuds Laura Smythe has published the annual report for the Ombuds Office for the 2020 Academic Year. [See the report.](#)
- "Talks with Torrey" starts Thursday 9/24 at 11:30am.
- Borah Symposium: The 2020 (virtual) Borah Foundation Symposium starts next week. The keynote speakers will be Beatrice Fihn and Kim Campbell. Beatrice Fihn is Executive Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. She will speak Monday, September 28, at 12:30. Link: <https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/97746088280>. Kim Campbell is the first and only female Prime Minister of Canada and has spent her career shattering barriers for women and speaking out on human rights and the impact of climate change. She will speak on Tuesday, September 29, at 7:00pm. The event will be recorded, besides being accessible through U of I Live and Zoom.
- ASUI proposal to make election day a university holiday: Savannah Stroebel and Sierra Brantz, ASUI Senate representatives, presented the ASUI proposal and its motivations. The main purpose is to give students more time to vote. Students will appreciate knowing that the university cares about their civic responsibilities. Some Senators, although generally supportive of the ASUI idea, suggested to explore other possibilities as well, such as voting mentoring, more advertising, or excused absences.
- Roundtable: What are faculty responsibilities in student recruiting? A lively discussion developed. Please see the minutes of Senate Meeting #6 (in the Binder you'll receive this Friday) for a detailed report of the discussion.

### Important dates:

- Two upcoming deadlines to keep in mind:
  - Sabbatical applications are due on October 30.
  - Honorary degree nominations are due on November 16.

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## Faculty Senate Talking Points, September 29, 2020:

- Update on COVID-19: We had two weeks of increased infection rate due to “hot spots” in the Greek system. Surveillance testing has increased significantly – about 1,200 tests were done this week. Anyone who received an invitation to participate in surveillance testing is strongly encouraged to participate.
- By Friday, we should know whether we return to in-person instruction or move online. In any case, there will be a communication this Friday.
- Homecoming is next week – largely virtual, with few in-person events following standard protocol. The focus will be on current students rather than alumni returning to campus.
- Spring schedule: There was a discussion about possible options to maximize safety. A survey to collect broad feedback will go out as soon as possible. A document explaining the available options will be attached to the email announcing the survey.
- Roundtable on employee and student morale. The purpose of the roundtable is to create a space where all voices are heard and ideas for improving morale can be proposed. Please see the minutes of Senate Meeting #7 (in the Binder you’ll receive this Friday) for a report of the discussion.
- Congratulations to our Chair Barb Kirchmeier! She received – for the second time – a state recognition as this year “Most Innovative Educator for Written Communication.”
- We need your help finding undergraduate students to fill open positions on our committees. Please send your nominations to Russ Meeuf as soon as possible.

### Important dates:

- Two upcoming deadlines to keep in mind:
  - Sabbatical applications are due on October 30.
  - Honorary degree nominations are due on November 16.

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## Faculty Senate Talking Points, October 6, 2020:

- Update on COVID-19: We continue to have some concerns about the Greek system, and several Greek Houses are in quarantine. All students will be tested. For the time being, the class delivery method is at the instructor's discretion.
- Spring schedule: The survey sent to staff, faculty, and students is closed. We received 2,913 responses (about 28-30% of the university population) and 7,000 comments. Starting the semester a week later and forgoing Spring Break was the least popular option, while most people are in favor of making no changes. The option of a late (April) Spring Break and classes fully online after that was a close second.
- Review of the R1 White Paper. There was a lively discussion with President Scott Green, Executive Special Assistant to the President Chandra Zenner Ford, and Interim Vice President for Research and Economic Development, Brad Ritts. The R1 Working Group visited Senate to receive reactions and feedback so they can best guide the next Vice President for Research and Economic Development, Chris Nomura.

### Important dates:

- While we are asking that you make every effort to get curriculum changes and program changes to the appropriate office as soon as possible, this year UCC has created some flexibility with their deadlines and is accepting materials through October 15. If you have questions, please reach out to UCC chair Jim Connors ([jconnors@uidaho.edu](mailto:jconnors@uidaho.edu)).
- Sabbatical applications are due on October 30.
- Honorary degree nominations are due on November 16.
- Deadline to request delay for promotion and/or tenure is March 14, 2021.

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## Faculty Senate Talking Points, October 13, 2020:

- Registrar Lindsey Brown, IT Vice President Dan Ewart, and Ubuntu Co-Chairs Kristin Haltinner and Jan Johnson visited Senate for a conversation on the use of preferred names vs. legal names for students. Already last year, a working group recommended to move forward, but it will take time and resources. Senate strongly recommends to start with BbLearn, which is the primary mode for faculty to engage with students.
- The Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) is considering proposing FSH changes to address course delivery issues which have come up during the pandemic. Rich Seamon, Chair of FAC, and the Faculty Secretary, ex-officio FAC member, initiated an input-gathering discussion with Senate.
- COVID-19 update: The news is generally good. Campus-wide testing showed a clear downward trend. Two weeks ago we ramped up testing and saw the rate go down last week and even further this week. Plans to return to original class formats will be definite once all the on-going comprehensive testing will be completed.
- The Palouse Literary Festival will be on Zoom this week. This festival is organized by MA and MFA graduate students in the department of English. This year's events include readings by MFA alum and award-winning author Joe Wilkins. Zoom link for all events: <https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/7242893322>
- Tuesday October 20, the 2020 Community Talk will be delivered by Common Read author Cristina Henriquez, who will be talking about her book, *The Book of Unknown Americans*. It's open to the public. [register in advance](#).

## Important dates:

- Sabbatical applications are due on October 30.
- Honorary degree nominations are due on November 16.
- Deadline to request delay for promotion and/or tenure is March 14, 2021.

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## Faculty Senate Talking Points, October 20, 2020:

- Faculty Senate Leadership, along with the Provost's Office and CETL are creating a questionnaire to gather information from everyone who is teaching this semester. The survey will help us all understand what teaching was like this Fall across campuses, disciplines, and formats. Please complete the survey to help us better understand your teaching experience this semester.
- COVID-19 update: There has been significant improvement over the last two weeks. Currently only one Greek House is in quarantine, from 14 a few weeks ago. Seven students are currently isolating in Targhee. We returned to original class formats today. With increased positivity rates in Southern Idaho and nationwide, we all need to be careful and continue to follow mask and distancing protocol.
- Director of General Education Dean Panttaja gave a brief overview on the State Board of Education "Idaho Online" program. The primary benefit of Idaho Online will be to increase access and affordability to postsecondary education in Idaho, particularly in remote and rural areas of the state. Idaho Online will support sharing of common resources, services, and practices to benefit all forms of postsecondary educational delivery across the state. It will include a platform for expanding the joint delivery of online teaching and learning across institutions by simplifying registration, cost, and credit transfer.
- Vice President of Finance and Administration Brian Foisy gave an update on the university financial status breaking down the GenEd budget into its components. Although, overall, we were able to build a surplus, we are still facing budget challenges for the next fiscal year.

### Important dates:

- Sabbatical applications are due on October 30.
- Honorary degree nominations are due on November 16.
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## Faculty Senate Talking Points, October 27, 2020:

- The Ubuntu committee presented a Resolution on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice. (The document can be found attached to the minutes of Senate Meeting #11.) The Senators voted unanimously to support the Ubuntu Resolution. Thanks to Jan Johnson and all who have contributed to this important effort!
- COVID-19 update: Last week testing showed 2.3% positive rate. No Greek Houses are presently on formal quarantine, from 14 a few weeks ago. The recent Governor's order has put Idaho back to stage 3, with exemptions for educational (and some other) activities. It is not yet clear how our events will be impacted.
- The VandalStar Team – Kristin McMullin, Cynthia Castro, Mary Oswald, Madison Domka, and Lisa Ormond – gave a presentation on various features of VandalStar. They reported positive student feedback for tools such as “My Success Network,” “Appointment scheduling,” and “Course Performance Feedback.” The Vandal Star Team is available and happy to help faculty.
- Director of General Education Dean Panttaja came back to Senate to address any follow-up questions from his last week presentation on Online Idaho. There was a lively discussion on the Canvas Learning Managing System, which the university can use at no charge for one year, vs. Blackboard.

### Important dates:

- Sabbatical applications are due on October 30.
- Teaching Questionnaire is due on October 30.
- Nominations for faculty to sit on the University Promotion and Tenure Committee are due on October 30.
- Brian Smentkowski from CETL and Diane Kelly-Riley from the Provost's Office will host a session entitled “Mid-Semester Check-in: How's It Going?” This discussion-based session will check in to see how things are going for faculty and their classes. In that session, they will brainstorm ideas on navigating through the rest of the semester. This session takes place on November 4, 2020 from 10:30-11:15 am.
- Honorary degree nominations are due on November 16.
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## Faculty Senate Talking Points, November 3, 2020:

- COVID-19 update: we had another week of improvement. We have currently zero students in isolation, no Greek Houses in quarantine, and six students in one of our campus quarantine facilities. We continue with surveillance testing and our positivity rate continues to go down, in contrast to what is happening around us.
- A reminder to check in with students to see how things are going for them. All instructional faculty were sent an email at the beginning of this week encouraging them to conduct a mid-semester check in with students in their courses. This email included a framework and questions developed by ASUI, the Teaching Committee, CETL, and the Provost's Office.
- The University of Idaho will lease its steam plant and utility system to a concessionaire as part of a public-private partnership (P3) that will allow investment in student access, success and research initiatives for the next 50 years. The 50-year lease and concession agreement with Sacyr Plenary Utility Partners Idaho LLC was approved by the Idaho State Board of Education on November 2. These funds are expected to generate \$6M annually for the university to invest in strategic initiatives. President Green and Vice President Foisy came to Senate to answer questions.
- The 2020-21 Senate Leadership has created a space to hold open conversations in the form of roundtables during Senate meetings. This week, Diane Kelly-Riley and Torrey Lawrence participated into a roundtable discussion about faculty workload. The goal is to look for solutions, generate ideas, propose policy changes or creation.

### Important dates:

- Honorary degree nominations are due on November 16.
- Deadline to request delay for promotion and/or tenure is March 14, 2021.

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## Faculty Senate Talking Points, November 10, 2020:

- COVID-19 update: we had 25 positive cases, slightly up from the previous weeks. We urge everyone to continue following safety practices.
- The interviews and meetings with the finalists for the position of Provost and Executive Vice President start this week. Senate will meet with the finalists. Open sessions will be held for the broader community. Please participate if you can.  
<https://www.uidaho.edu/president/search/provost/finalists>
- This week, University Ombuds Laura Smythe visited Senate for a conversation based on her [annual report](#). There was an insightful discussion on diverse issues, including faculty morale, the importance of supervisors training, and the impact of COVID-19 on our mental health.

## Important dates:

- Honorary degree nominations are due on November 16.
- Next University Faculty Meeting: December 9, 2:30p.m. to 4:00p.m. Save the Date!
- Deadline to request delay for promotion and/or tenure is March 14, 2021.

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## Faculty Senate Talking Points, November 17, 2020:

- COVID-19 update: presently three Greek Chapters are in quarantine and 27 students are in isolation. Last week 1756 people were tested. Nearly 22,000 tests have been done throughout the semester.
- A reminder that after this Friday all classes must be online.
- The interviews and meetings with the finalists for the position of Provost and Executive Vice President are in progress. The recordings of the open sessions will be posted after all the candidates have had their session (so Thursday afternoon is the soonest); simultaneously, the feedback forms will be posted. They are currently scheduled to stay open until mid-day November 30.  
<https://www.uidaho.edu/president/search/provost/finalists>
- The survey seeking volunteers for Senate Committees went out two weeks ago. Please fill out the survey if you are interested in serving on a committee. Please also encourage your colleagues to complete the survey by December 11.
- Online Education: Chandra Zenner Ford, Scott Green, and Jerry McMurtry joined the meeting to discuss plans of the Online Education Working Group and gather input from the Senate. For more information, see the White Paper attached to the binder of the November 17 Senate meeting.
- Senate expressed interest in undertaking a conversation about committee structure to ensure that committees are best positioned to accomplish their tasks as defined in FSH 1640.
- Check the Daily Register and the Faculty/Staff Facebook for a thoughtful message of appreciation from the Associated Students at the University of Idaho! And have a safe and peaceful break.

### Important dates:

- Next University Faculty Meeting: December 9, 2:30p.m. to 4:00p.m. Save the Date!
- Deadline to request delay for promotion and/or tenure is March 14, 2021.

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## Faculty Senate Talking Points, December 1, 2020:

- COVID-19 update: about 1,000 tests were done prior to Thanksgiving, and a few last week. Testing is currently available (contact [covid19questions@uidaho.edu](mailto:covid19questions@uidaho.edu)), but surveillance testing is not going on, as most faculty and staff are working remotely. The schedule for spring semester testing will be communicated soon.
- Faculty Senate Leadership wishes to thank those who sent feedback about the Provost candidates. A special thanks to Russ Meeuf who compiled the feedback received from Senators into a memo that we sent to President Green on Monday November 30.
- Athena is proud to announce the call for participation in the 2021 Athena Women's Mentorship Program. If you are interested in participating in the 2021 Athena Women's Mentorship Program as either a mentee or a mentor, we ask you to fill out the following survey by **Monday, December 7**. Everyone is encouraged to apply. Cohort three will be announced by Friday, December 18.
- The survey seeking volunteers for Senate Committees closes on December 11. Please fill out the survey if you are interested in serving on a committee. Please also encourage your colleagues to complete the survey by December 11.
- ASUI Representatives Sierra Brantz and K. Dawn Amos presented to Senate a project they are working on named "Mental Health Days." A lively discussion followed. Senators were supportive of and impressed with the ASUI efforts to help their fellow students. Read more in the minutes!

### Important dates:

- A reminder that December 11 is the deadline for completing the required university training, see <https://www.uidaho.edu/governance/edl/required-training>
- Next University Faculty Meeting: December 9, 2:30p.m. to 4:00p.m. Save the Date!
- Deadline to request delay for promotion and/or tenure is March 14, 2021.

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## Faculty Senate Talking Points, December 8, 2020:

- COVID-19 update: Face covering is mandatory in Moscow until June 9. Tests from last week revealed a slightly larger rate of positive cases. We are working on partnerships with Gritman and the state to meet needs such as low-temperature storage when vaccines become available.
- Update on spring semester schedule: U of I will open in person on Wednesday, January 13. Initially, the plan was for all classes to be online the first week to make sure students can be tested prior to in-person classes. Since then, our lab capabilities have improved considerably and will enable testing between January 6 and January 12.
- The COVID 19 Committee, chaired by David Lee Painter, proposed sharing university COVID-19 data concisely and comprehensively through an interactive dashboard. The committee recommends an interactive user interface that includes easy-to-read, detailed summaries and data visualization of current COVID-19 indicators and testing data. Read more in Attachment #5 of the binder for the December 8 Senate meeting.
- The Faculty Affairs Committee will review the promotion and tenure policy one year after its adoption – December 2019. If you have any concerns about FSH 3500 and FSH 3510, please send them to the chair of FAC, Richard Seamon, or use <https://bit.ly/UIPTFeedback>.
- Update on the budget metrics: Provost Torrey Lawrence gave a brief overview on the context/history and present status of the new budget model. Discussions will resume in January to finalize a set of metrics for budgeting academic units.
- HR training webinars: Those who are interested can register for the webinar at the link provided.

Client	Webinar	Date	Time	Time Zone	Training Requested	Facilitator	Registration Link:
University of Idaho	Managing in a Virtual World	12/8/2021	10:00A-11:00A	PT	CT-2715	Michael Contreras	<a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/716419097820012560">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/716419097820012560</a>
University of Idaho	Strengthening the Team: Building a Cohesive and Inclusive Team	12/15/2020	12:00P - 1:00P	PT	CT-2716	Michael Contreras	<a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2587020429183895568">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2587020429183895568</a>
University of Idaho	Self-care Remaining Resilient	12/11/2020	10:00A-11:00A	PT	CT-2717	Cathy Alford	<a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4574390994923965456">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4574390994923965456</a>
University of Idaho	The Art of Motivation	12/16/2020	2:00P-3:00P	PT	CT-2718	Linda Stroman	<a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1991383094575309584">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1991383094575309584</a>
University of Idaho	Mindfulness 101	12/21/2020	2:00P-3:00P	PT	CT-2719	Linda Stroman	<a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5011065336427751180">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5011065336427751180</a>

- Faculty Senate Leadership wishes everyone a safe and restful holiday season!!

## Important dates:

- A reminder that December 11 is the deadline for completing the required university training, see <https://www.uidaho.edu/governance/edl/required-training>
- The survey seeking volunteers for Senate Committees closes on December 11. Please fill out the survey if you are interested in serving on a committee.
- Deadline to request delay for promotion and/or tenure is March 14, 2021.

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**University of Idaho**

Faculty Secretary

## Faculty Senate Talking Points, January 26, 2021:

- Last week, an email was sent to all Senators listing the guests Senate Leadership plan to invite to Senate this spring. Please remember to reach out to your constituents to gather questions and input. It will inform and guide our conversations with our guests.
- Update on COVID-19:
  - Last week, 14 tests resulted positive out of 778 (1.8%). At this time, four students are in isolation and seven in our quarantine facilities.
  - We will plan for fall semester anticipating contingencies. Plans for after spring break should become more clear within the next two to three weeks.
  - Commencement plans: we are preparing multiple options. We'll know more in March.
  - The state of Idaho decided that university employees will not receive the vaccine at the same time as K-12 teachers. The university is talking about this with the State Board and Public Health.
- Finances:
  - Overall, enrollment is down by 3.5% with respect to Spring 2020, with graduate students being the largest declining group. On the other hand, some colleges have reported an increase in enrollment.
  - Furlough is over and no need for additional furlough is expected. State budget is being discussed this week –the news seems generally good.
  - Concerning federal funds: through the “Care Act Part 2,” the university has been allocated \$11.6M of which \$3.4M must go to students.
- The new budget model, to be applied in program prioritization for both academic and non-academic units, will be implemented July 1, 2021, but the transition will be gradual.

### Important dates:

- Confidential feedback on the performance of all administrators who hold faculty appointments and are direct reports to the Provost/EVP (department chairs, directors, deans, vice provosts, provost, etc.) can be submitted using the provided Qualtrics form by this Friday—Friday January 29—at 5:00pm.
- The deadline to request delay for promotion and/or tenure is March 14, 2021.

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## Faculty Senate Talking Points, February 2, 2021:

- Please remember to reach out to your constituents to gather questions and input to inform and guide our conversations with Senate guests. Next week: Greg Lambeth, Brandi Terwilliger, and Emily Tuschhoff will be visiting Senate next week to talk about issues related to Mental Health for students and employees.
- Update on COVID-19:
  - Positive test rate continues to be low.
  - Following President Green's initiative, the State Board is advocating with the state of Idaho for U of I employees to receive the vaccine with the K-12 teachers' group.
  - Let's all make an effort to encourage everyone to be vaccinated! ASUI and GPSA have identified a "vaccine campaign" as an important task for the COVID-19 Advisory Committee.
  - Idaho is back to stage 3, which allows meetings of up to 50 people. Everyone should remain cautious.
- Plans to reorganize the Provost Office are being worked out, with the goal to increase efficiency.
- There was a discussion on the role of university-level committees – FSH 1620 and 1640. Revisions to FSH 1620 to correctly reflect the content of FSH 1640 will be proposed to Senate.

### Important dates:

- The deadline to request delay for promotion and/or tenure is March 14, 2021.
- Nominations for Honorary degrees for the December 2021 commencement are due March 15, 2021.
- Sabbatical applications for the 2022-2023 year are due March 31.

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## Faculty Senate Talking Points, February 9, 2021:

- Please remember to reach out to your constituents to gather questions and input to inform and guide our conversations with Senate guests. Next week: Brandi Terwilliger (HR issues), Brian Smentkowski (Peer Observation of Teaching), Lisa Miller (Update from the Staff Compensation Committee).
- Update on COVID-19:
  - Positive test rate continues to be low – most recently, 1.13%. Employees are encouraged to participate in surveillance testing if invited.
  - Concerning the timeline for U of I employees to receive the vaccine, we will know more after February 19.
- Presentation and discussion on mental health on campus: Brandi Terwilliger, Emily Tuschhoff, Greg Lambeth, and Amanda Ferstead talked about various resources available to U of I employees to support mental, physical, and social health. Five topics were selected for the on-going series of wellness workshops: *Creating a Resilient Mindset*, *Effective Stress Management*, *Building Resilient Muscles*, *Healthy Mind Toolkit*, and *Creating an Inclusive Team*. Suggestions for additional topics are welcome. Please visit: <https://www.uidaho.edu/vandalhealth>  
<https://www.uidaho.edu/vhe-events>  
<http://www.uidaho.edu/wellbeingambassadors>
- Class schedule update: In the summer, we will be mostly online. For the fall, the current plan is to be primarily in person. For some classes, a virtual meeting section may be added.
- Online education initiative: The Working Group has recommended a new unit with central leadership. The unit will be supported by P3 funds, which must be used for projects with potential for return on investment. The goal is to increase enrollment, which, in turn, will generate additional revenue. Some Senators expressed concerns about rolling out a new program and hiring an upper-level administrator when faculty and staff positions are being eliminated. These conversations will continue.

### Important dates:

- The deadline to request delay for promotion and/or tenure is March 14, 2021.
- Nominations for Honorary degrees for the December 2021 commencement are due March 15, 2021.
- Sabbatical applications for the 2022-2023 year are due March 31.

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**University of Idaho**  
Faculty Secretary

## Faculty Senate Talking Points, February 23, 2021:

- Joana Espinoza is leaving the Provost's Office. A special *thank you* message was delivered to Joana for her hard work and dedication in support of Faculty Senate. We all wish her the very best and we will miss her!
- Please remember to reach out to your constituents to gather questions and input to inform and guide our conversations with Senate guests. Next week: an update from the Staff Compensation Committee.
- Commencement plans are in progress. They may involve in-person events and multiple ceremonies.
- Toni Broyles visited Senate for a conversation on COVID-19 activities.
  - Positive test rate continues to be low – less than 1% the week before last. After the long weekend and the snow day, the number went up to about 1.2%. Surveillance testing continue to take place every week.
  - No news on when U. of I. employees who are not in a priority group will receive the vaccine – waiting to hear from the Idaho State Vaccine Advisory Committee in early March. The university has created an internal priority list within its faculty and staff. The order is: frontline food workers, faculty and staff who work with children, people who work in the classroom, and people who telework.
  - The COVID dashboard is live. It reflects COVID-19 activities at the Moscow campus and is updated weekly. Visit <https://www.uidaho.edu/vandal-health-clinic/coronavirus/dashboard>.
- Brian Smentkowski and Barb Kirchmeier spoke about using peer observation of teaching as a way for faculty to support one another and build evidence of their teaching efforts in a collaborative and collegial culture.

### Important dates:

- University Faculty Meeting: Thursday, February 25 at 2:30pm, via Zoom.
- The deadline to request delay for promotion and/or tenure is March 14, 2021.
- Nominations for Honorary degrees for the December 2021 commencement are due April 15, 2021.
- Sabbatical applications for the 2022-2023 year are due March 31.

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## **Faculty Senate Talking Points, March 2, 2021:**

- Welcome to Patti Heath! Patti is currently supporting Faculty Senate and we thank her in advance for all her help, including managing our Zoom meetings.
- Updates on visits to Faculty Senate: next week we will welcome Teresa Koeppel, the Chief Marketing Officer and Executive Director for University Communications and Marketing. Please reach out to your constituents to gather any questions they have for Teresa and send them to Barb.
- COVID-19 update: last week, of 800 COVID tests 7.61% were positive. This increase is confined to specific groups – two Greek living groups and one campus housing group are currently in isolation. We are monitoring the situation and we will keep everyone updated.
- Senate endorsed the Staff Compensation Committee recommendations for the allocation of Change in Employee Compensation (CEC) funds for Fiscal Year 2022. See attachment 2 in this meeting binder for details.
- There was a discussion on the “Statement of Faculty Values” drafted by FSL in collaboration with FAC, see attachment 4 in this meeting binder. The purpose is to state our values and responsibilities as scholars and educators, such as seeking the truth from evidence, critical thinking, and respectful discourse. There was a consensus to give people time for a more informed discussion including timing issues and consideration of the legislative climate in our state.
- Provost Lawrence presented a draft of what could be called a list of guiding principles (see attachment 5 in this meeting binder). It is not meant to be a response to a particular event. They are high-level points of how we engage with one another while working within our legislative and political system.

### **Important dates:**

- The deadline to request delay for promotion and/or tenure is March 14, 2021.
- Nominations for Honorary degrees for the December 2021 commencement are due April 15, 2021.
- Sabbatical applications for the 2022-2023 year are due March 31.

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## Faculty Senate Talking Points, March 9, 2021

- Updates on visits to Faculty Senate: after Spring Break we will welcome Brandi Terwilliger for a conversation on HR matters. Please reach out to your constituents to gather questions and send them to Barb Kirchmeier.
- It is time to think about replacing Senators whose terms are coming to an end. Please check with your college bylaws to start this process.
- COVID-19 update: of about 750 tests done last week, 3.76 % were positive. No Greek residence or campus housing hall are currently in quarantine. There are no news about the vaccine timeline for employees in higher education. Everyone is encouraged to register at <https://covidvaccine.idaho.gov>
- Rochelle Smith and Shaakirrah Sanders spoke to Senate about their initiative to establish the first Black Faculty and Staff Association at the University of Idaho. Policy and procedures for creating affinity groups will be drafted and proposed for inclusion into FSH.
- Teresa Koeppel talked about University Communication and Marketing key focus areas and goals for 2021-22. Jody Walker concentrated on recent legislative communications.

### Important dates:

- The deadline to request delay for promotion and/or tenure is March 14, 2021.
- Nominations for Honorary degrees for the December 2021 commencement are due April 15, 2021.
- Sabbatical applications for the 2022-2023 year are due March 31.

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## Faculty Senate Talking Points, March 23, 2021

- Updates on visits to Faculty Senate: next week, Torrey Lawrence and Kim Salisbury will answer questions related to the new budget. Please attend the webinar this week and if your questions remain unanswered, bring them to Senate next week.
- It is time to think about replacing Senators whose terms are coming to an end. Please check with your college bylaws to start this process.
- COVID-19 update: Mandatory testing is underway. So far, we continue to see low rates of positive results. Great news about the vaccine. The North-Central Idaho Health District has allowed everyone above the age of 35 to receive the vaccine. No need to wait for a call – just sign up and go!
- Statement of Faculty Values: there was a general consensus to wait and make it an end-of-the-semester release with a broader scope – recent disturbing events go beyond the attack to the Capital, and include, for instance, racially motivated violence. It was noted that such statement is important for families in minority groups, who need to know that the U of I is a safe place for their children.
- Brandi Terwilliger addressed 4 main points: Flex work requests; COVID related leave; COVID related policy changes; possible benefit changes. Please send to Brandi or Barb any questions you might have on HR issues.

### Important dates:

- Sabbatical applications for the 2022-2023 year are due March 31.
- Nominations for Honorary degrees for the December 2021 commencement are due April 15, 2021.

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## Faculty Senate Talking Points, March 30, 2021

- Updates on visits to Faculty Senate: next week Chris Nomura will be visiting Senate with updates from the Office of Research and Economic Development. Please gather questions from your constituents and email them to Barb.
- It is time to think about replacing Senators whose terms are coming to an end. Please check with your college bylaws to start this process. The names of new faculty senators should be submitted to the Faculty Secretary by Tuesday, 4/20. New senators will meet with this Senate on Tuesday, 4/27. If you have questions, don't hesitate to reach out. Also, we will be looking for a new member of the Benefits Advisory Group. Please let us know if you are interested in serving on this committee.
- COVID-19 and vaccine update: out of 3,970 tests, 0.35% were positive. In Moscow and Latah County, the vaccine is available for anyone above 16 years of age. We are working with Gritman to ensure that all students can receive the vaccine before final exam week.
- Commencement: There will be six ceremonies, three on Saturday May 15 and three on Sunday May 16, at 9a.m., 1p.m., and 5p.m. on each day. Faculty are encouraged to participate. COVID-19 protocol will be observed (masks, distancing, no hand shaking). Visit the website below for more information. <https://www.uidaho.edu/events/commencement/spring>
- The largest part of the meeting was spent in a lively discussion with Torrey Lawrence and Kim Salisbury about the new budget model. The Provost and the Executive Director of Academic Planning and Budget took questions on the new budget model for Academic Affairs. The discussion centered around the impact of the metrics on different colleges, and how the inclusion of "targets" may address some concerns. Senators are encouraged to send unanswered or additional questions to the Provost or Senate Leadership. Please see the minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting #24 for a report of the discussion.

### Important dates:

- The 2021 "University of Idaho Great Colleges to Work For Survey" will close Friday, April 2. We hope you all will participate.
- Nominations for Honorary degrees for the December 2021 commencement are due April 15, 2021.

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## Faculty Senate Talking Points, April 6, 2021

- Updates on visits to Faculty Senate: Next week we will talk with ASUI President Lauren Carlsen to get updates on ASUI projects. If you or your constituents have questions for ASUI, please email them to Barb.
- The names of new faculty senators must be submitted to the Faculty Secretary by Tuesday, **4/20**. New senators will meet with this Senate on Tuesday, 4/27. If you have questions, don't hesitate to reach out.
- COVID-19 and vaccine update: Of 1,031 tests done last week, 1.16% were positive. Of a total of 5,001 midsemester tests, 0.52% gave positive results. We encourage everyone to get vaccinated. Please visit <https://gritman.org/coronavirus/#anchor-c19v>  
The link for the recent Town Hall about the vaccine is <https://www.uidaho.edu/vandal-health-clinic/coronavirus/vaccine>
- Faculty Senate engaged in a discussion with President Green about investment plans for the P3 project funds. Those include strategic initiatives to increase enrollment, recruit more students from underrepresented populations, and promote excellence in research. Please see the minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting #25 and Attachment #3 in that binder for more details.
- Senate welcomed Chris Nomura, new Vice President for Research and Economic Development. Chris Nomura gave a brief review of ORED updates followed by Q&A. ORED is working to help increase research productivity and the number of doctoral degrees awarded. Initiatives towards those goals include matching competitive externally funded grants and the "Resubmission Success" program.

### Important dates:

- Nominations for Honorary degrees for the December 2021 commencement are due April 15, 2021.

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## Faculty Senate Talking Points, April 13, 2021

- Next week we will discuss two potential emergency policies to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on our students.
- The names of new faculty senators must be submitted to the Faculty Secretary by Tuesday, **4/20**. New senators will meet with this Senate on Tuesday, 4/27. The 2021-2022 Senate will meet for the first time at 4:30 on Tuesday, April 27 to take nominations for chair and vice-chair.
- COVID update: We are back to surveillance testing. Of 667 tests done last week, 3.15% were positive. Currently we have three students in isolation and nine in quarantine. There will be no changes to our COVID-19 protocol. We are focused on getting safely through commencement and we'll continue to wear masks and maintain distance.
- Update on legislature: The House defeated the Higher Education Bill. The process will start over at the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC). We wait for news.
- In about a week, RFP will go out inviting short proposals funded by P3 money. Faculty, staff, and students are welcome to apply. Thanks to Vice Chair Meeuf for this idea, which President Green is very excited about!
- ASUI Leadership gave an overview of the projects ASUI has been engaged with this year, particularly to aid and support students through the pandemic. They also talked about the ASUI support for the VandalStar platform. Provost Lawrence recognized outgoing ASUI president Lauren Carlson for her great leadership. Senators thanked Lauren for her work and dedication.
- Dean Panttaja presented updates related to his roles as Vice Provost for Academic Initiatives and as Director of General Education.

### Important dates:

- Nominations for Honorary degrees for the December 2021 commencement are due April 15, 2021.

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## Faculty Senate Talking Points, April 20, 2021

- Next week Suzi Ball will provide updates on the Vandal Gateway Program.
- COVID update: The number of surveillance tests is decreasing as more people are vaccinated. Of 474 tests done last week, 3.59% were positive. At this time there are no plans for any changes to our COVID-19 safety protocol through the end of the semester.
- Senate discussed two emergency actions that FSL plans to submit to the President for his approval. One concerns changes to admission standards for 2022-23. The other is to increase the number of credits that a student may withdraw from during his or her undergraduate career. Both actions seek to support students through extenuating circumstances brought on by COVID-19.
- Senate voted to adopt the following Statement of Faculty Values:  
*As a challenging semester comes to an end, the Faculty Senate of the University of Idaho wishes to reaffirm our commitment to the values of education, integrity, and respect for all others.*  
*As scholars and researchers, we have dedicated our careers to discovery and reasoning. We believe in science and in seeking knowledge by weighing appropriate evidence and rejecting intentional misinformation.*  
*As citizens and educators who serve the university's land-grant mission, we prepare students to be thoughtful, civic-minded participants in our local, state, and national communities. We are committed to democracy and due process, and to civil discourse and respectful communication. We condemn in the strongest terms any form of violence and terrorism.*  
*To support these goals, we encourage all faculty, when appropriate, to directly address the issues and challenges facing our world, including misinformation, radicalism, racism, bigotry, and violence. We call for a collective commitment to shine light on the root causes of polarization and extremism. Whether by analyzing our histories and culture, or cultivating information literacy, or teaching responsible communication skills, faculty must continue to provide a transformative and ethical education for the next generation of leaders.*
- There was some preliminary discussion on the structure of future Senate and General Faculty meetings. It was noted that, with zoom meetings, everyone is on equal footing, regardless location. Also, virtual meetings have made the presence of a quorum much more likely. These conversations will continue.
- **Important reminders:**
  - New senators will meet with this Senate on Tuesday, 4/27. The 2021-2022 Senate will meet for the first time at 4:30 on Tuesday, April 27 to take nominations for chair and vice-chair.
  - The final University Faculty Meeting of the year will be held via Zoom on May 5 from 2:30-4:00pm PST
  - CETL's 2021 Student Success Virtual Conferences is April 28 from 3:30-5:00pm
  - CETL's 2021 Celebration of Collaboration is Thursday, May 6 from 3:00-5:00pm
  - The provost's office will host a P&T training on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 9:30 AM via zoom. The zoom link is <https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/89086903403>. The training will be useful for faculty going up for promotion and/or tenure in the upcoming academic year. A recording of it will be available via the provost's office website.

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