

Faculty Senate Talking Points, April 27, 2021: 2020-21 meeting #28 and 2021-22 meeting #1

- Senate will hold their last meeting on May 4 to wrap up unfinished business from meeting #28 and to discuss future revisions planned for FSH 3500. 2020-21 and 2021-22 Senators are invited.
 - COVID update: 5.37% of the 503 tests done last week were positive. The number of surveillance tests is decreasing as more people are vaccinated.
 - \$50,000 is available to support projects that have potential to either increase enrollment (both new student recruitment as well as retention) or generate new revenue. Faculty, staff and students are eligible to apply. RFP details are available here: <https://www.uidaho.edu/research/faculty/find-funding/internal-funding/vandal-ideas-project>. Thanks, Russ, for suggesting this initiative!
 - Commencement: With six ceremonies, help is needed. Consider volunteering if you can. The link to the commencement volunteer sign-up form is in the Daily Register.
 - There were lively discussions about proposed changes to FSH 3500 and to FSH 1640.08. See records of this meeting for more information.
 - During the first meeting of the 2021-22 Senate, nominations were taken for the positions of Senate chair and vice chair. Elections will take place next week.
- Thanks to the outgoing Senators for their service and commitment to shared governance!**
- **Important reminders:**
 - 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 Celebration of Collaboration is Thursday, May 6 from 3:00-5:00pm

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Faculty Senate Talking Points: May 4, 2020-21 meeting #29 and 2021-22 meeting #2

- This was the last meeting for Senate 2020-2021. Faculty Senate Leadership thanks everyone for their support.
- Sean Quinlan, Suzi Ball, Ann Abbott, and Gateway student Ryan Pipal spoke to Senate about the current status of the Gateway student support program.
- COVID testing update: 2.64% of the 454 tests done last week were positive.
- Senate provided feedback on three potential emergency policies regarding: 1) External review for extension faculty; 2) Exemption from external review requirements for non-tenure track faculty with 5% or less of scholarly and creative activity; and 3) Withdrawal credits.
- The 2021-2022 Senate elected their leadership : Russ Meeuf (Chair) and Alistair Smith (Vice Chair). Congratulations, Russ and Alistair!
- Thanks to Barb Kirchmeier for her great leadership during a very challenging year!!
- **Important reminders:**
 - CETL's 2021 Celebration of Collaboration is Thursday, May 6 from 3:00-5:00pm.
 - The deadline to apply for Vandal Ideas Projects (VIP) funds is May 13. RFP details are available here: <https://www.uidaho.edu/research/faculty/find-funding/internal-funding/vandal-ideas-project>.
 - The State of the University Address will be available for viewing on the U of I website on May 6, at 2pm. A Q&A session for faculty, staff, and students will follow on Monday, May 10, at 3pm.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, August 31, 2021, Meeting #3

- Welcome to a new year of Senate activities!
- Faculty Senate Leadership has discussed the formation of a Senate Subcommittee to evaluate our current teaching evaluation system and make possible recommendations for changes. We will keep you informed.
- COVID update: The status of the mask mandate will be re-evaluated around September 20. We face added challenges from new state laws, which require that we work with SBOE. So far, we had only a few incidents related to mask wearing. To date, 2,256 students have registered for the vaccination incentive, as detailed in the memo from President Green and Provost Lawrence of August 30.
- \$107,000 were awarded to support 9 proposals submitted under the Vandal Ideas Project (VIP). All proposals presented great ideas to either increase enrollment or generate new revenue.
- There was a lively Learning Management System discussion. Generally, Senators reported that their constituents are in favor of a transition to Canvas. An informal vote among Senators indicated strong support for the move.
- **Important reminders:**
 - The first University Faculty Meeting of the 2021-22 year will be held on Wednesday September 8th, from 2:30-4:00 pm, in the Pitman Center Ballroom. Zoom option will also be available. The meeting will be followed by a reception outside of the Pitman Center.
 - Nominations for the Alumni Award for Excellence are open until Friday, September 17.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, September 7, 2021, Meeting #4

- COVID update: The status of the mask mandate will be re-evaluated around September 20.
- Request for donations: The Dean of Students Office is seeking donations from Faculty and Staff for Joe's Closet, a free resource for students that provides professional clothing for job interviews or headshot photo sessions. If you have any clothing that you would be willing to donate, you can take them to the Dean of Students office starting September 13th between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. <https://www.uidaho.edu/student-affairs/dean-of-students/services/joes-closet>
- Discussion on SBOE Academic Freedom and Diversity Policies.
Chair Meeuf, a member of the taskforce that worked on this project last summer, explained that the draft policies included in this binder are being presented to Senate for feedback and discussion. They will be submitted to SBOE for their approval. Chair Meeuf summarized the meaning and relevance of this document: it is more detailed and specific about faculty and students freedom and responsibilities, and the areas where they are applicable. Senator engaged in a lively conversation and in the end were ready to vote. The votes revealed strong Senate support for both policies.
- Discussion on student complaint process.
Vice Provost Kelly-Riley and Dean of Students Blaine Eckles led a discussion about the handling of student complaints about an instructor. While we have no general policy, they wish to inform Senators of practices and university-level resources to address these concerns. Most complaints are about the instructor deviating from the expectations announced in the syllabus. Faculty are encouraged to reach out to CETL for help with syllabi and other resources.
- **Important reminders:**
 - Nominations for the Alumni Award for Excellence are open until Friday, September 17.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, September 14, 2021, Meeting #5

- We are establishing a Senate Subcommittee on Teaching Evaluations, chaired by Senate Vice-Chair Alistair Smith, that will develop new ideas and proposals for our teaching evaluation systems. This includes coordinating with the University Teaching Committee on a review of current practices. Senators Deb Thorne, Dakota Roberson, Erin Chapman, and Brian Smentkowski have agreed to serve on this subcommittee alongside ASUI President Kallyn Mai and other student representatives.
- We also recognized an ad hoc task force on parental leave policies as an official Senate Subcommittee, chaired by Senator Erin Chapman. This group, which includes both Faculty and Staff, has been working on a proposal to make the University's parental leave policy more competitive compared to the policies offered at Boise State and Idaho State Universities as well as other regional employers. Other members of the Subcommittee include: Rebecca Scofield, Jessica Martinez, Kathryn Schiffelbein, Jessica Stanley, and Laurel Meyer.
- Scott Green, Torrey Lawrence, Chandra Ford, and Mary Kay McFadden gave a presentation on the Campaign Working Group. President Green formed the group to develop and recommend a strategic approach for embarking on a successful comprehensive fundraising campaign. The white paper can be found [here](#).
- **Important reminders:**
 - Nominations for the Alumni Award for Excellence are open until Friday, September 17. Last chance!
 - Nominations for Honorary Degrees are due November 15 and should be submitted to provost@uidaho.edu. The honorary degree policy is in FSH 4930.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, September 21, 2021, Meeting #6

- Update on COVID-vaccine incentive: The first \$1,000 and the first \$5,000 scholarships have been awarded. To date, over 3,400 students have submitted proof of vaccine and received \$50 gift cards. The next \$1,000 drawing will be Thursday. Gift cards will be given away until Nov. 12.
- Vice President for Research and Economic Development Chris Nomura visited Senate to talk about the P3R1 program and the U of I march towards R1 status. Check out the attachment in this meeting's binder for details on the 2021 Carnegie Classification and more.
- Interim Vice Provost for Academic Initiatives Dean Panttaja and Barb Kirchmeier, chair of the newly formed University Assessment and Accreditation Committee, gave a presentation on the relevance of assessment and accreditation for our students and the institution. For questions about assessment and accreditation, the following resources are available:
Assessment & Accreditation Website:
<https://www.uidaho.edu/provost/ir/assessment-evaluation>
Anthology Links & Training Videos:
<https://www.uidaho.edu/provost/ir/assessment-evaluation/anthology>
Annual Program Review:
<https://www.uidaho.edu/provost/ir/assessment-evaluation/program-review>
Student Learning Outcomes Assessment:
<https://www.uidaho.edu/provost/ir/assessment-evaluation/assessment>
Sara Mahuron, Associate Director of Accreditation and Assessment: sara@uidaho.edu
Dean Panttaja, Director of General Education / IVPAl: panttaja@uidaho.edu
- **Important reminders:**
 - The Dean of Students office is still collecting Donations for Joe's Closet, their project that provides professional clothing for students preparing for interviews or headshots. If you email Joana Espinoza, they can also arrange for items to be picked up at your office!
 - Nominations for Honorary Degrees are due November 15 and should be submitted to provost@uidaho.edu. The honorary degree policy is in FSH 4930.
 - Katy Benoit Campus Safety Awareness Month: [Take Back the Night](#) is an event to spread awareness of interpersonal violence on campus and to show support for those affected by it. This year's event features a keynote address and rally at the Theophilus Tower Lawn, followed by a candlelit march around campus at dusk.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, September 28, 2021, Meeting #7

- Preferred names are available in the University's systems. Please remind your students and colleagues of this opportunity. Many thanks to all those who helped make this change, including the Registrar's office, the folks in ITS, CETL, as well as our faculty-led committee, Ubuntu!
- Next week, our new Vice Provost for Digital Learning, Ken Udas, will visit with Senate. We look forward to hearing about this new position and the University's plans to expand online and distance learning. Please reach out to your Senators and let them know what issues or concerns you would want to see addressed.
- The Ombuds Annual Report for 2020-21 is available on [the Ombuds' website](#).
- Vandal Fest'21 is a combination of traditional Homecoming activities, the ICCU Arena Grand Opening and the announcement of the university's launch into a focused fundraising campaign. Faculty, staff and students are invited and encouraged to [volunteer on Friday, Oct. 8, and Saturday, Oct. 9](#), to help us host our extended Vandal Family.
- The Q&A with the Provost included a discussion on how to best address problems with retention and attraction of staff.
- Future topics of interest identified by the Senators include:
 - Possible expansion of benefits to improve employee retention;
 - A conversation with HR Director Brandi Terwilliger on health care issues;
 - Campus climate and workplace improvements as informed by the results of the "Great Colleges to Work for" survey and the Ombuds report.
- **Important reminders:**
Sessions to meet with the finalists for the Director of Dual Credit position are scheduled for Thursday, September 30, Friday, October 1, and Monday, October 4.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, October 5, 2021, Meeting #8

- Vice Provost for Digital Learning, Ken Udas, visited Senate for a preliminary conversation on the University's plans to expand online and distance learning. Those plans are in progress, and Vice Provost Udas expects to have more concrete information to share in a couple of weeks.
- Our colleague Dr. Shirley Luckhart is continuing a research project on malaria and ways to combat the transmission of malaria, which kills over 400,000 people per year. If you have type O+ blood, please consider volunteering as a blood donor to help support this important research on campus. If you are interested, you can contact Dr. Luckhart directly over email (sluckhart@uidaho.edu).
- COVID-related issues:
 - The university is focusing on vaccine incentive – \$8,000 have been spent in scholarships for students who turned in their vaccination card. More scholarships will be awarded.
 - Please encourage your students who tested positive for COVID to report their status to the Dean of Student so they can receive the support they need.
 - Faculty are not required to offer synchronous instruction via Zoom for students who cannot attend. Instructors are encouraged to do what they can (alternative assignments, sharing lecture notes or slides, etc..) to help students who must miss classes.
- **Important reminders:**
 - Midterm grades are important for student success. Please submit them by October 18.
 - The mandatory training must be completed by October 31.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, October 12, 2021, Meeting #9

- An independent group of faculty members reached out to Faculty Senate with an interest in investigating gender salary discrepancies at the University of Idaho. Senators interested in assisting with this project should email Russ Meeuf.
- The University Assessment and Accreditation Committee (UAAC) is looking for feedback from faculty and staff on the recent Student Learning Outcomes assessment process and academic Annual Program Review. Please email any feedback or questions: barbara@uidaho.edu.
- There was a lively discussion about the practice (now approved into policy) of requiring Teaching and Research Assistants to enroll as full-time students whether they have a 20 hours per week appointment or a 10 hours per week appointment. The motion from COGS, FSH 1565 H-2, was approved by Senate. However, Senate leadership suggested COGS to give more thought to the issues of financial hardship raised during the discussion.
- COVID-related issues:
 - The mask requirement has been extended to November 1.
 - The number of vaccinated students is approaching 4,000. The university is still providing financial incentive to get vaccinated.
- Q&A with Dan Ewart: Senate engaged in a conversation with Vice President for IT, Dan Ewart. Senators asked questions on a variety of ITS practices and reported problems they have encountered, for instance when purchasing software or equipment. Dan Ewart welcomes suggestions for improvement. Increased level of security in response to increased threats was also discussed.
- **Important reminders:**
 - Remember to submit midterm grades by October 18.
 - The mandatory training must be completed by October 31.
 - Nominations are open for U of I honorary degrees to be recognized at the Spring 2022 Commencement Ceremony. Submit completed nominations to provost@uidaho.edu by Monday, Nov. 15. The nomination instructions may be found in [FSH 4930](#). If you have questions, contact Commencement Committee Chair [Richard Nielsen](#).

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, October 19, 2021, Meeting #10

- At next week's Senate meeting, we will be joined by Dean Kahler and Cynthia Castro for a presentation on retention efforts at the University of Idaho. Please reach out to your constituents and ask if they have any questions on this topic.
- COVID update: We have one student in isolation and four in quarantine. The number of students who submitted vaccination information is now over 4,000.
- A survey was recently sent to all instructional personnel by Vice Provost for Faculty Diane Kelly-Riley to get a sense of how students are attending classes. Faculty were asked to estimate the attendance during midterm week. 277 faculty responded, representing 546 courses from all colleges. The responses to the open-ended question show that COVID-related challenges are still present in the classroom. Some respondents are concerned about untested students who are unsure whether they have COVID and miss classes. They are also concerned about student mental health.
- Kristin Haltinner, chair of Ubuntu, reported on one of the committee's on-going projects. The group is working on a set of guidelines to promote equity in hiring through best practices for search committees. If you have suggestions on best practices and/or how to facilitate cultural changes in the hiring process, please contact Kristin at khaltinner@uidaho.edu
- Curriculum changes proposed through UCC by the Department of Business stimulated a discussion on a "by-modal" instruction delivery method inspired by HyFlex, but different in that there are actually two (synchronous) sections for one class – one in person and the other virtual. Although this model presents challenges for instructors, it could be the way to deliver the same content anywhere in the state and beyond.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, October 26, 2021, Meeting #11

- We are looking for Senators to sit on additional committees to ensure that faculty voices are heard.
 - The Senate position on the Benefits Advisory Group is currently vacant. This group makes recommendations concerning employee benefits offered through the university, which has been a topic of conversation in recent meetings.
 - We will need to find a new Senator to serve on the VandalStar Implementation Committee, preferably a Senator who uses VandalStar regularly and can provide some feedback to the committee

- COVID update:
 - Test kits are available and can be obtained without medical referral, from 9am to 5pm daily, by students, faculty, and staff. A facility will be set up just outside the Vandal Health Clinic.
 - Vaccine clinic: Wednesday, Nov. 3, from 1 to 3 pm in the ISUB Vandal Lounge.
<https://www.uidaho.edu/vandal-health-clinic/coronavirus/vaccine/pre-register>
 - COVID vaccine mandate for federal employees: there is a conflict between federal and state mandates. The university is working with the State Board, our state government, and other institutions to find a path forward. Watch for news.

- Dean Kahler, Cynthia Castro, Bart Sonnenberg, Shawna Bertlin, and Kristen McMullin gave a presentation on current student success initiatives. They include academic support programs – such as tutoring and academic coaching – and a number of other (personal and academic) support services. Please see the presentation slides attached to the binder of meeting #11 for more information and links.

- Senate approved a number of academic certificates from the College of Business and Economics. It seems that interest in credentials below a bachelor's degree is growing, especially among non-traditional students.

- The transition to Canvas is happening on January 2022. CETL seminars and various forms of training are being made available online after live events. See link below for available resources.
<https://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/cetl/canvas-transition.asp>

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, November 3, 2021, Meeting #12

- The Senate position on the Benefits Advisory Group is still vacant. This group makes recommendations concerning employee benefits offered through the university, which has been a topic of conversation in recent meetings.
- COVID update:
 - The mask mandate will remain in place until November 23.
 - Update regarding the mandatory COVID vaccine for federal employees and entities that hold federal contracts: the state of Idaho entered in a multi-state lawsuit against the federal mandate. More communication is expected soon.
- All results from the “Great Colleges to Work for” survey are available to the university. They will be posted on the webpage shortly.
- ASUI leadership visited Senate to discuss the issue of timely feedback from instructors to students. The conversation addressed several important points, including the impact of insufficient feedback on retention, and the importance of streamlining faculty workflow through technology improvements.
- Update on the Vandal Gateway Program (VGP). Torrey Lawrence, Suzi Ball, and Annette Folwell updated Senate on the status of the program since it was introduced. The VGP team presented their idea for a three-year pilot program. They welcomed comments and suggestions from Senate about the best way forward in the interest of broader access to higher education.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, November 9, 2021, Meeting #13

- Please remind your colleges to submit nominations for the University P&T Committee by this Friday, end of day!
- Brian Foisy will be visiting Senate on November 16 to give a presentation on the university budget. Please consult with your constituents regarding any budget-related questions they might have for Vice President Foisy.
- COVID update:
 - Tests are available, but demand has been low. Currently we have one student in quarantine and none in isolation. The number of students who have submitted their vaccination card is 4,158 students.
 - Update regarding the mandatory COVID vaccine for federal employees and entities that hold federal contracts: We are on hold from taking any action while we continue to discuss with government agencies and SBOE. Contrary to what some media have reported, the State Board did not give us directives to put out a mandate, but they did allow us to do so.
- Conversations with Brandi Terwilliger: updates on HR new and on-going projects and 2022 benefits.
- There was a short follow-up on the retention presentation and discussion from the Senate meeting of October 26. If you have additional questions or comment, send them to Faculty Senate Leadership or directly to dkahler@uidaho.edu.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, November 16, 2021, Meeting #14

- Remember that we all need to migrate course content from BbLearn to Canvas before the start of the Spring term to avoid losing course content. Please make sure your constituents are aware of that. People from CETL will visit Senate after the break to provide guidance.
- COVID update: We continue to see low numbers. Currently we have a few students in supported quarantine and none in isolation. The number of students who have submitted their vaccination card is 4,400.
- The new “Affinity Groups” policy (FSH 3790) was presented by Rochelle Smith, chair of the Faculty and Staff Policy Group, and approved by Senate. Thanks to Barb Kirchmeier for her important contribution to the policy development!!
- Nominations are currently being accepted for the Dr. Arthur Maxwell Taylor Excellence in Diversity Award, an award that comes with \$4,000 annually to a faculty and staff member. Deadline for submissions is Saturday, Jan. 29. Submit nominations to [MyKel Johnson](#).
- Senate will not meet next week, Tuesday November 23. **Have a wonderful Thanksgiving break!**

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, November 30, 2021, Meeting #15

- COVID update:
 - Currently we have no students in quarantine or in isolation. The mask mandate will be reevaluated next week.
 - There were conversations with Provost Lawrence about enforcing mask wearing at athletic events.
- The next University Faculty Meeting is Wednesday, December 8 at 2:30 p.m. PT via Zoom. The link is provided below. Please encourage your constituents to attend so we can have a quorum and vote on the many important proposals Senate has vetted this semester. Shared governance depends on everyone's involvement!
<https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/5468952410>
- Faculty and staff will soon receive a link to the annual preference survey administered by the Committee on Committees to populate University-level committees. Please encourage your constituents to complete the survey. Completion of the survey indicates a commitment to serve on the committee you are assigned. If you have questions, please refer them to Committee on Committees Chair, Alistair Smith.
- Senate approved the Vandal Gateway Program, a cohort-based academic support program during the first two semesters of a student's college career involving high impact mentoring, coaching, and advising services. The mission of the Vandal Gateway Program is to provide support services to ensure student success in their college career. The Provost plans to have the program reviewed annually.
- Vice President Brian Foisy will visit Senate next week for a budget update.
- Important dates:
 - Commencement is on Saturday, December 11, at 12:30.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, December 7, 2021, Meeting #16

- COVID update:
 - The mask mandate remains through Commencement.
 - In Georgia an injunction to put the vaccine federal mandate on hold was granted. U of I is not moving forward with the mandate.
- Canvas transition: On behalf of CETL, Senator Erin Chapman gave a presentation on the migration to Canvas. Blackboard will become unavailable March 1, 2022. Canvas is currently available at <https://canvas.uidaho.edu> and Spring 2022 courses can be created. Erin provided information on the many available support resources. For questions, please contact the Instructional Design Team at coursedesign@uidaho.edu.
- Vice President Brian Foisy visited Senate for a thorough budget update. The presentation slides can be found in the binder for this meeting. The key takeaway is that our budget position has improved but we still need to make progress on our financial standing. Due to the late hour, the discussion had to be cut. Please send questions from yourself and your constituents to FSL. We will gather them and forward them to Vice President Foisy.
- Important dates:
 - Commencement is on Saturday, December 11, at 12:30.
- *We thank you for a productive semester and wish you all the best for the holiday season!*

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, January 25, 2022, Meeting #17

- COVID update:
 - Our COVID protocols remain in place. Testing is easily available to the university community and has been extended to the upcoming weekend. We have 26 students in our isolation space.
 - Our employees are recommended to stay home if sick. They can work from home if possible or take sick leave. Instructors are encouraged to be flexible with student attendance over the next few weeks. Everyone is encouraged to be vigilant and to get vaccinated.
 - Faculty have the flexibility to make short-term changes in their class delivery mode, as well as the flexibility not to offer Zoom or Hyflex options and, instead, provide alternative ways to support students who are not able to attend classes. Any changes should be discussed with the unit chair.
 - Senators shared their thoughts on how daily accommodations of student absences is challenging and exhausting. Some Senators feel that there is no support system to help faculty with setting boundaries.
- Legislative update:
 - This week is devoted to education – universities in the state will give presentations. U of I presentations are scheduled for this Friday and will be broadcast by Idaho Public Television at 7AM Pacific Time.
 - The Governor’s budget was delivered about a week ago and it looks like there will be good news – we are optimistic that some of the considerable surplus in our state may come to higher education. Updates will be communicated as they become available.
- The Joint Athena Working Group and Faculty Senate Sub-Committee presented an update on the Paid Parental Leave policy they are working on. <https://hrs.wsu.edu/employees/disability-services/pregnancy-parental-leave>. Faculty Senate unanimously voted to support this initiative.
- ITS is looking for faculty volunteers to provide feedback for the new “My.UIdaho” platform, which will offer each student a personalized dashboard that integrates with Banner and other applications. ITS is hoping to conduct 45-60 minute, one-on-one interviews with key stakeholders to help them design and develop this new interface. If you are interested in participating, please email project manager Jason Swanby at jswanby@uidaho.edu.
- Important dates:
 - The nomination period for the 21-22 University Awards for Excellence for Faculty and Staff ends at 5 p.m. this Friday. Information about the awards and the nomination process can be found online. Staff Awards: <https://www.uidaho.edu/governance/faculty-staff/university-awards/staff-awards> Faculty Awards: <https://www.uidaho.edu/governance/faculty-staff/university-awards/faculty-awards/award-categories>
 - All evaluations must be done and ready to go by the deadline of March 1, 2022 in order to process CEC.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, February 1, 2022, Meeting #18

- COVID update: Testing is available from noon to 2pm at the REC center. Rapid tests have been ordered in large number. The number of students who have submitted their vaccination card is now 4,700.
- As we all know, President Green released the report by Idaho law firm Hawley Troxel that found no evidence for the many erroneous claims about the University of Idaho made by the partisan organization the Idaho Freedom Foundation. Last week, President Green spoke to the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee at the state legislature and strongly advocated for the U of I. Faculty Senate Leadership has received many comments of praise and support for President Green.
- Senators (and everyone else!) hope that the state of Idaho considerable surplus will benefit education. It may be many weeks before budget information becomes available.
- The Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) worked on revisions of FSH 3500 Promotion & Tenure in response to feedback from faculty and administrators. The proposed changes can be found in attachment #8 of this meeting binder. Faculty Senate approved the motion from FAC.
- ITS is still looking for faculty volunteers to provide feedback for the new “My.UIdaho” platform, which will offer each student a personalized dashboard that integrates with Banner and other applications. ITS is hoping to conduct 45-60 minute, one-on-one interviews with key stakeholders to help them design and develop this new interface. If you are interested in participating, please email project manager Jason Swanby at jswanby@uidaho.edu.
- Nominations are needed for two deans to serve on the University Distinguished Professor Advisory Committee. Please submit nominations to Vice Provost Diane Kelly-Riley. FSH 1565 D-8.b provides the selection procedures. <https://www.uidaho.edu/governance/policy/policies/fsh/1/1565#d8>

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, February 8, 2022, Meeting #19

- COVID update: Rapid tests are available. The number of students who have submitted their vaccination card is almost 5,000. More than 500 new students have submitted their vaccination card to participate in the tuition incentive program.
- Senate election season is approaching! Senators should coordinate with their colleges and constituents to organize Senate elections according to each college's procedures. If you are unsure about which positions will be vacant next year, please contact the Faculty Secretary for clarification.
- Our Senate Vice Chair, Alistair Smith, has been named the interim chair of Geography and Geological Sciences (soon to be the Department of Earth and Spatial Sciences). Congratulations, Alistair, and many thanks for all your hard work with our leadership team! Because of the new position, Alistair will not run for the 2022-23 Senate chair. Interested Senators are encouraged to reach out to any member of FSL to learn more about Senate leadership and shared governance.
- We are currently operating under temporary emergency admission standards, as allowed by FSH 6990, to mitigate the impact of Covid on higher education and the school system, such as the inability of students to take standardized tests. Currently, we apply a standard of 2.6 for the minimum GPA and require no standardized tests. Those policies do not apply to the next admission cycle and thus we need to make a decision for the upcoming cycle. Senators engaged in a preliminary conversation to be followed by a broader discussion on how to move forward.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, February 15, 2022, Meeting #20

- COVID update: No changes in protocol at this time. We have two students in supported isolation and one in supported quarantine.
- Another reminder for Senators to work with their colleges and other entities to hold elections for next year's Senate. Also, please remind your constituents to think about Senate leadership positions.
- Senate engaged in a preliminary discussion on a new policy proposed by FAC *Maintaining Instructional Order*. The intent is to provide clarification about faculty rights and responsibilities when dealing with what they see as disruptive behavior in the classroom.
- John Mangiantini, Director of Cooperative Education at U of I, gave a presentation about the history, current status, and goals of the co-op program at U of I. The presentation slides, with contact information, will be placed in the next folder, attached to the minutes of this meeting.

Important Dates:

- March 15 is the deadline for requesting extension of the P&T timeline or to request early consideration. Please visit <https://www.uidaho.edu/provost/faculty/tenure> and go to "Forms."
- Annual evaluations must be in the provost office by March 1 for CEC eligibility.
- The 2021-22 University Faculty Meeting #3 will be held February 23, 2022, at 2:30pm. Please attend if you can and help us reach a quorum!

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, February 22, 2022, Meeting #21

- COVID update: See memo of 02/22/2022 from President Green and Provost Lawrence. No changes in protocol at this time. Next week we should know more about what the next phase may look like.
- The State Board of Education approved the new policy on Academic Rights and Responsibilities, which provides a much more detailed and clear set of expectations around academic freedom for faculty, students, and institutions. Big thanks to Senator Deb Thorne, Provost Torrey Lawrence, and Vice Provost for Student Affairs Blaine Eckles for their hard work getting this policy drafted and representing the University of Idaho in those conversations.
- Dean of Students Blaine Eckles's gave a presentation on Student Mental Health. We encourage you to look at the presentation slides, which are attached to this meeting binder.
- Message from Senate Chair Meeuf: Our Faculty Secretary Francesca Sammaruca is in her third year in this position, and so Provost Lawrence and I will be conducting a review of her service thus far. Here is a [link](#) that faculty and staff can use to send us feedback on the Faculty Secretary's performance. If anyone has questions or wants to send feedback directly, they can reach out to me.

Important Dates:

- March 15 is the deadline for requesting extension of the P&T timeline or to request early consideration. Please visit <https://www.uidaho.edu/provost/faculty/tenure> and go to "Forms."
- Join Provost Lawrence for Vandals Reflecting Town Hall, March 3, 2:30-4 p.m. Pacific time, in the Vandal Ballroom, Bruce Pitman Center (as space permits) and online. [RSVP is required](#) for participation both in person and online. (Note corrected date from the original announcement.) Two years after the onset of COVID-19, this is an opportunity for all U of I employees to come together and reflect on the challenges we faced and overcame as an institution, and how those shared experiences can help us move forward stronger and more united.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, March 1, 2022, Meeting #22

- COVID update:
 - Removal of the mask mandate in Moscow and CDA: the exception is only for classes in this transition period, because of the complexity of the classroom situation. While we move into a phase of individual choices, we continue to be watchful and ready to shift as necessary. Employees who chose to continue wearing a mask are fully supported. For any questions or concerns about the classroom, instructors should reach out to the Provost or to Vice Provost Diane Kelly-Riley.
 - Numbers continue to go down rapidly in the state. This week we have four students in isolation and none in quarantine.
- Senate Chair Meeuf delivered a message to condemn the violence and inhumanity of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. One of our core learning outcomes at the university of Idaho is to practice ethical citizenship. Thus it is our duty, as educators, to promote principles of peace and democracy while we prepare the next generation of citizens to enter a world fraught with danger and division.
- The University's accreditation site visit with the Northwest Commission on Colleges & Universities is coming up in early April. After the break, Dean Panttaja will visit Senate to speak about the visit. In the meantime, all regular faculty who are NOT in a supervisory role are invited to attend a virtual forum as part of this process where our peer evaluators can ask us questions about the institution. The faculty open forum will be **Monday April 4, from 2:30 – 3:20 PM**. Senate will send out an outlook invitation with a zoom link. Senate Leadership is considering cancelling the April 5 Senate Meeting so that Senate Leadership can more fully engage with the accreditation team.
- The joint Athena & Faculty Senate subcommittee has been working with fiscal operations and HR to find a viable policy on paid parental leave. Based on this work, the university is considering three general paths forward: (1) continue with existing benefits, (2) develop a plan similar to Boise State and Idaho State that offers 8 weeks of fully paid parental leave, or (3) develop a plan similar to Washington State that offers 12 weeks of paid parental leave at 90% of salary (up to a limit). The subcommittee recommended that the university pursue option 3 (similar to WSU), and Senate endorsed this recommendation. Senate and Staff Council will continue to solicit feedback as necessary on this topic before a detailed plan is approved.

Important Dates and Deadlines:

- March 15 is the deadline for requesting extension of the P&T timeline or to request early consideration. Please visit <https://www.uidaho.edu/provost/faculty/tenure> and go to "Forms."

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, March 8, 2022, Meeting #23

- COVID update: This week's numbers are similar to those from last week – one student in isolation and none in quarantine. Some of the metrics are back to their last June level, prior to Delta and Omicron. At this time we are not expecting any changes to our current protocols. A total of 4,917 students have submitted vaccine information.
- CEC (5% approved by JFAC): It is not yet decided whether those funds will be distributed across the board, based on market, or based on merit. The first option would help the most with the inflation rate. The growing cost of living in our community and the housing market are a serious concern and are impacting searches.
- Admission standards discussion: Chair Meeuf Senate asked Senate for a recommendation on a temporary extension of our admission standards for this cycle. He suggested two main options: **1.** Keep what we have. Automatic admission for those at 2.6 and above, no standardized test requirement. Automatic Gateway admission for those between 2.3 and 2.59; or **2.** Automatic admission for those 2.8 and above, no standardized test requirement. Automatic Gateway admission for those between 2.6 and 2.79. No strong opinions were expressed on either side. Senators are comfortable with FSL coming up with a recommendation. Other suggestions are welcome.
- Some Senators conveyed appreciation and gratitude from constituents with young families for the work of the Paid Parental Leave Committee.
- Three on-going searches: Dean of the College of Engineering, Dean of CEHHS, and Vice Provost for Academic Initiatives. Finalist information can be found at <https://www.uidaho.edu/provost/administrative-searches> . Everyone is invited to participate in the open events and give feedback.

Important Dates and Deadlines:

- March 15 is the deadline for requesting extension of the P&T timeline or to request early consideration. Please visit <https://www.uidaho.edu/provost/faculty/tenure> .
- March 31 is the deadline for sabbatical applications – check with your college about internal deadlines.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, March 22, 2022, Meeting #24

- COVID update: Nothing significant to report, and no changes to our current protocols are anticipated. We continue to be watchful.
- Good news on the CEC front! It is expected that all U of I employees will receive a pay raise.
- The accreditation visit will take place April 4th through April 6th. For questions about the process, contact Interim Vice Provost Dean Panttaja.
- For information on the upcoming conference *2022 Student Success*, please visit <https://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/cetl/student-success.asp>
- The Idaho GradWell Statewide Graduate Student Wellness Event will be held virtually (on Zoom) Friday, April 1, 3:00-5:00pm. This event focuses on ways to support graduate students and their wellbeing as they navigate their studies. The main event will involve a student panel discussion to learn firsthand from graduate students about how they manage stress and how their universities/departments influence their overall wellness and promote balance in their academic pursuits, and there will be additional discussions and roundtables. To register, go to [registration link](#). If you have questions, please contact Seth Rose, our GPSA president.
- The first “UIdaho Bound” event is Saturday, March 26. 1,300 visitors are expected on campus. Help is welcome.
- On-going administrative searches: visit at <https://www.uidaho.edu/provost/administrative-searches> for schedules and to provide feedback.

Important Dates and Deadlines:

- A reminder that Honorary Degree Nominations are due April 15.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, March 29, 2022, Meeting #25

- COVID update: Nothing new to report. No changes to our current protocols are anticipated.
- We will not hold a Senate meeting next Tuesday, April 5, because of the upcoming accreditation visit. Faculty Senate Leadership will use part of that time to meet with the site team.
- On a related note, please remind your constituents about the April 4 Faculty Forum with the accreditation team from 2:30-3:30, on Zoom. This is for all faculty but faculty in supervisory roles should not attend.
- Colleges should have started the process of electing new Senators, as needed, to fill upcoming vacancies. The first meeting of the new Senate will be on April 26 to collect nominations for next year's leadership team, so we will need the names of new Senators prior to April 26.
- The Graduate & Professional Students Association (GPSA) presented to Senate their proposal for FSH 3715 Graduate Student Parenting Leave. This policy will provide full-time graduate students four weeks of parenting leave after the birth, adoption, or foster placement of a child. A student taking parenting leave will maintain current status as a degree-seeking student, applicable tuition waivers, appointment without pay, and be shielded from discrimination or retaliation in response to the parenting leave. Senate approved the proposed policy.
- ASUI leaders presented updates on their project regarding timely feedback to students about their progress in a course. A broad discussion developed, which included the importance of supporting faculty who have increased teaching loads and system integration.
- Admission standards: empowered by senate's consensus to make a recommendation under FSH 6990, FSL is strongly leaning towards the recommendation to just continue with the existing emergency admission standards for the next cycle.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, April 12, 2022, Meeting #26

- Thanks to everyone who participated in the accreditation visit! The Accreditation Team had positive comments about the university in their draft report.
- Following the Paid Parental Leave preference survey, Faculty Senate, Staff Council, and the Provost's Office have been in contact with HR about hosting a Town Hall meeting this coming Monday in order to give folks an opportunity to ask questions about the proposed changes to the parental leave policy. Details about this meeting are on the way.
- Another reminder that we will need to know the names of new Senators before the April 26 Faculty Senate meeting, so please make sure that your colleges and other bodies are wrapping up the election of new Senators.
- Vice Chair Smith has been chairing a senate Subcommittee to rethink student evaluation of teaching. He reported on the status of the project to gather feedback and suggestions from Senate. The task force worked hard for one year, with invaluable input from ASUI. More work needs to be done, but they are hoping for an implementation date of January 1, 2023.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, April 19, 2022, Meeting #27

- Paid Parental Leave: A town hall was held yesterday (Monday April 18) hosted by Human Resources together with Faculty Senate and Staff Council leadership and the members of the subcommittee who worked on this project. They have gathered questions from the town hall, the answers to which will be compiled and posted on a website. Also, people have the option to revisit the survey and change their responses if they wish to.
- On-campus housing: A survey for faculty input, (announced by Brian Foisy and Cami McClure in a memo of April 14), should be in your inboxes later this week. Please take the time to complete the survey and encourage your constituents to do so as well.
- Another reminder that we will need to know the names of new Senators before the April 26 Faculty Senate meeting, so please make sure that your colleges and other bodies are wrapping up the election of new Senators. Next week senate meeting will be shorter than usual and will be followed by the first meeting of the 2022-23 Senate.
- Part of next week's agenda is to consider and vote on revised FSH 4120. This is actually a quite substantive policy change, which entails amending and streamlining the workflow on our curricular approval process. Please take a close look at the next binder.
- As from the president's memo of earlier today (April 19), eligible employees will receive a minimum 2% pay increase. For more information on the policy regarding merit increases, visit <https://www.uidaho.edu/governance/policy/policies/fsh/3/3420>

Important dates:

- The Awards Ceremony is on Monday, April 25, 3:30PM, at the ICCU Arena, followed by an employee appreciation BBQ, 4:30-7PM.
- Last UFM of AY 2021-22: May 4 at 2:30PM. Please attend if you can!
- There will be two commencement ceremonies on the Moscow campus on May 14. Everyone is strongly encouraged to attend. <https://www.uidaho.edu/events/commencement/spring>

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, April 26, 2022, Meeting #28

- This was the last meeting of the 2021-22 Senate. It's been a productive year and we thank the outgoing Senators for their hard work to support shared governance. We wish the returning Senators all the best as they continue to be the faculty voice on important matters facing our institution.
- The 2022-23 Senate Leadership will be elected at the second meeting of the 2022-23 Senate, Tuesday May 3, 3:30PM.
- Senate approved revisions on FSH 4120 to streamline and simplify the curricular approval processes while maintaining appropriate levels of transparency and shared governance. These changes will reduce administrative workload and allow for more flexibility in approving curricular change and additions.

Important dates:

- Last UFM of AY 2021-22: May 4 at 2:30PM. Please attend if you can!
- There will be two commencement ceremonies on the Moscow campus on May 14. Everyone is strongly encouraged to attend. <https://www.uidaho.edu/events/commencement/spring>

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