**University of Idaho
2024 – 2025 Faculty Senate Agenda**

Meeting #20
Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 3:30 pm
Zoom Only

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes (Vote)
   - Minutes of the 2024-2025 Faculty Senate Meeting #19 (January 21, 2025) **Attach. #1**

III. Chair's Report
   - Robert Rinker, Senator from COE

IV. Provost's Report

V. Committee Reports
   - Update from and requested guidance for Ubuntu – Caitlin Cieslik-Miskimen, Assistant Professor of Journalism and Chair of Ubuntu

VI. Other Announcements and Communications
   - Brainstorming session on the university's relationship with the legislature/perception of higher education in Idaho – Kristin Haltinner, Chair **Attach. #2**

VII. New Business

VIII. Adjournment

Attachments

   - **Attach. #1** Minutes of the 2024-2025 Faculty Senate Meeting #19 (January 21, 2025)
   - **Attach. #2** Discussion points for brainstorming session on university's relationship with the legislature/perception of higher education in Idaho

University *of* Idaho
Faculty Senate

2024 – 2025 Faculty Senate – <u>Pending Approval</u>
<u>Meeting # 19</u>
Tuesday, January 21, 2025, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Zoom only

Present: Barannyk, Borrelli, Chapman, Corry, Hagen, Haltinner, Hu, Kenyon, Kirchmeier, Torrey Lawrence (w/o vote), Maas, McKenna, Miller, Murphy (vice chair), Pimentel, Ramirez, Raney, Remy, Rinker, Roe, Sammarruca (w/o vote), Shook, Sowisdral, Strickland, Thorne, Tohaneanu
Absent: Aus

Call to Order: Chair Haltinner called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes (vote):
> The minutes of the 2024-25 Meeting #18, January 14, 2025, were approved as distributed.

Chair's Report
- Meeting with Lee Espey (DFA in charge of Facilities, Security and Parking): He's open to coming to senate to continue those conversations and talk about some security improvement projects that they have planned. More to come.
- <u>Who we are:</u> Corey McKenna – Curriculum and instruction.
  Corey is a clinical professor of Education in EHHS. He introduced himself and provided some background about his education and professional history. He is serving his second year as a senator. Corey has 25 years of experience in higher education, and noted his favorite areas are math and science. He also worked in education administration but missed being in the classroom.
  After the loss of his wife in 2019, Corey wrote a book on grief, *Every Fallen Leaf,* with contributions from family members and friends.

Provost's Report
- First **Faculty Gathering** of the semester – January 23, 4:30 – 6:30, IRIC Atrium, hosted by the Provost's Office. Please RSVP: https://forms.office.com/r/9PR6GkFMGz
- **Brian Smentkowski** has taken a position with the University of Alaska. We are hosting a reception for him this Thursday, open from 11:30 to 1:00 for people to come and go as their schedule allows. It's in the ISUB Aurora room. RSVP at https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=Y2u8fpJXGUqyCwS4JgSIU1_DJGBZFfpHgfQAjahpn8tUNVNaWUO4UEE1T0OwWktGUIlYT05SMFhNUC4u&route=shorturl
- Reminder of the **strategic plans survey.** See email from January 13 for the link.
- **Idaho State Legislature**. President Green's presentation to JFAC is next Monday, January 27, at 7:45pm. See https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2025/joint/jfac/
There were no questions.

Committee Reports
- University Curriculum Committee (Vote)
  - UCC 255: Mathematics, MS – Tim Johnson
    In the process of redesigning the Prelims for the Ph.D. program, they removed those procedures from the Catalog and placed them in the Graduate Handbook.
    Vote: 20/20 yes. Motion passes.
  - UCC 256: Mathematics, PhD – Tim Johnson
    Same rationale as for UCC 255.

Vote: 19/19 yes. Motion passes.

Announcements and Communications:

- <u>Talking Points</u> – Francesca Sammarruca
  Francesca displayed her records of how the senate talking points are distributed and reminded everyone to forward the senate talking points to faculty and staff in their colleges or units.

- <u>Website Transition</u> – Jodi Walker, Chad Neilson, Dan Ewart.
  Chad starts with a brief overview. They kicked off a web project about a year ago for two reasons. One is that our current uidaho.edu website is old and needs to be replaced. The second one is to make the best use of our website. The University of Idaho is completely transforming its web site and web presence. The current website, https://www.uidaho.edu, is a combination of content for internal and external audiences with outdated content and has become very cumbersome to navigate. Working with units across the university, University Communications and Marketing (UCM) is re-envisioning the website to be an outward-facing, marketing website to help prospective students, donors and other external audiences find desired content and drive them to act. This work will be complete in Summer 2025. Internal-facing content will be developed for a new intranet called InsideUI. Designed as a collection of
  webpages available only to employees and students, InsideUI will become part of the communication ecosystem along with Microsoft Teams, MyUI, and other internal systems. This
  work will also be completed in Summer 2025 in line with the release of the new external website. The University is decommissioning webpages beginning with webpages.uidaho.edu. These webpages do not conform to required accessibility standards, many are out of date, and the technology that drives them is old and will not be replaced, as several options exist for the content. Work on this process will begin in Spring 2025 with site owners contacted to discuss next steps for their sites. The removal of these sites will be an ongoing process to allow time for people and units to ensure important content remains available.
  <u>Discussion:</u>
  The questions that followed had a common theme, namely the identification of what is internal and what is external, and to which extent input is being sought from departments and units in making that separation. Chad explained that this is a collaborative decision with the colleges and units. Content will not be duplicated on both the intranet and internet. Faculty web pages are accessible both internally and to external colleagues we collaborate with around the country. Some senators have the impression that the website is focused on prospective students as the external audience, while everything else is internal. Another senator remembers a big website overhaul in the early 2000s, when many sites were trimmed, and groups started generating their own websites elsewhere. They are concerned that the same may happen again, because it is still not clear who decides what's internal and what's external, UCM or the colleges and that UCM is not aware of all the different audiences each college is connected to internally and externally. There is a concern about groups or individuals developing offsite websites to meet their needs with respect to the external environments. The question of whether the external web site has a limit on how much can be on it was also raised. Chad suggested people to reach out if UCM has not yet talked to their unit. As for the site limit, the structure of the website does have some limits to the breadth and depth of the site itself. These are guard rails to make sure we put up the highest priority content for the highest priority audiences. So, there are limits to ensure that the site is usable and functional, with the right contents placed in the right spots, but it's not a size limit as far as terabytes go.

A senator asked how much freedom units or individual members have in creating their own website and to which extent contents are vetted. Dan Ewart responded that there may be instances where content is illegal, such as copyrighted material. There have been a few occasions where the content on faculty or staff websites has led to a lawsuit against the institution. In those cases, the site would be taken down without notification.

Some of the content on webpages.uidaho.edu may go on the new system supported by the library called "Verso," which is all about faculty and publications. Anybody who has a site on webpages.uidaho.edu will be contacted in the next few weeks about what they would like to have done with their content.

A senator asked whether the transition would provide better access for people with disabilities or people with different language preferences. The senator also mentioned that some of the interactive maps from our current website load very slowly. Chad responded that they are working with the vendor to make sure the site aligns with WCAG22. As for load times, they are moving the technology to a new application, and they hope to see improvements in load times across the board. They are also working on multi-language options. Jodi Walker mentioned a simultaneous project going on, where a new interactive map is being developed.

The discussion moved to authentication steps that may be required for the internal intranet. Dan Ewart confirmed that some places on our website do require authentication.

A senator asked whether, with all ending up on the intranet, they will still be able to use Google and emphasized the importance of keeping that ability. Dan Ewart said they are working on search tools. If one is in the intranet, they are going to be searching the intranet. If one is on the university website or using Google, they want to see both internal and external content. That's what they are striving for. Dan reiterated that people who have content on webpages.uidaho.edu will be contacted with options. No content will be deleted without asking. Communications will be coming in the next couple of weeks.

A senator wanted to verify that they can make changes to their website by themselves. Dan noted that the library's Verso system automatically pulls much of the research and publication information into that system. He confirmed that people would have the ability to update that system, without asking for permission.

Jylisa, our senator from the library, added that, if there are any web pages or content on websites that people don't want to post but also don't want to lose, her colleagues in the Special Collections and Archives unit in the library have a process for archiving that information and saving it. The contact email address is libspec@uidaho.edu.

- Senate discussion on Morale – Kristin Haltinner
  Kristin sent out an email to senators in the weekend with a few questions: What do you see as positive for morale on campus? What do you see as harming morale, and how would you rank those items in terms of their impact? She also sent two attachments, both brainstorming documents that FSL has on their files. The first is a pdf about benefits, and costs to working at a university.. The second is a list of priorities senate leadership continues to work on.
  It was pointed out that going into breakout rooms may facilitate conversation. There were no objections.
  Summary of breakout groups reports.
  Positive impact on morale:
  - o Collegiality/Colleagues
  - o Ability to be involved with campus activities

- o Current university leadership is more transparent than past leaderships
- o Diverse environment
- o Autonomy in research and teaching
- o Keeping resources local, within departments/units

Negatively impact on morale:
- o Perception that university leaders don't follow university policy
- o Increased requirements for travel reporting
- o Regulations concerning work equipment abroad
- o Chinese Americans on campus worry about the impact on their work and the perception of their work from the "China Initiative," if restarted by the new leadership in the White House
- o Communication from the university leadership
- o Low salaries
- o Cost of insurance and quality of coverage
- o TIAA vs. Fidelity
- o Lack of longevity recognition
- o Piling up of reporting duties, students more and more needy
- o Constant changes of university systems
- o Financial support
- o Lack of operating budgets in some departments
- o People leaving, or working remotely (while others are not allowed)
- o Tension between the legislature and the university

New Business: None.

Adjournment:
Meeting adjourned at 5:02pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Francesca Sammarruca
Secretary of the University Faculty & Secretary to Faculty Senate

Colleagues,

At last week's Senate meeting I saw three themes emerge from our discussion of what is negatively impacting morale that I'd like to give space to discussing in the upcoming weeks: 1) the relationship between the university and the legislature/ perceptions of higher education in Idaho (including how they related to funding); 2) the increasing bureaucratic/compliance tasks required of faculty that demand significant time and energy; 3) shared governance and transparency.

For this week I'd like to facilitate a brainstorming session on how to improve our relationship to the legislature and the public.

Questions to consider/discuss with your constituents:

- What are the core challenges with these relationships?
- To what degree/how does the university contribute to them?
- What sorts of efforts could we undertake to (taking a concept from Mya Groza's POP Talk) "rebrand" ourselves in their mind? (Is it even rebranding or simply clarifying what we do?)
    - Ideas I've heard: profiles of faculty on UI social media; public speaking opportunities for faculty; invitations to legislators to sit in our classes; intentional media campaigns highlighting the way we foster people to think about issues from a wide variety of perspectives/the amazing work we do; celebrating high achieving faculty by having them meet with legislators working on issues for potential collaboration
- What ability do we have to make requests of the SBOE, legislature, public to engage with us differently? How do we facilitate that?

Our relationship with the legislature impacts things like funding. This article, shared with me by one of your colleagues, may be worth reading before the Senate meeting: https://www.idahoednews.org/top-news/analysis-convention-illustrates-the-deepening-divide-within-idaho-gop/

I look forward to thinking on this with you.
Kristin