

Faculty Senate Talking Points, August 27, 2024, Meeting #3

- Welcome back, Everyone! We look forward to another productive year for Faculty Senate.
- **Senate priorities for AY 2024-25.** Senate Chair Kristin Haltinner presented a list of priorities voted on by the senators last week. Salaries and benefits are among the main concerns.
- **Deferred pay.** President Green approved the plan to implement and bring back deferred pay as an option for academic year faculty starting in fiscal year 2026. More communications will be forthcoming. See <https://www.uidaho.edu/provost/faculty/salary/deferred-pay>
- **Academic freedom.** As we begin another academic year, it's helpful to consult the University of Idaho and the State Board of Education very thorough policy on academic freedom and academic responsibility. <https://boardofed.idaho.gov/board-policies-rules/board-policies/higher-education-affairs-section-iii/academic-freedom-and-responsibility/>
- **No Public Funds for Abortion Statute Update:** In July 2024 the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho dismissed a lawsuit brought by the ACLU and AFT. [According to the ACLU:](#) "The court found that the professors could engage in their planned teaching and scholarship without fear of prosecution because of explicit statements — made by the Idaho attorney general immediately following the filing of this lawsuit — that the law did not apply to academic speech."
- **Changes in platforms.** VandalStar changed over to a platform called Slate. There will be communications coming out next week to faculty on how to use Slate. VandalWeb will no longer be available as of September 9 and will be moving to MYUI. Those changes will impact faculty, so be prepared and get familiar with the new platforms.
- **Trevor Fulton**, Executive Director of Recreation and Wellbeing, talked about his department's initiatives aimed at strengthening the health and wellness of the Vandal community.

Important dates and events:

- **Faculty gatherings.** The schedule for faculty gatherings through the entire academic year can be found at <https://www.uidaho.edu/provost/faculty-gathering>. The faculty gathering is a hosted event by a college, open to all faculty and a guest over 21 years old, with the purpose to foster connections and intellectual exchanges.

The Talking Points are approved by Faculty Senate Leadership as an informal communication tool to engage constituents and get quick feedback on issues discussed at the Faculty Senate weekly meetings. All Faculty Senate agendas (including attachments and supporting documents) and meeting minutes are made available on the new Senate webpage: <https://www.uidaho.edu/governance>

Remember to share this email with faculty and staff in your colleges

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