

**University of Idaho
2025 – 2026 Faculty Senate Agenda**

Meeting #07

Tuesday, September 30, 2025, at 3:30 pm
Zoom Only

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes (VOTE)
 - Minutes of the 2025-2026 Faculty Senate Meeting #6 (September 23, 2025)
Attach. #1
- III. Chair's Report
- IV. Provost's Report
- V. Invited Guest Presentations
 - Changes to General Education Curriculum – Barb Kirchmeier, Director, General Education.
- VI. Committee Voting Items and Reports
- VII. Other Policy Business
- VIII. Other Announcements and Communications
- IX. New Concerns or Issues
- X. Adjournment

Attachments

- **Attach. #1** Minutes of the 2025-2026 Faculty Senate Meeting #6 (September 23, 2025)

Attach #1

2025 – 2026 Faculty Senate – Pending Approval

Meeting # 6

Tuesday, September 23, 2025, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Zoom only

Present: Barannyk, Borrelli, Erickson, Hagen, Haltinner (vice chair), Harrison, Hu, Kenyon, Long, Maas, McKenna, Miller, Murphy (chair), Ramirez, Remy, Rinker, Rivera, Roe, Sammarruca (faculty secretary, w/o vote), Shook, Strickland, Thorne, Tohaneanu, Vella, Victoravich

Absent: Kolios, Lawrence (excused)

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

Approval of Minutes (vote)

- The minutes of the 2025-2026 Faculty Senate Meeting #5 (September 16, 2025) were approved as distributed.

Chair's Report

- Last week's "zoom bombing" was unfortunate. We should have had a protocol in place.
 - Mary Stout gave a brief explanation of how the incident happened, what was done to fix it, and how to prevent it in the future. The intruders got into the meeting and were able to write a script that copied the participant names off their profiles, because the renaming function was turned on. The waiting room is also turned on and, in some instances, participants who join with their U of I credentials can bypass the waiting room and get directly into the meeting. Another best practice is to have a profile picture and include one's full name. If anyone wants their profile name changed, they can email Mary. The waiting room chat is on so that Mary can communicate with people in the waiting room if she doesn't know who they are. Finally, there is a button at the bottom of the Zoom screen called Host Tools, for use by the host of the meeting. Pushing "suspend participant activities" will stop everything and freeze the meeting, so that the host can gain control, identify the "bombers" and have them removed. Then they can resume the meeting.
- When we discuss items prior to voting, please feel free to voice your dissent.
- Please complete the Qualtrics form to nominate a book for the 2026-2027 Common Read: https://uidaho.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bBEVEYQJpiUR00K
- For those who are new to the senate: the Talking Points are a short document summarizing the main highlights of the senate meeting. It is prepared primarily by the faculty secretary and approved by FSL. Please forward it to the members of your unit as you see fit.
- National-scale events impacting academia (Kristin Haltinner may create a google sheet to track this kind of events): Kansas – Bill to eliminate tenure rights (HB 2348); Texas – Elimination / restriction of faculty senates (Senate Bill 37); Texas A&M – Firing of professor over teaching sex/gender/scientific content; North Idaho College – "Classical education" push through the Cardinal Classical Academy; University of Idaho Faculty Targeted; Faculty targeted for comments about the killing of Charlie Kirk; Berkeley release of names of people considered "anti-Semitic;"

Executive Order adding a \$100,000 fee on H-1B visa holders (not current holders, but new holders moving forward).

- Broader implications: Shared governance erosion; Self-censorship and chilling effects; Erosion of Academic Freedom; Politicization of Curriculum; Increased Vulnerability of Faculty and Students.
- What we can do:
 - Resolutions.
 - “Faculty First Responders (FFR).” FFR is a mutual-aid / support network for academic workers facing attacks related to academic freedom — for example politically-motivated harassment, having personal info disclosed, threats, or employment retaliation. They monitor media / online coverage of attacks on faculty; provide peer support; share advice and best practices; offer workshops/webinars; supply resources on digital security, understanding institutional policies, etc. Work with administrators to ensure due process is followed and academic freedom is preserved <https://facultyfirstresponders.com> They partner with AAUP (American Association of University Professors) and AFT (American Federation of Teachers) in some of these support efforts. AAUP: <https://www.aaup.org> Our employee union, the AFT: <https://www.aft.org>, <https://idaho-aft.org/>

Provost’s Report (delivered by Vice Provost for Faculty Diane Kelly-Riley)

- Provost Lawrence is attending a meeting with CNR and statewide leaders in McCall.
- H-1B visa executive order has serious implications for future searches. it is going to impact higher education as well as larger corporations with highly skilled employees, like Amazon, Microsoft etc. Proclamation: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/09/restriction-on-entry-of-certain-nonimmigrant-workers/> See <https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/h-1b-faq> for H-1B FAQ.
- Proposals to compete for strategic plan funds are due on Wednesday, October 1. There is an information session this Thursday from 9am to 10am (PDT). Link for the RFP: <https://www.uidaho.edu/about/thinking-big/strategic-plan#rfp>
- Next week, Torrey will talk about Ph.D. completion incentives.
- “Talks with Torrey” – October 2, 11:30am – 12:30pm. Questions can be submitted in advance. <https://vandalsuidaho.sharepoint.com/sites/InsideUI-Provost/SitePages/Talks-With-Torrey.aspx>
- Early warning grades are due today.
- Midsemester grades are due October 20.
- Next Faculty Gathering: October 22, hosted by COGS, who is celebrating their 100th anniversary. <https://vandalsuidaho.sharepoint.com/sites/InsideUI-Vice-Provost-Faculty/SitePages/Faculty-Gatherings.aspx?csf=1&web=1&e=7485po>
- Benefit questions from last week:
 - In response to a question about an additional impact from the change in the schedule, an extensive answer from HR has been added to the FAQs on the deferred pay page. Link: <https://vandalsuidaho.sharepoint.com/sites/InsideUI-Vice-Provost-Faculty/SitePages/Deferred-Pay-Implementation.aspx#was-there-additional-information-from-human-resources-benefits-in-may-2025-regarding-impacts-to-benefits>
 - Concerning calculations of salaries and rates of pay for the purpose of grants, Sarah Martonick suggested to look at the APM sections below:

<https://www.uidaho.edu/policies/apm/45/06>

<https://www.uidaho.edu/policies/apm/45/09>

Discussion

There was a brief discussion on the H-1B visa executive order. It doesn't affect people who currently hold H-1B visas, or people who submitted their applications prior to this Sunday at 12:00am, but for anybody submitting their application after Sunday, 12.01 a.m., the employer has to pay a \$100,000 fee. Litigation is expected.

Other Policy Business

- Interim approved policy
 - APM 40.03 New and Major Renovation Building Policy
 - APM 40.05 Architectural and Engineering Services
 - APM 40.10 University Space
 - FSH 1640.22 Campus Planning Advisory Committee

Discussion

These revisions are required per the findings of an audit conducted by SBOE Internal Audit and Advisory Services regarding University of Idaho Capital Project and Planning, dated December 2023. There was a brief discussion on the role of interim policies within the university policy approval process. A senator inquired about the student representation being limited to ASUI. That part is the same as in the original version and not the result of the audit, although it can certainly be looked at when the policy goes through the regular review channels.

New Concerns or Issues

With regard to Inclusive Access textbooks, a senator asked whether we collect information about which courses have been affected. Tim responded that there is a meeting on Friday to talk about the inclusive access issue. He is not aware of a rigorous list of which courses were affected. Diane Kelly-Riley concurs.

The terminology used around grade submission (early grades, midsemester grades, etc.) is inconsistent from one platform to the next. For example, early grades feedback versus early progress grades. It needs to be in one spot and use the same type of words.

A senator shared recent information received from their professional accreditation agency. The Homeland Security Department has proposed to implement a fixed full-year visa for all students. They are requesting public comments on this proposed change. The deadline for submitting comments is September 29. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/08/28/2025-16554/establishing-a-fixed-time-period-of-admission-and-an-extension-of-stay-procedure-for-nonimmigrant>

A senator asked when changes to the reimbursement procedures are going to be addressed. Tim replied that he has a meeting on Friday with Brian Foisy and others to talk about those changes. They will probably be approved as interim policies. Diane Whitney added that they are currently with OGC.

Adjournment

The agenda being completed, the meeting was adjourned at 4:06pm PDT (5:06 MT).

Respectfully Submitted,

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