

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.

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!