

### **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](mailto: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.

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!**