Chair Teal called meeting #12 to order at 3:31. A motion (Brewick/Royer) to approve the minutes for the meeting on November 10, 2015 passed unanimously.

Chair’s Report: Chair Teal announced that the University Faculty Meeting scheduled for December 3, 2015 had been canceled. There were not many actionable items to vote on and several important items that will be coming to the Senate will not arrive in time for a December UF M. There is a possibility that a UF M will be scheduled in February. He also reminded Senators that the Provost Office must have the nominations for the University Promotions Committee right away. We are still waiting on nominations from several colleges.

Provost's Report: Vice Provost Jeanne Stevenson emphasized that nominations for the University Promotion Committee need to be in right away. She also noted that the Strategic Planning Task Force was beginning its work. She encouraged people to go to the website to look at developments regarding the strategic plan. She also briefly discussed the use of Yellow Dig and Sli-Do which are technologies being used to enhance participation. She also noted that there will soon be an Alumni Survey going out to gather feedback on the strategic plan.

FS-16-014a (UCC-16-019): This proposal changes the name of a minor from Conservation Social Sciences Minor to Natural Resource Conservation Minor. This is being done to match the degree in Natural Resource Conservation. The proposal passed unanimously.

FS-16-014b (UCC-16-019): This proposal is to discontinue the Certificate in Fire, Ecology, and Management. Professor Alistair Smith was invited to speak to this proposal. The Department of Forest, Rangeland, and Fire Sciences voted to remove the undergraduate certificate because there was a minor in Fire Ecology and also a graduate certificate with the same name. This proposal passed unanimously.

FS-16-015 (UCC-16-018) Martin School Reorganization: Chair Teal invited Brian Ellison the Director of the Martin School to discuss the proposed reorganization of the Martin School. Professor Ellison discussed the current structure of the Martin School which includes Political Science, Philosophy and the International Studies program. The Dean of CLASS asked him to Chair a task force to consider reorganization. The resultant proposal would bring the International Studies program together with the department of Modern Languages and Culture into a newly titled Martin School of Global Studies. The other part of the reorganization would bring Political Science and Philosophy together into a new department of Politics and Philosophy. Professor Ellison noted that the faculty of these various departments and programs were fully in support of these changes. A Senator asked about whether there was a common space for these programs. Professor Ellison responded that the departments and programs were scattered around the 2nd and 3rd floors of the Administration Building. Another Senator wondered about economies of scale and whether there were costs to this reorganization. Professor Ellison mentioned that there would be some cost savings. Following a suggestion that there would be curriculum changes coming forward shortly, a Senator asked about the nature of those changes. Professor Ellison noted that coming curriculum changes were a response to assessment not really the proposed reorganization. Both Philosophy and Political Science would continue to offer separate majors and minors. Future curriculum changes would involve more cross-listing of courses between the two programs. The proposal to reorganize passed unanimously.
Contingent Faculty Task Force Report: Former Senator and current Dean of Engineering, Larry Stauffer, was invited to discuss developments on this task force. He noted that due to pending changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act it was thought best to separate the discussions of contingent faculty and contingent staff. Dean Stauffer stated that the task force will be hosting four open sessions in the next week to provide input into issues related to contingent faculty. He suggested that he had been surprised at how many differences existed on campus regarding the status and benefits of contingent faculty. Dean Stauffer suggested that we might distinguish between those who taught courses as part of a career ambition and those who taught courses more as a recreational hobby. Some Senators suggested that this distinction didn’t really capture what we should be concerned about. The resultant discussion focused on when a contingent faculty member might be eligible for benefits and when they might be expected to have rights to participate in the decisions of a unit. There were also several comments suggesting that the contributions of contingent faculty frequently went unrecognized. Acknowledging that providing benefits to contingent faculty can be costly, a Senator suggested that the new consolidated fringe pool discussed last week might help in this regard. As the conversation came to a close Dean Stauffer promised to return with some specific proposals at a later date.

Dean of Students Office: Chair Teal introduced the new Dean of Students Blaine Eckles. Dean Eckles provided an overview of the wide-ranging services and activities of the Dean of Students Office. He emphasized that their primary function was to be advocates for students. His office handles a variety of student activities including Greek life, crisis prevention, and student discipline. They seek to facilitate getting help for students and to help them navigate the university bureaucracy. When asked about trends across universities in this area, Dean Eckles noted that crisis intervention receives a lot more attention now than in the past. He also mentioned changes in what was required by Title IX and student disciplinary procedures. In response to another question Dean Eckles emphasized that his office would like to talk to any students who were struggling, or needed help in dealing with issues on campus. He encouraged anyone with questions to email askjoe@uidaho.edu.

Fall 2015 Graduates: A motion (Brewick/Foster) to approve the list passed unanimously. (Note: There was a question raised about a student on the list and whether he had met all the requirements. Several Senators agreed to look into the question.)

FS-16-016: FSH 3320—Faculty Evaluation: Chair Teal asked Don Crowley to explain the proposed edits to 3320. He explained that last year a Dean had suggested that the process required when a tenured faculty member received a “below expectations” evaluation wasn’t as clear as it could be. In response, the faculty secretary’s office was proposing a slight edit to 3320 section B and 3320 section C to clarify the process. The changes to C try to highlight that the same steps outlined in B apply to a tenured faculty member. The proposed changes in B-1 seeks to clarify the role of the unit administrator in suggesting sources of help for the faculty member. Several Senators raised questions as to whether the proposed changes to B-1 might still be problematic. The concern raised was that perhaps we were asking unit administrators to be overly speculative about the causes of the poor performance. The discussion that followed centered on how the section might be worded so that a unit administrator might provide the necessary resources and help without being too speculative about the causes of a problem. With the hour getting late it was suggested that we might try to reword this section and take it up at the next meeting. A motion (Stoll/Hrdlicka) to postpone the discussion until the next meeting passed with no objections and two abstentions.

Adjournment: A motion (Wolf/Mahoney) to adjourn passed unanimously at 5:03.

Don Crowley, Faculty Secretary and Secretary to the Faculty Senate