Present: Adams, Anderson, Brandt, Brewick, Brown, Caplan, Couture (Boise), Crowley (w/o vote), Flores, Foster, Hrdlicka, Jeffery, LaPrath, Latrell, Mahoney, Nicotra, Perret, Stoll, Teal, Stevenson for Wiencek (w/o vote), Wolf. Absent: Barbour, Boschetti, Chung, Folwell, Godfrey (Coeur d’Alene), Hiromoto (Idaho Falls), Jones-Mensah, Murphy, Wiencek (w/o vote). Guests: 4

The Chair called meeting #22 to order at 3:31. A motion (Stoll/Mahoney) to approve the minutes from the March 8th meeting passed unanimously.

Chair’s Report: Chair Teal reminded everyone that midterm grades were due. He also noted the need for colleges to conduct elections for the Senate [due in the Faculty Secretary Office’s by April 15]. The Chair explained that we would be postponing the discussion of the leave policy listed on the agenda for today. There was a short discussion of the modules that faculty and staff are being asked to complete. One Senator stated he had received some comments expressing concern about the quality of the modules. He also wondered about the lists of those who have completed them and whether they all needed to be completed right away. It was noted that Vice President Foisy has stated that the only module that had to be completed in order to be eligible for a pay increase was the “Our Inclusive Community” module.

Provost’s Report: Vice Provost Jeanne Stevenson explained that Provost Wiencek could not make today’s meeting since he was engaged in the final meeting of the Strategic Planning Task Force. There will be information coming out detailing how to participate in developing the “cascading plans”. The strategic plan has been submitted to the SBOE, although the version submitted to them is slightly different than the more complete plan that will be available to the university community. She also called our attention to the alternative break event this summer which is a great opportunity to serve as faculty advisors and to work with students. This year’s program will be May 17-26. She also noted that applications for the next round of sabbatical leave is due on March 31st.

NCAA – Athletics: Chair Teal invited Professor Brian Wolf in his capacity as faculty NCAA Representative to provide a report on Athletics. Professor Wolf explained that one of the roles of his position was to provide regular reports to the Faculty Senate, however, looking back at past Senate minutes it doesn’t appear that such a report had been made in a while. This is his first year in this position and he explained that one of the reasons he had applied for the position was because he thought we could do a better job for our student athletes. He noted that he believes college athletics provides many positive benefits to society, even though he is aware of many of the problems.

Professor Wolf discussed the importance of maintaining the academic integrity of our athletic programs. In this regard he noted that last year 58% of our student athletes had a GPA over 3.0. The graduation rate of our athletes is 76%, which is higher than students who are not athletes. He discussed the APR (Academic Progress Rate) which the NCAA uses and some of the reasons our football team has had problems with its APR rating. After a few years where we were below the NCAA standards and received sanctions, we have made improvements noting last year we were above the NCAA minimum requirements for football. The numbers for this year are not yet finalized, but he felt confident we would continue to meet the NCAA requirements.

Professor Wolf discussed some other developments. They are working on implementing an educational program entitled “You Can Play” which is designed to enhance inclusiveness and combat homophobia in
college sports. This program is aimed at issues both on the field and in the locker room. He also noted that they are doing a gender equity study. He concluded his presentation with a few comments about the UI’s current conference situation. The ability of our football team to participate in the Sun Belt Conference after 2017 has not been renewed, leaving us with limited choices. We could go “independent” in football, or join the Big Sky where our other athletic teams participate. In football, the Big Sky competes at a lower (FCS) level and thus we would be required to reduce our football scholarships from 85 to 63. A discussion followed regarding the effect of losing 22 scholarships for men’s sports and whether that might lead to a loss of scholarships for women. Professor Wolf noted that he had heard there was a possibility of losing a women’s sport. Several members of the Senate suggested that this would be a surprising result and one not clearly required from a gender equity perspective. [Note: In a later email exchange with Professor Wolf it was ascertained that we currently offer 223 scholarships to men and 181 to women.]

Other questions that were raised by Senators included:

- **Has there been a systematic sampling of what alumni want with regard to football?** Professor Wolf did not know of a systematic sampling, although he had heard that some major donors had strong feelings on the question of what level of football we play at.
- **Are there regulations regarding the number of class days missed by student athletes due to travel? Wouldn’t they miss fewer courses if we played in the Big Sky as opposed to the Sun Belt?** Professor Wolf stated that yes, there are regulations, and missing classes was an area of constant concern. He does discuss ways to minimize the number of class days missed, although ultimately he likes to leave it up to the faculty to work out problems stemming from excused absences for travel.
- **How might moving to the Big Sky affect enrollment?** Professor Wolf noted that there were many discussions about the negative and positive effects of a move to the Big Sky, but he didn’t have any specific information regarding the possible effect on enrollment. A Senator suggested that moving to the Big Sky in all sports would reduce travel and aid in the academic success of our athletes.

**FS-16-055 – FSH 1800 - Staff Council Bylaws:** Chair Teal invited Greg Fizzell, Chair of Staff Affairs, to discuss the proposed changes. Mr. Fizzell noted that this is part of a larger project involving rewriting the bylaws for Staff Affairs. However, the only changes before the Senate today involve changing the name from Staff Affairs to Staff Council and changing the ways in which representatives are selected. With regard to the name change, he noted that the definition of a council is a better fit for what they do as a body.

Changing the structure of how representatives are chosen would have one representative for every 50 people in a pay grade. This would ideally lead to having a Staff Council with 30-35 members. A Senator asked about elections for off-site staff and suggested a change to avoid having multiple members from the same site. The proposed change to Article II, Section 2. Structure. (4) would make it read:

> “Guarantees fair statewide representation by electing three at-large members from staff located at distant sites to ensure no particular classification, group, or [off-site location] is over-represented.”

This edit was accepted as a friendly amendment. A motion (Nicotra/Flores) to approve the proposed changes as amended was passed unanimously.
**FS-16-051 (UCC-16-032f): CLASS-English—Linguistics and Literacy.** Senator Jodie Nicotra was asked to discuss this proposal. Professor Nicotra stated that this new emphasis would be a 5th emphasis in English. It was designed to serve two student populations. One group would be residents of the United States who want to go abroad and teach which would give them a foundation in understanding how to teach language abroad. The second student population would be for international students who wish to return and teach the English language in their home country. A Senator asked how closely this was related to the programs in the College of Education. Professor Nicotra stated that there are connections, but this program wasn’t specifically designed to be part of the program offered by Education. Another Senator suggested that this new program was broader than “teaching English as a second language”. The proposal passed unanimously.

**FS-16-052 (UCC-16-036): Engineering—Biological Engineering.** Professor Peng was invited to discuss the proposal to create a new Department of Biological Engineering located in the College of Engineering. The Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering existed in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS). While other parts of this program would remain in CALS, this restructuring would locate Biological Engineering in the College of Engineering but would not change any of the existing degrees. In response to a question regarding new course work, Professor Peng stated that new courses are being discussed and this proposal simply creates the department with a new name. The proposal passed without objection and one abstention.

**FS-16-053 (UCC-16-040a): CLASS—Music Emphases: Arts Administration; Entrepreneurship; General Business.** Chair Teal introduced Professor Leonard Garrison to discuss the proposed changes in the Lionel Hampton School of Music. Professor Garrison stated that these proposed changes in Music emphases were designed to appeal to students interested in going into the business or administration side of Music. They have worked closely with the College of Business in developing these revisions. Asked why students had dropped out of the previous degree in this area offered by Music, Professor Garrison suggested that the previous degree was a watered-down performance degree with some business courses. This proposal passed unanimously.

**FS-16-057: FSH 1640.20 - University Budget & Finance Committee (UBFC).** This proposal comes as a seconded motion from the Committee on Committees, as requested by UBFC to increase its number of faculty members. Vice Chair Liz Brandt explained that the activities of UBFC had expanded due to the new budget process. It was necessary to have more faculty on the committee to share the workload. This year they received 149 budget proposals. Reviewing these and making comments on them has proved to be a major undertaking. Students and others on the committee did a yeoman’s job, however the workload was difficult. The proposal passed unanimously.

**Adjournment:** With the discussion of the changes to the Leave Policy postponed to a later date, a motion (Stoll/Wolf) to adjourn at 4:31 passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Crowley, Faculty Secretary and Secretary to the Faculty Senate