Chair Teal called the meeting to order at 3:30. A motion (Stoll/Folwell) to approve the minutes for meeting #2 on September 8, 2015 was approved without objection.

Chair’s Report: Chair Teal announced the Vandal Appreciation Fair from 2-4 on Tuesday September 15 in the Bruce Pitman Center. He also relayed an announcement from Vice President for Research and Economic Development Jack McIver that he and Associate Vice President Bob Smith will be available in the Brink Lounge the 2nd Thursday of every month from 3:00 to 4:00 to discuss research opportunities with faculty. Chair Teal also asked for volunteers to serve on the Tobacco Free Task Force which is being reconstituted this year to work on implementation plans (no one indicated a willingness to volunteer).

Provost’s Report: Provost Wiencek stated his regrets at being unable to attend last week’s meeting. He was called away for a public recognition of a significant gift ($2 million) to the University. He affirmed his intention to be engaged with Senate activities as much as possible. The Provost announced that we have a new Vice President for Finance Brian Foisy. They will be working with Faculty Senate to develop budget models that will provide incentives to grow enrollment. In a meeting with the vice presidents the Provost discussed the concerns raised by the Senate regarding HR practices and policy. There is a lot of interest in looking at People Admin as well as issues related to internal hiring, compensation and advancement. In the short-term the Provost hopes to clear up any miscommunication. In the long-term he would like to move towards a more deregulated system that gets away from prescriptive policies while moving towards a monitoring system that can be embraced by supervisors. There will be a leadership retreat next week which will begin work on the strategic plan. Referring to the Senate’s discussion last week on developing a climate survey, Provost Wiencek noted that a survey had been done a couple of years ago which will probably support many of the concerns the Senate expressed last week. He expressed a desire to work with the Senate to address these concerns.

The Provost briefly discussed legislative priorities. Our primary request is to fund the “Go On” initiative which focuses on providing help to high school students thinking about going to college. This initiative will provide staffing around the state to aid students in picking out a college and a major. The request also includes waiving application fees and funding for recruiting, advising, and tutoring. While this was our #1 request we have discovered that because of the leap year there will be 27 pay periods this year. Instead of lowering the bi-weekly pay checks the state is looking into funding an extra pay period. Since this would cost around $1.2 million that appropriation would have to become our first priority. Funding this appropriation might lead to losing some of our requests that are on the bottom of our list.

Enrollment Management: Chair Teal introduced Vice Provost Jean Kim. Ms. Kim was invited to give an update on the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan (SEMP). She brought along some handouts of the plan and noted it was also forwarded to Senators earlier in the day. Ms. Kim reported that as of the 10th day of the semester, our enrollment shows that we are slightly up with resident students but we also have a decline with out-of-state students and graduate students. Overall our enrollment is down about 3.3% from last year.

The strategic enrollment plan has a target of growing enrollment by 50% by 2025. The deans have been focusing on operationalizing the planning principles listed as “c” and “g” from this plan. There are a variety of different strategies that the deans are considering to meet their targets. The target numbers and strategies for the colleges will be reviewed by the Enrollment Management Council by December. The details of the plan can be viewed as part of the Senate packet for this meeting. Ms. Kim highlighted some actions that have been (or will be) undertaken.

- Hosted regional high school counselor visit in July and another visit is scheduled for September 17, 2015.
- Organizing alumni ambassadors to participate in Enroll Idaho.
- Targeting high school students earlier.
- Increase and leverage youth summer programs.
• Launched the new VandaLink for students transferring from community colleges.
• Developing new direct admission program.
• Host program entitled Enroll Idaho on November 10, 2015 which will be held in 42 counties.
• Hold FAFSA workshops in January/February to help with financial aid.
• Consider summer orientation programs.
• Launched Student Life Task Force.
• Assess academic advising programs.
• Improve Academic Support.
• Evaluate Scholarship Program to attract high ability students.
• Consider providing some version of WUE.
• Improve marketing of University.
• Gather outcomes data of UI graduates.
• Upgrading presentation of UI with responsive websites.
• Develop data on student retention.

A Senator asked Vice Provost Kim to discuss what we know about why students don’t come or don’t stay at the UI. Noting that this was a “huge question” Ms. Kim mentioned concerns with our scholarship packages and the need to strengthen our image. On the retention question there are some things that we could be doing more extensively, these include advising, developing study skills and tutoring.

Another Senator wondered about developing recruitment programs aimed more specifically at parents. Ms. Kim suggested that we already do this but probably could do more sessions directed at parents.

A Senator suggested that the enrollment council might talk to the INBRE which has many years of experience in developing associations with community colleges. He also suggested that graduate students can also be helpful as ambassadors. There was a question about what outside consulting agencies we had used. What have these services cost and to what extent has that resulted in increased enrollment?

A more futuristic question was asked regarding how a 50% increase in students would be dealt with on campus. It was suggested that it would probably take us 2-3 years to return to our highest level of student enrollment. The Provost noted that 2011 marked the height of UI enrollment. He has asked for an analysis of our enrollment patterns in relation to the number of faculty over the last 8-10. The Provost stated when he gets that analysis he will share it with the Senate and that it will help us to develop a new budget model. He noted that when the University begins to grow its enrollment, discussions as to how best to appropriate the additional resources will have to take place.

A Senator stated that he found the retention data by college to be useful and wondered about retention rates by campus groups. Can we get information about retention by specific dorms or Greek houses? Ms. Kim indicated that such information is being developed.

The Senate also engaged in a discussion of the difficulty of conducting summer camps and the role that such camps can play as a recruitment tool. How can we overcome some of the costs of having summer camps to help promote the campus? It was suggested that we look at overcoming some of the institutional barriers to promote such camps. There were other short discussions about how to attract high performing students and international students as well as how to better market the University of Idaho. Ms. Kim stated that the committee will explore these issues.

A Senator suggested that we need a clearer strategic vision for the University in order to make decisions about tradeoffs necessary when growing enrollment. For example, the market value of degrees might be less important than support for the liberal arts. And our status as the residential campus of choice in Idaho might trump expansion of online program delivery.

Vandal Strategic Loan Fund (VSLF). Chair Teal invited Charles Buck, Associate Vice President of North Idaho to discuss the VSLF. The VSLF enables a unit to obtain loans for short periods (usually 3 years) at a 2.5% interest. The deadline for applying has been extended to October 2, 2015 and the second application deadline is February 15, 2016. The program is under-utilized and he hopes to encourage more extensive participation in using this fund.
Currently, only about 20% of the fund has been used. The largest request allowed is $250,000 although they are willing to consider larger loans depending on the need and purpose. The VSLF is backed by the collective fund balances of university cash accounts.

A Senator wondered what would happen if a department did not pay the money back. It was noted that the VSLF is a small portion of our overall reserves and noted that up to now we haven’t had anyone who hasn’t paid.

Another Senator asked whether the payback period could be extended to 5 years? Charles Buck responded indicating that it was a possibility as exceptions had been made in the past and he would look into the possibility of having this part of the fund policy revised.

2015-2016 Committee Appointment Changes. Vice Chair Liz Brandt presented the list of appointments to committees since last spring. She thanked Ann Thompson for organizing the list. The updated list was unanimously approved.

FS-16-001: APM 40.31—Tree Memorial & Recognition Program. Chair Teal introduced Charles Zillinger to discuss the APM regarding changes in the Tree Memorial & Recognition Program. Essentially the changes increase the cost to donors to have a tree planted for memorial or recognition purposes. Mr. Zillinger stated that naming opportunities on campus should not be cheap. The campus is not a memorial garden and we want the recognition to mean something. A Senator stated that money and honor are very different things. Is the purpose to obtain funds or to honor a person? Mr. Zillinger stated that the reason for increasing the donation is to prevent an over-proliferation of commemorative plaques and trees. Responding to a question about what happens with the proceeds, he noted that they go into the Tree Memorial Fund which helps to resupply, repair and maintain trees on campus.

FS-16-002: APM 45.23—Dual Use Research of Concern. The Chair introduced Kathryn Barker from the Research Office to discuss this APM. Dual Use Research refers to research conducted for legitimate purposes that generates knowledge that could be utilized for both benevolent and harmful purposes. The purpose of this APM is to ensure that our policies are in compliance with federal government guidelines in the use of one or more of the 15 agents identified in this policy. This would be a rare circumstance since at the moment the University does not have the facilities to use any of these agents. The Institutional Biosafety Committee is designated as the proper committee to work with any principle investigator who might seek to use one of the stated agents.

Chair Teal reminded Senators to send him names of faculty who might be willing to serve on the Task Force for Implementation of the Tobacco Free Policy.

Adjournment: A motion (Murphy/Brewick) to adjourn was unanimously approved at 4:58.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Crowley, Faculty Secretary
and Secretary to the Faculty Senate