Present: Adekanmbi, Anderson (Mike), Anderson (Miranda), Barbour, Brandt, Brewick, Brown, Caplan, Crowley (w/o vote), Fisher, Folwell, Foster, Godfrey (Coeur d’Alene), Hiromoto (Idaho Falls), Hrdlicka, Markuson, Morrison, Nicotra, Panttaja, Payant, Pregitzer, Sixtos, Stegner, Vella, Wiencek (w/o vote).
Absent: Boschetti, Cannon (Boise), Chung, Wolf. Guests: 14

The Chair called meeting #13 to order at 3:34. A motion (Hrdlicka/Foster) was made to amend the minutes from November 15th. On page 3, first sentence, should read: “A motion (Vella/Hrdlicka) was made to add the UI program in exercise science & health as a similar program.” and under graduate admissions second paragraph eighth sentence add after enrollment deadlines “…and how this might affect our recruitment efforts.” This motion passed without objection. A motion (Payant/Nicotra) to approve the November 15th minutes, as amended, passed without objection.

Chair’s Report: Chair Brandt reminded Senators of the University Faculty Meeting next Tuesday (December 6th) and asked everyone to encourage their colleagues to attend in order to increase the likelihood of obtaining a quorum. Chair Brandt than asked for an amendment to the agenda in order to accommodate time restraints on some participants. In particular, the Chair asked that the requested change to the Standing Rules of the University be presented earlier than listed on the agenda. A motion (Hrdlicka/Miranda Anderson) to make this change passed unanimously.

Provost’s Report: Provost Wiencek, under some pressure to provide a quick report, noted that program prioritization work groups are meeting and doing good work. These groups have been identifying broad criteria for conducting program prioritization. They haven’t developed specific metrics at this point. Early next semester would be a good time for these work groups to report on what metrics have been developed.

A Senator asked about the proposed implementation of the new FLSA rules which have apparently been put in limbo by a recent federal court decision. The Senator was particularly interested in how these proposed changes affected post-docs. The Provost stated that the new labor department guidelines are not the only reason the University had been looking at the question. Many institutions have adopted NIH salary guidelines for post-docs. Since we are moving towards achieving a market based compensation system, adjusting those who were on the cusp of the FLSA guidelines would help put us into a more competitive market position. Provost Wiencek felt that these changes would put us into a good position and therefore there was no need to pause the implementation of the FLSA guidelines.

Communications: Office of Economic Development and Research. Chair Brandt introduced Janet Nelson as the Vice President for Research and Economic Development. Vice President Nelson stated that she has been on campus since early September. Since arriving on campus she has been very excited about meeting many faculty and staff. She noted that her office will be focusing on various large interdisciplinary research initiatives. These include:

- Fire
- Dairy
- Cyber Security
- Bolstering the relationship with the Idaho National Laboratory
She is also interested in developing better ties with foundations and corporations along with encouraging initiatives in the social sciences and humanities.

A Senator commented that in the past the University has focused on several strategic areas and her introductory comments suggest that she intends to continue on this path. Does she see opportunities for those whose research falls outside the strategic areas? V. P. Nelson responded that she felt there were other opportunities. She stated that there were some areas that possessed a critical mass of researcher’s which would help the UI to become nationally known for such research.

Another Senator noted that none of the areas she mentioned are health related even though the NIH was one of the largest sources of grants. V.P. Nelson responded that she wasn’t ignoring NIH and would certainly encourage more COBRE grants. The UI just passed $100 million in research dollars and getting to the goal of $160 million would take some large grants. While it takes advanced planning to pursue some of the larger grants, she didn’t want to discourage those seeking smaller grants.

A Senator suggested that the UI has many pockets of smaller groups of people pursuing some common research. These smaller groups could use help to develop larger research proposals and opportunities. Chair Brandt added that those in the social sciences and humanities could use support in seeking funded research opportunities. There is more opportunity for such grants than the University has realized. Vice President Nelson acknowledged that her office could help provide resources and infrastructure to help and encourage those who are new to the grant process.

A final question addressed the possibility of developing a pool for start-up funds. V. P. Nelson stated that her office was working on a proposal to UBFC to create a pool of centrally funded start-up funds. These funds would need to be matched by colleges and departments. Her office is also looking towards developing guidelines regarding how start-up funds might be managed.

**FS-17-025: FSH 1540—Standing Rules of the University Faculty.** Chair Brandt invited Professor Kenton Bird to discuss his proposed revision of an earlier Senate action. In September, the Senate passed a motion to remove Section E from FSH 1540. Removing Section E resulted in abolishing the requirement of having a fall faculty meeting. The Senate’s action had the result of removing the long-standing tradition of having a fall faculty meeting at which the President invites the Deans to introduce new faculty in their colleges. Professor Bird noted that he has attended many fall faculty meetings and found something of value in all these meetings. He also noted that he had a conversation with the President who indicated that he supported such a meeting. Instead of removing the requirement for a fall meeting, Professor Bird proposed revising Section E in a manner which would keep the requirement of having a meeting within the first six weeks. The change would allow more flexibility in developing a list of new faculty and subsequently posting the information on the University’s website. Professor Bird suggested that his proposal would continue the tradition for the formal introduction and welcome of new faculty to the Vandal family. Referring to a comment from Bruce Pitman, Professor Bird noted introducing new faculty helped to demonstrate that the “University of Idaho is big enough to matter and small enough to care.”

A Senator echoed Professor Bird’s comment that the first faculty meeting was a wonderful opportunity to meet new colleagues. Faculty Secretary Crowley noted that the Senate Leadership supported this revision. The original proposal to drop the requirement for the fall meeting occurred out of frustration in arranging the annual fall meeting. There was a short discussion of whether the FSH needed to specify who has responsibility for organizing the meeting. Professor Crowley expressed optimism that the details of organizing the meeting could be worked out without specifying the details in the FSH. Chair Brandt stated that the proposed revision would help avoid some of the frustration by eliminating the requirement for
producing the published list of new faculty before the meeting, and also more clearly specifying that it is the President who convenes the meeting.

A motion (Foster/Folwell) to approve the proposed revision offered by Professor Bird passed without objection. Because this revision altered a previous action by the Senate, a motion (Panttaja/Nicotra) to substitute this proposal for the previous action also passed without objection.

**FS-17-026: APM 20.23—Payment Card Processing.** Chair Brandt introduced Vice President Dan Ewart and Linda Campos to discuss the APM on Payment Card Processing. Mr. Ewart explained that the need for this new policy was clear. There could be significant fines if we were not in compliance with the requirements of the payment card industry. Chair Brandt stated that one reason for presenting this to the Senate was to help draw attention to the new policy and UI employees needed to become familiar with it.

Vice-Chair Hrdlicka wondered about how training could be ensured. Ms. Campos stated that this would be managed by her office. A Senator stated that in her department they have to fill out a form with the credit card information. Ms. Campos stated they were trying to move away from this. Paper forms should be processed quickly and the paper with credit card information on it should be destroyed.

**Sabbatical Leave 2017-18.** The recommendations for sabbatical leave were presented to the Senate. The Senate approved the recommendations without objection.

**FS-17-024 (UCC-17-021a,b,c,d,e)—College of Agricultural & Life Sciences**

- UCC-17-021a—Biological & Agricultural Engineering to Soil & Water Systems
- UCC-17-021b—Soil & Water Systems
- UCC-17-021c—Entomology, Plant Pathology & Nematology; Plant Sciences
- UCC-17-021d—Entomology BS. Ag.L.S.
- UCC-17-021e—Horticulture & Urban Agriculture, Biotechnology and Plant Genomics, Crop Science, and Crop Management

Chair Brandt introduced Professor Larry Makus to discuss the multiple aspects of the reorganization planned for the college. Professor Makus outlined the major changes. Professor Makus explained that as a result of the last prioritization process the Biological & Agricultural Engineering Department was divided. The six faculty that remained in the College of Agriculture were combined with the faculty in Plant, Soil, and Entomological Sciences to create a new department with a new major. This proposal also moved other programs into a renamed Soil and Waters Systems Department (see chart for a more detailed account of new programs and degrees).

A Senator asked why some of the programs required 128 credits, while other only required 120? Professor Makus stated that the number of credits required was usually left up to departments as long as they were within the Board’s guidelines. Another Senator wondered about the impetus for these changes. Professor Makus stated that beyond dealing with the remnants of the old “Biological & Agricultural Engineering Department”, a strong emphasis already existed within the college regarding water and soil issues like irrigation and conservation, so this seemed like a desirable direction. A Senator asked about the net administrative costs resulting from these changes? Professor Makus felt that the net administrative costs were close to zero.

Another Senator asked about the emphasis on water and whether any attempts had been made to consult with other programs on campus that emphasize broader water issues? Professor Makus hoped that there would be attempts to promote synergies between the various programs that focus on water.
Professor Makus also briefly discussed the bifurcation of existing programs within the college. This proposal also involved taking previous emphasis areas and creating new majors. The result of this reorganization was a new department of Entomology, Plant Pathology and Nematology. There was a short discussion of new majors and eventually the question of the difference between majors and areas of emphasis wormed its way into the discussion. Professor Makus stated that part of their strategic goal was to increase graduate enrollment. It was also noted that in the future a new major in the area of entomology would probably be proposed.

The Senate passed all the proposed changes unanimously.

**FS-17-027: FSH 6880—Campus Recreation.** Chair Brandt invited Rob Anderson to discuss issues involved with charging faculty and staff for use of the pool. Chair Brandt explained that several years ago the Swim Center decided that it was necessary to charge faculty and staff a fee for use of the Swim Center. They came to the Senate to explain the need to charge a nominal fee. At the time it was not noticed that there is a provision in the FSH 6880-D that stated that faculty and staff may use the swim center free of charge. Thus, there is an APM allowing for a fee, which is not in compliance with the FSH. Rob Anderson, from University Sports Services, stated that they had not been aware that charging a fee for use of the swim center contradicted anything in the FSH. He proposed that references to the swim center in FSH 6880 be removed. He noted that charging $100 for use of the pool was actually a good deal.

A Senator noted that removing all references to the swim center in FSH 6880 would mean that there would be no policies in the FSH regarding the swim center. Mr. Anderson stated that there would be references to the swim center in the APM. There was a discussion about the differences between the APM and the FSH and what types of policies/procedures should be contained in each. There was a residual concern that removing all references to the swim center in the FSH would deprive the Faculty Senate’s ability to have any further input into the Swim Center.

A Senator asked what the view of the Senate Leadership was. Chair Brandt stated that leadership was concerned about the existence of a policy in the FSH that stated that there would be no charge for faculty/staff use of the swim center while an APM allowed for a charge. She further stated that the contradiction could be resolved by leaving references to the swim center in FSH 6880 but to remove the specific statement in FSH 6880-D that stated that there would be no charge. The Faculty Secretary noted that there was no motion on the table. A motion (Morrison/Brewick) to eliminate FSH 6880-D was made. This motion passed unanimously.

**Adjournment:** Having passed the witching hour a motion (Panttaja/Fisher) to adjourn at 5:04 passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Crowley, Secretary to Faculty Senate and Faculty Secretary