The Chair called meeting #17 to order at 3:30. A motion (Folwell/Johnson) to approve the minutes from February 14th passed without objection.

Chair’s Report: Chair Brandt sought approval of a nominating committee for the soon to be vacant Faculty Secretary position. The proposed committee would be Provost Wiencek along with Senators Jody Nicotra, Andrew Brewick, Patrick Hrdlicka and Annette Folwell. The membership of this committee was approved without objection. Chair Brandt announced that the next University Faculty Meeting would be on May 2nd at 3:00. The formal announcement for the UFM will be coming out next week after the Jazz Festival. She also announced that the group working on an immigration statement is meeting at 9:00 on Friday morning in the Joyce Lounge. Chair Brandt reminded everyone that one week from today faculty must make their “spread pay” election. If a selection is not made, they will default to standard pay. She suggested that Senators might send a reminder to this effect to their colleagues. Finally, there is still a need for a Senator to serve on BAG. This committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 1:30. Chair Brandt acknowledged that she was now reduced to begging someone to volunteer. (Note: Apparently, begging did not succeed and Chair Brandt gallantly agreed to finish this year’s term on BAG).

Provost’s Report: Provost Wiencek stated that he was currently in negotiation with one of the finalists for the dean of Science. He hoped that he would have some positive news regarding this search in the near future. The Provost noted that an internal search for a dean for the College of Graduate Studies has been launched and there is an ongoing search for a vice provost of Academic Initiatives. The Provost commented on the SBOE meeting last week. We had three new academic initiatives come to the Board for approval.

- Film and TV Studies
- Medical Sciences
- First year of the Law Program in Boise.

The Board unanimously approved all three of these programs.

The Provost encouraged all faculty and staff to watch the video on program prioritization shown last week at the Senate. Everyone should go to the polling tool to provide feedback. One department (English) has already provided feedback. The Provost was asked about the million-dollar deficit in the athletic department and what we were planning to do about it. The Provost noted that in his appearance at the Senate last fall, Athletic Director Spear provided data suggesting that a deficit might be on the way. The Provost stated that the athletic department...
had accumulated a surplus in the past and had been given permission to draw the surplus down. This year the football program did not play in as many big money games. In addition, there is a cap on the percentage of student fees that can go to the athletic department. The Board has asked for more detail on how the university plans to account for this deficit. It is not readily apparent what impact the move to FCS will have on the budget.

**FS-17-041 (UCC-17-020a) Natural Resources: Changing Name of Department.** This proposal seeks to change this department name from Rangeland Ecology and Management to Rangeland Conservation. Chair Brandt recognized Professor Morgan to speak to the proposal. Professor Morgan stated that the name change is designed to increase enrollment. It was felt that the focus on conservation and wildlife habitat will attract more students.

A question asked whether the removal of the reference to ecology would narrow rather than broaden the area of study. A related question was asked about whether there used to be a program with this title. Professor Morgan did not think the name change was narrowing the area of study and did not know if this title had been used before. The proposal passed without objection.

**FS-17-042 (UCC-17-034a) CALS: Secondary Teacher Certification.** Chair Brandt introduced Professor Meyer to discuss this change. Professor Meyer explained that there was once a major of this nature. This proposal does not bring back the major, but seeks to institute a teacher certification program within the Family and Consumer Science program. Senator Cannon suggested that there was a demand for this program, and would increase as currently employed teachers in this area retire. The proposal passed unanimously.

**FS-17-043 (UCC-17-034b) Education: Teaching Minor in Literacy.** This proposal seeks to include a K-12 Literacy endorsement for elementary and secondary teacher education. Senator Cannon stated that there was a strong interest in obtaining this endorsement among teachers and prospective teachers. The proposal passed unanimously.

**Report on Animal Control.** Chair Brandt welcomed Vice President Dan Ewart back to discuss this report on “nuisance animal management”. Vice President Ewart stated that he was reporting on the new policies related to animal control on campus. He noted that the report has taken a while to develop because of the numerous UI sites around the state. He wanted to emphasize that the policy states that if an animal is not bothering anything we will leave it alone. If an animal does become a risk to health and safety, it might be necessary to trap the animal. While we have the capacity to trap animals, the basic policy will be to let licensed contractors do the trapping. However, if the UI must trap an animal, we will then turn it over to Moscow Animal Control. The UI will not euthanize nuisance animals and will ask those we contract with to make this a last resort. Vice President Ewart stressed that there was a distinction between nuisance animals and animals involved in research. Research animals are covered under a different set of policies. An annual report on these issues will be provided and Mr. Ewart noted that he has had meetings with groups like Animal Control and the Humane Society. These groups have been instrumental in developing the new policies. Overall, he felt these discussions have helped clarify the capabilities of each organization.
Chair Brandt stated that since the new policy has been announced, it is imperative that the APM be amended. Vice President Ewart stated that these revisions were ready to go.

A Senator asked about the use of traps on campus and Mr. Ewart said that this was sometimes necessary. For example, we are currently having a problem with beavers. A question was raised about feral cats and who would make the decision about whether they constituted a risk. Mr. Ewart stated that such a determination would be made by Facilities. If there were no risks, the cats would be left alone. He did remind everyone that there was an APM that prohibited feeding of wildlife. There was some discussion of how this was enforced. It was noted that enforcement is usually pretty informal.

**Final Exam Formula:** Chair Brandt invited Registrar Heather Chermak and Associate Registrar Dwaine Hubbard to discuss the final exam schedule. They wondered what questions the Senate had. A Senator asked about starting exams at 7:30 in the morning. Starting this early raised questions about how well students functioned at this hour, as well as possible concerns about weather related problems at that hour in December. It was pointed out that there is research suggesting that cognitive functioning is not at its peak early in the morning.

There was a discussion of why there was a gap in the final schedule between 5-7 in the evening. The gap at that hour was apparently for dinner and would be use as a space in resolving conflicts. Several Senators suggested that if that gap was shortened or eliminated, the testing periods could start later in the morning. A Senator wondered if students with children would be affected by such a change? It was pointed out that starting at 7:30 might also produce problems for students with families. There was a general discussion of the pros and cons of having a longer exam period.

While no precise resolutions were offered, there did appear to be a widespread desire to reconsider the early morning start time by shortening the gap between 5-7.

**Adjournment:** The Chair thanked the Registrar’s Office for considering some of the options discussed. At this point she entertained a motion (Folwell/Fisher) to adjourn at 4:25. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Crowley, Faculty Secretary &
Secretary to the Faculty Senate