University of Idaho  
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
2016-2017 Meeting #3, Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Present: Anderson (Mike), Anderson (Miranda), Barbour, Boschetti, Brandt, Brewick, Brown, Cannon (Boise), Caplan, Chung, Crowley (w/o vote), Donohoe, Fisher, Folwell, Foster, Godfrey (Coeur d’Alene), Hiromoto (Idaho Falls), Hrdlicka, Markuson, Morrison, Nicotra, Panttaja, Payant, Pregitzer, Stegner, Vella, Wiencek (w/o vote), Wolf. Absent: Adekanmbi, Sixtos. Guests: 10

Chair Brandt called meeting #3 to order at 3:31. The Faculty Secretary noted that he had accepted Executive Director Wes Matthews’ request for a slight rewording to last week’s minutes on page 2. The last part of the sentence, of the third to last paragraph, now reads: “we are well below the market rate on average.” A motion (Morrison/Brewick) to approve the minutes (as amended) for the August 30, 2016 meeting passed unanimously.

Chair’s Report: Chair Brandt took the opportunity to note that since the Senate is a representative body, we are dependent upon each Senator finding appropriate ways to keep our colleagues informed about Senate activities and to report back on important issues arising in the colleges and across campus.

Professor Brandt also called everyone’s attention to President Staben’s recent letter which refers to the creation of a new committee entitled the Institutional Planning and Effectiveness Committee. This committee will serve as a key committee to put the recently developed strategic plan into effect. We have been asked to nominate two faculty members to be on this committee. Please send the Senate Leadership the names of those you would like to nominate. She would like to have these nominations by September 14th. Vice Chair Hrdlicka added that the committee was expected to work closely with the President’s Cabinet and UBFC to implement the strategic plan and institutionalize the program prioritization process required by the State Board.

Chair Brandt announced that on September 22nd from 2-5 there will be an information session on the spread pay issue. There should be an email coming out on this soon. There are some significant planning issues to consider for people moving from spread pay to standard pay.

Refering to the Senate discussion last week with the Compensation Task Force, Chair Brandt reminded everyone that we are working with V.P. Foisy to create a parallel task force to focus on issues related to faculty compensation. She asked that nominations for faculty to serve on this committee be sent to her. The Chair also asked if Senators felt they had enough time to ask questions during the task force presentation last week. If not, we could request V.P. Foisy and Mr. Matthews to return in the near future.

Professor Brandt’s last item related to requests to discuss the most recent climate survey. President Staben plans to discuss this survey in his State of the University Address. After that we will have an opportunity to discuss the survey results.

Provost’s Report: Provost Wiencek picked up on the last item. He noted that last year we did review the HERI survey results in the Senate. The most recent survey is associated with the Chronical of Higher Education. This survey is broader than the HERI survey in that it includes both faculty and staff. He stated that the results from this survey were consistent with previous results. The President would like the opportunity to discuss the results at Provost Council and a planned retreat, before his State of the University address. The Provost stated that there won’t be any surprises and while he was generally encouraged by the results there was room for improvement.
Provost Wiencek noted that we have just hired a new Vice Provost for Strategic Enrollment Management. Dean Kahler is currently the Vice-Chancellor for Enrollment Management at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock. Dr. Kahler plans to start at the UI in mid-October.

The Provost commented on the most recent enrollment data. Enrollment of first year students is up 4.5%. We are up 4.4% with new transfer students. Enrollment is up 14.3% with students from under-represented groups and up 7.2% with in-state students. We are down 2.6% with non-resident students, which includes international students. While we are down around 2% overall, this data suggests a strong recruiting cycle for the year. He expects the final numbers to look better than these initial numbers.

The Provost stated that we will be searching for a new Vice Provost for Academic Initiatives. He expects to make an internal hire for this year while we begin a national search.

Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival: Chair Brandt invited Professors Torrey Lawrence, Vanessa Sielert and Vern Sielert from the Lionel Hampton School of Music to discuss proposed changes to the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival (Festival).

Professor Lawrence (Director of the Lionel Hampton School of Music) made some introductory remarks about the current status of the Festival. This coming year will mark the 50th anniversary of the Festival. The Festival has received a Presidential Award for the Arts making the UI the only public institution to receive this award. Operating control of the Festival has been returned to the School of Music and they are planning some major changes this year with the primary hope of returning to its roots. The Festival has four main components:
- Students from elementary school through college come to campus to perform
- Workshops given by performers are open to the public
- Evening performances
- Jazz in school programs

In the past the Festival has drawn up to 10,000 guests to the UI. In recent years the number attending the Festival has been closer to 3,000. Professor Lawrence stated that the decision has been made to return the Festival to the Hampton School. Professor Vern Sielert will serve as the artistic advisor and Professor Vanessa Sielert will be the educational advisor. In addition, Aaron Mayhugh will be the Festival manager. Their plan is to:
- focus on the educational experience of the Festival
- improve the artistic connections
- rightsize the Festival—reduce the evening performances to three days
- return the Festival to the UI campus.

Professor Vern Sielert commented that the theme for this year is “Grounded in Tradition: Breaking New Ground.” He stated that all three evening performances will be in the Kibbie Dome from 7:30-10 pm. They have had many discussions with local educators about what works best for the visiting students. They will be returning to a competitive format with the winners appearing during the evening performances.

Professor Vanessa Sielert elaborated on the return to a competitive format. They will be using a tablet-based scoring system for the judges. They will also use voice-recorded, rather than written comments, from the adjudicators. She also discussed issues related to the return to campus. Rather than using off-campus sites for the competitions and workshops, they hope to try to keep these events on campus to
provide visiting students with the experience of a university campus. It is thought this will help with recruiting students. The majority of students that come to campus are not music majors and they hope to provide information to aid departments across campus in recruiting these students. The major challenge in returning the Festival to campus is in assuring that there is sufficient classroom space. They estimate that 23% of classes on Thursday and Friday will be impacted. To deal with this issue there seems to be two options:

- cancel specific classes and offer alternative educational opportunities
- cancel all classes for both days.

While cancelling all classes allows for everyone to participate fully in the event, they are concerned that this could serve as an excuse to leave campus. Given that Monday is a holiday (President’s Day), students might take the opportunity for an early spring break. Also, they would like the community to be lively in order to enhance recruiting.

A Senator asked about student attendance and whether these changes would help improve attendance. Professor Lawrence stated that it was hard to determine what led to the decline in student attendance. He noted that the responses they have gotten from schools to the proposed changes have been very positive. They were hopeful that these changes would help with increasing the attendance.

Another Senator stated that the proposed changes were exciting and voiced the view that it would not be desirable to cancel all classes. She wondered if the Registrar’s Office might be able to identify faculty, who were willing to find alternatives on those days, and assign them to the classrooms that would be needed for the Festival. Representatives from the Registrar’s Office noted that this might be difficult, but they could look into it.

A Senator asked how many UI students got involved in the Festival. Professor Lawrence stated that this was not easy to count. Students participated as performers, volunteers, and by attending workshops and performances. This is something they are interested in increasing. Bringing all the Festival activities on campus should help.

A Senator asked the Provost if there were financial implications to canceling classes. [N.B. Faculty-Staff Handbook sections 4610 and 4620 address class cancelations.] The Provost stated that one of the proposals he had seen involved changing the academic calendar. The Registrar’s office noted that one way to do this would be to start the spring semester on Monday instead of Wednesday. There was a general discussion of the relative merits of canceling all classes v. canceling just those classes directly impacted by the need for classroom space. Various Senators expressed concerns about canceling all classes as this might lead some students to simply take the entire week off. The Provost stated that he wanted to support the Jazz Festival, but he was also concerned about impacting many students and professors who were not at the Senate to voice their objections. Eventually a motion (Folwell/Panttaji) was offered that the Senate should endorse the general concept and plans offered by the School of Music to bring the Jazz Festival back to campus. The motion took no position on the thornier question of whether to cancel all courses, or just those directly affected by the need for classroom space. The motion passed without objection. The Provost stated that he would like to take the issue to Dean’s Council and seek to obtain general support across campus. He expected that there would be considerable support for the new direction for the Jazz Festival.

A Senator expressed his concern that we ought to gather data about the cost and the degree of support for the Festival on campus. He would like to see better evidence of how many students were recruited by the Festival, and how much support there was for Festival. Another Senator countered these
concerns by stating that the Festival was a signature event on campus and presented a significant opportunity for the University to fulfill its role as a curator of culture. The Festival is squarely within the University’s mission, regardless of whether it serves as a recruiting mechanism.

The Chair thanked everyone for the discussion and comments and noted that we look forward to see how this develops.

**2015-16 Senate Annual Report:** Faculty Secretary Crowley presented the report of the activities and actions of last year’s Senate. Professor Crowley stated that the report was compiled through the efforts of Ann Thompson (with an assist from Joan Jones). The Report allows people to track the activities of the Senate and locate when various issues were discussed. Our office frequently receives requests from faculty to locate the discussions held by the Senate on particular issues and this report helps people to find the relevant information.

**Retreat Review:** Chair Brandt asked Senators to note the summary of the Retreat contained in the senate packet. Senate Leadership will be delegating some of the items raised in the retreat to the relevant committees. Her goal today is to remind Senators of what was discussed on that hot day, and ask if there are any comments about how we should proceed. She also explained that we will be using this list of issues to inform us on who we should be inviting to the Senate. A Senator asked about the question of funding for TA’s and how we might proceed. Chair Brandt stated that the College of Graduate Studies would be coming back to the Senate on the expansion of leave benefits for graduate students. It was also suggested that we needed to be considering ways to help advance the proposal to fund increases for TA’s. A question was also asked about progress on last year’s report regarding contingent faculty. Chair Brandt stated she would add this issue to the list and report back to the Senate. Another Senator asked about who was looking at the faculty evaluation pilot forms. Chair Brandt stated that she had talked to the Faculty Affairs Committee about the pilot forms and to consider the compensation form that was not acted upon at the end of last year. The student evaluation forms will be taken up by the Teaching & Advising Committee.

**Election to Specific Senate Committees:** Chair Brandt stated that she was resigning from UBFC and recommending appointing Senator Patrick Hrdlicka to fill the rest of her term. She was also recommending that Senator Mike Anderson be appointed to fill the 2019 term of UBFC. A motion (Folwell/Caplan) to approve these appointments passed unanimously. Chair Brandt also stated that she was still looking for someone to fill the vacancies on the Campus Planning Advisory Committee and the Student Appeals Committee. These are important positions that we need to fill.

**Adjournment:** With no new business Chair Brandt accepted a motion (Brewick/Folwell) to adjourn. This motion passed unanimously at 4:50 pm.

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