

**University of Idaho**  
**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**2017-2018 Meeting #17, Tuesday, February 6, 2018**

**Present:** Anderson (Miranda), Arowojolu, Brandt (w/o vote), Brown, Cannon (Boise), Caplan, De Angelis, Foster, Ellison, Grieb, Howard, Hrdlicka, Jeffrey, Johnson, Kern (Coeur d'Alene), Leonor, Mahoney, Morgan, Morrison, Panttaja, Seamon, Schwarzlaender, Tibbals, Vella, Wiencek. **Absent:** Anderson (Mike), Baird, Nicotra, Watson, Zhao (Idaho Falls). **Guests:** 7

**Call to Order and Minutes:** The chair called the meeting to order at 3:31. A motion (Johnson/Morrison) to approve the minutes passed.

**Chair's Report.** The chair's report was brief:

- The Spring Career Fair will be held on February 7, 2018 at the ASUI Kibbie Activity Center from 2:00 to 6:00 pm.
- Nominations for Staff Awards are due by Friday, February 9. Information is available on the [Staff Council Website](#).
- Senators should be thinking about their college senate election. The names of new college senators are due to the Faculty Secretary's Office by April 15.

A senator, who was unable to attend the last meeting, asked for an explanation of FS-18-032, a matter on the University Curriculum Committee Report at Meeting # 16 on January 30, 2018. The proposal, approved by Senate, eliminates the Dietetics option from the Food and Nutrition major. Chair Hrdlicka and Vice Chair Anderson explained that the program was shifting to a master's degree because of changed certification requirements in the field. Secretary Brandt will send an email with information and a contact person in Family and Consumer Science program who can answer questions in more detail.

**Provost Report.** The provost thanked the University Level Promotions Committee which met this past weekend. He indicated that after the consideration of candidate applications, the committee had a constructive conversation about the promotion and tenure process.

President Staben will be circulating a memo highlighting the progress on a number of issues that have arisen during the year. The university has had several successes including the mid-year compensation increases and the implementation of the TA compensation process. Our student retention rate has increased and spring enrollment is up a little bit. This increase may relieve some of the financial pressure on the institution.

We also are facing some challenges. Several university-wide committees will be assembled in the near future to provide input and guidance on how to address these challenges. Vice President Foisy will be assembling a committee to examine the university's long term financial issues. In addition, the opportunity to address the structure of the institution's academic programs has arisen. This consideration could include program combinations, and mergers of colleges. The provost has asked the deans to address these structural possibilities and to develop proposals that will not only result in fiscal savings, but that will make the institution stronger. Once the deans develop these proposals, a university-wide committee will be assembled to evaluate them and provide feedback and guidance to the provost. If college mergers are suggested, the provost anticipates that the committee will involve broader representation from the affected colleges. He stressed that no decisions have been made.

The provost next addressed recently announced changes in the university's approach to the Western University Exchange (WUE) program. This program allows qualified students from other states to attend the University of Idaho for 150% of the in-state tuition rate. The university withdrew from the WUE program several years ago and has been selectively participating in the program more recently. The provost explained that even though students in the program are paying 150% of in-state tuition, this amount does not cover the cost of their education. Moreover, some of these students would have paid full out-of-state tuition if they had not qualified for WUE. The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), the interstate organization that sponsors the WUE program, has asked that the university rejoin the program and fully participate. The decision to fully participate is not only part of the university's effort to be respectful of the WICHE request, but also recognizes that participation has the possibility of building momentum on increasing our enrollment, getting traction with the legislature for university initiatives, and recruiting qualified students from neighboring states. We will be carefully monitoring the program to ensure that there is no negative revenue impact of full participation. We have some indications from our past history as full participants in WUE, but the competitive landscape has changed. In addition we have the freedom to adjust our qualification standards for WUE students to control the number of participants and the negative financial impact.

A senator asked whether we are able to project how many students will participate based on a comparison of 150% of our in-state tuition with the in-state tuition in the student's home state. The provost pointed out that some states' in-state tuition is so low that the WUE program will not be attractive. Wyoming and Montana are examples of such states. On the other hand, we are likely to see an increase of applicants from California who are unable to get admitted to a California institution. Because of the fluidity of admissions, we do not have reliable projections of the number of students we might expect to see. A senator followed up asking how many more students we need to recruit per year in order for the WUE program to break even. The provost responded that the number is not clear because it is highly dependent on the mix of students. If students enroll in programs in which we have existing capacity, the costs to the institution are minimal. If they enroll in programs that are full, increased enrollment could mean that we need to add class sections in which the marginal costs are much higher.

Finally, the senator asked whether the university pays into a WUE fund as a condition of participating, or whether there is a threshold number of students that must be admitted through the program. The provost responded that WUE is basically a tuition discount endorsed by the State of Idaho for WICHE students. We do not get state appropriations for any WUE student above a minimal cap. The SBOE limits how many WUE students the university can count toward its enrollment workload (state funded enrollment) to 290.

A senator asked what the timeline is for the potential college merger discussion. He pointed out that there is increasing chatter and concern among faculty and staff. The provost stated that he has asked the deans to submit their proposals by the end of February. He plans to forward these to a university-wide committee at that time. From a financial perspective, the university needs to find overall savings of 1 to 2 percent in order to stabilize the institutional budget. A senator encouraged the provost to communicate the timeline and process for decisions on the college merger issue as soon as possible to quell rumors. The senator also questioned whether investing resources in a growing university-level administration might be examined. The provost affirmed his willingness to further communicate regarding the merger issues. He also responded that the perceived growth in university-level administration is a red herring. He stressed that positions have been re-organized, but that there has been no new investment of resources in university-level administration.

**Automated Change of Major System.** Associate Registrar Duane Hubbard and Registrar Heather Chermak demonstrated a new automated system for students to change majors and minors. Previously, students were required to complete a paper form that had to be signed by a number of different officials (including

the Department Chair, but not the student's advisor). The Registrar's Office formed a workgroup with the associate deans to automate this process. Using the new system, students will be able to change majors and minors from within VandalWeb. One feature of the system is that students will be required to give a reason for the change of major. A notice will automatically be sent to the college from which the student is exiting and an approval request will be sent to the college associated with the new major or minor. Associate Registrar Hubbard demonstrated the system which is expected to launch by the end of February. Senators asked the following questions:

- *Will students need to have approval of an advisor before they go through with the change? If not, will there be a way to notify the student's current advisor before the change in major can be approved? The senator expressed the concern that improvident changes in majors can derail a student's academic progress and extend the amount of time needed to complete a degree.* Hubbard answered that a new advisor must be assigned by the new college before the change can be approved. The workgroup opted not to send notifications to advisors because it was concerned that the volume of notices would overload advisors. He indicated that it would be possible to activate notifications to the student's current advisor. Hubbard also suggested that the new college can require the student to see an advisor in the new department as a condition of approval. A senator asked who in the college would receive the approval list for changed majors. His concern was that the list might go to a non-academic official who might not appreciate the need for advising. Hubbard responded that each college has designated a person to receive the notifications.
- *What role will centralized advising have in the process of changing majors?* The provost responded that while the structure of central advising is not yet finalized, it could have a significant role. Presumably an advisor in a central system should be able to help a student identify the pros and cons of each major under consideration as well as the consequences of changing majors. Senators expressed the belief that the current system provides an opportunity for face-to-face conversations that might be lost with the automated system. Automating the change process and losing this interaction might be inconsistent with retention. However, another senator pointed out that under the current system, students do not need to have the signature of their advisor to change majors – the current form requires the signature of the department chair.
- *Will students be able to select or request the new advisor under the automated system?* Hubbard responded that the new advisor is assigned by the college, but that the student may request a change after the advisor is assigned.
- *Is it wise to require advisor approval for a change for students earlier in their academic career who are presumably less mature and knowledgeable?* Hubbard responded that such a feature might be added in the future, but is currently not an option. The provost added that a coordinated advising system could address these early changes in majors. Other senators questioned the wisdom of this approach, freshmen and sophomores have less invested in pursuit of a major and the consequences of changing are less substantial. When students change majors later, after they have invested heavily in a particular major, the consequences can be substantial.
- Several senators requested that the registrar activate the system for notifying current advisors of changes in majors. They stressed that the workload is not the question. Rather, it is important for the institution to foster student engagement with advising when they are making consequential changes.

#### **Report of University Curriculum Committee.**

- **FS-18-039 (UCC-18-016): Law – New Natural Resources and Environmental Law Grad Certificate.** Associate Dean Jerrold Long presented the proposal for the College of Law. He pointed out that the proposal was not a joint proposal with the College of Natural Resources as indicated on the

agenda. The proposal is to create a graduate certificate in the natural resources area aimed at non-law students. Long pointed out that non-law professionals are primarily responsible for implementing the natural resource and environmental law. Graduate students in these areas often take law courses in order to bolster their preparation on legal issues. This certificate program would provide a credential for these students. The proposal was approved unanimously.

- **FS-18-040 (UCC-18-036a&b): CALS - New M.S. Plant Pathology.** Senator Caplan reminded senators that the Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology and Nematology was created when the Department of Plant, Soil and Entomological Sciences broke into three departments. The new department is building a graduate program in plant pathology. Senators pointed out that the proposal was ambiguous on whether additional faculty were required to implement the master's degree. They questioned whether the addition of new faculty could be financially viable given the relatively small number of students anticipated in the program. Professor Ed Lewis was able to join the meeting to clarify that the proposal for the master's degree does not require the addition of new faculty. The proposal was approved unanimously.
- **FS-18-041 (UCC-18-031c&d): CLASS - New Communication Major.** Professors Annette Folwell and Todd Thorsteinson presented the proposal for a new communication major. A senator asked about the history of this proposal. Folwell explained that in 2008 a faculty member in the program retired at the time the university was in a budget crisis. The position was not filled and the major was eliminated. At the time there were 140 majors. Another senator asked about the plans to hire two new clinical faculty. Folwell and Thorsteinson explained that if funding and approval for hiring the two new clinical faculty did not go forward, then the new major could not go forward. There is no capacity to add this major based on the existing faculty and current enrollment levels. Another faculty member asked whether the program would be able to obtain office space. Thorsteinson explained that the program is located in the basement and second floor of the Student Health Building. The WWAMI Program is currently located on the third floor, but plans to move to a new facility in the fall of 2018. The department hopes to take over the WWAMI space. The proposal was approved unanimously.

The chair elected to postpone the planned Faculty Compensation Task Force report because of the lack of time.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned earlier than usual (Mahoney/Panttaja) at 4:46.

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz Brandt, Faculty Secretary &  
Secretary to the Faculty Senate