Call to Order and Minutes: Chair Hrdlicka called the meeting to order at 3:30. He welcomed the new senators and invited members to introduce themselves briefly. After introductions, Professor Hrdlicka suggested that the agenda be amended by moving the election of the Secretary to Faculty Senate before the business begins. He explained that, pursuant to FSH 1520.V.3, the Faculty Secretary is not automatically the Secretary of the Senate. It was moved and seconded (Morrison/Watson) that the agenda be amended as suggested by the chair. The motion passed unanimously. Professor Hrdlicka then recommended that Faculty Secretary Liz Brandt serve as the Secretary to the Faculty Senate. A motion (Panttaja/Vella) that the chair’s recommendation be approved passed unanimously.

A motion (Johnson/Brown) to approve the minutes of 2016-17 Faculty Senate Meeting #27 May 9, 2017 was approved unanimously with 2 abstentions. A motion (Watson/Panttaja) to approve 2017-18 Faculty Senate Meeting #1 May 9, 2017 passed unanimously with 1 abstention.

Chair’s Report: Professor Hrdlicka reminded senators of regular Senate procedures:
- senators should raise their hand and be recognized by the chair before speaking,
- senators will not be recognized to speak a second time until all interested senators have had an opportunity to speak,
- reasonable follow-up discussion is permissible, and,
- brevity is encouraged.

Chair Hrdlicka reminded Senators that their role is to review and not to redo the work of committees, or of other groups appearing before Senate. He also encouraged senators to keep the welfare of the entire institution in mind while representing their constituencies.

The chair also stressed that Senators should serve not only as a source of information for colleagues, but also as a source of information on behalf of colleagues to the Senate, and to the university administration. He encouraged Senators to read the University of Idaho Register regularly. By way of example regarding issues of communication, he pointed out that faculty received an email, and that the Register has included announcements about, the Information Technology Services (ITS) to Technology Service Partners (TSP) transfer. This transfer will impact the way faculty and staff access help with technology. ITS has scheduled info sessions for faculty and staff that are ongoing now. Senate Leadership has invited Dan Ewart and Brian Cox to come to the September 5, 2017 Senate meeting to provide more information on this transition.

The chair also made three announcements:
- The Provost’s Office is seeking a faculty member to serve on a workgroup that will be preparing for our 2018 accreditation site visit from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). The committee will be advisory to the administration and will assist with preparation for the visit and the organization of the 2018 visit. Senators should forward suggestions to Ann Thompson annat@uidaho.edu.
- Faculty recently received an email from Brian Smentkowski, the new director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. The email detailed a number of workshop opportunities for faculty. In particular, there will be a workshop on the use of Zoom for interactive video meetings. Chair Hrdlicka also indicated that Dr. Smentkowski will be attending a future Senate meeting to share his vision and approach.
• The first University Faculty Meeting will be September 20. President Staben will preside and will address the faculty. Senators are encouraged to attend and bring their colleagues. The meeting is an excellent opportunity to meet other faculty as we start the new academic year.

Provost’s Report: The Provost began his report by stressing his desire to be engaged with Senate. He made a number of announcements:

• There is a football game against Sacramento State on August 31 and encouraged everyone to attend.
• The university has hired a number of new administrators: Dr. Cher Hendricks, Vice Provost for Academic Initiatives, Dr. Ginger Carney, Dean of the College of Science, Dr. Brian Smentkowski, Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.
• The College of Art and Architecture is soon likely to begin a search for a new dean.

Finally, the Provost updated the Senate on a number of ongoing initiatives:

• University Budget and Finance Committee (UBFC) process. The university has struggled to get a final report out by the end of the semester in which the UBFC makes its recommendations. Implementation of the UBFC recommendations relies on several important factors that are not available in the spring semester — enrollment figures for the coming year, tuition and fees, and the amount of money that might be available through reallocations. Going forward, requests to UBFC will still be due during late December or early January. However, the final announcements of recommended and funded projects will not be available until after the start of the following fall semester. While the final announcement will be forthcoming, the Provost informed Senate that two items strongly recommended by UBFC were: 1) funding market-based compensation initiatives; and 2) funding competitive stipends and tuition waivers for Teaching Assistants. Regarding the latter initiative, he is working with the Dean of Graduate Studies to develop information regarding competitive stipends. Finally, the Provost will recommend that UBFC develop a separate process for funding requests relating to program improvement.

• Market-based Compensation. The Provost will be working with the task force on its recommendations. There will be an interim CEC (Change in Employee Compensation) this year that will contribute to our goal of reaching market in salaries. The initiative will require a number of years to catch up. Initially, CEC resources will be used to address the salaries of staff and faculty who are the furthest off market for their positions.

• Program Prioritization. The process is going forward. It should give rise to about $4 million in funding that will be directed toward the market-based compensation initiatives and toward providing for competitive TA stipends and tuition waivers. The deans and IPEC (Institutional Planning and Effectiveness Committee) have seen preliminary results. Currently, we are considering modifications regarding how the process should move forward. In all likelihood, the university will move away from the quintiles language but will look at the results as part of a continuous improvement process. Reallocation targets based on the results will be provided at the VP level who will be charged with how to implement the reallocations within their areas.

Chair Hrdlicka asked the Provost whether the Dean of Graduate Studies will form a committee to determine what the competitive stipends are for TAs. The provost answered that while there will be a process, we need to move forward using the data that is generally available from sources such as the Oklahoma State Salary Study. Dean McMurtry will likely report the results of his work to the Graduate Council for input. A Senator asked if the stipends will be market based, to which the Provost answered yes.

FS-18-001: FSH 4930 – Honorary Degrees. Faculty Secretary Brandt presented a seconded motion from the Commencement Committee on behalf of Committee Chair Prof. Beth Hendrix. The proposed change would update policy to clarify that a letter of support from the dean of the appropriate college is included in the nomination packet. The motion was unanimously approved.
Summer Graduates. It was moved and seconded (Panttaja/Miranda Anderson) that the list of Summer Graduates be approved. A senator questioned the first name on the list designated as a graduate of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) program in Medical Technology saying the program currently does not exist in CALS. After discussion, the mover and seconder of the motion agreed to accept a friendly amendment that the list of summer graduates be approved pending clarification of college affiliation and major of the graduate in question. The amended motion was approved unanimously. [N.B. The Registrar Heather Chermak confirmed by email that the listed college is correct.]

Election to Specific Senate Committees. The following Senators were elected to the Senate positions on committees by acclamation:

- Campus Planning Advisory Committee – Penny Morgan
- Student Appeals Committee – Joseph De Angelis
- Presidents Athletic Advisory Council – Rich Seamon

FS-18-002: FSH 4400 – College Level Examination Program (CLEP). This proposal would eliminate FSH 4400 regarding CLEP credits. It is out of date and covered by University Catalog Regulation I. It was moved and seconded (Tibbals/Grieb) that the policy be eliminated as recommended. At the request of a Senator, Registrar Heather Chermak explained the changes in more detail. She also explained that Senate would continue to play a key role in decisions about granting of academic credit because changes to the Regulation section of the Catalogue come to Senate for vote. Several Senators asked questions regarding the process for approving catalog changes and whether eliminating the CLEP provision from the FSH would affect students or the ability of faculty to have a voice in how credits are granted. The Registrar clarified that the revision would not change the way credit is granted, and it would not have an impact on students. She reiterated that the FSH provision is simply outdated as they were unaware that it existed. Given this discussion, the Senate unanimously approved the motion.

2016-17 Senate Annual Report and Retreat Follow-up. Secretary Brandt presented the Annual Report of activities by last year’s Senate stating that she hoped the report would provide background to new Senators on the nature and scope of the Senate’s work and responsibility for communication. She next reviewed UI’s governance process and detailed the timeline for consideration of policy changes/amendments. She commented that she worried faculty governance is in jeopardy. The Great College Survey gave low marks to faculty governance. This was surprising as in her opinion she believes it is much more robust at the UI than other universities. Part of the reason may be lack of communication about the governance process. The Faculty Secretary’s Office will work on an email with bulleted list following each meeting for senators to adjust or send out as is to their constituency. A Senator pointed out that forwarding an email was not a “silver bullet” for communication. He suggested that, though difficult, personal contact with colleagues is invaluable. Many agreed with a nod of their head with some who suggested walking the halls or announcing at a college or other unit meetings. Senate Leadership requested that senators forward other ideas/suggestions. The Provost will speak to the deans and VPs regarding providing support for senators to communicate.

Finally, Brandt sought additional input and comments on the list of issues developed by Senators at the Senate Retreat. Senator Nicotra offered that one of her colleagues had suggested a move to a MW/TTh class schedule. Senator Watson asked if Senate Leadership knew the status of the +/- grading system issue. Chair Hrdlicka indicated that the Teaching and Advising Committee is considering the issue.

Adjournment: Having reached the end of the agenda the chair entertained a motion (Panttaja/Watson) to adjourn at 4:51.

Respectfully Submitted,
Liz Brandt, Faculty Secretary & Secretary to the Faculty Senate