Call to Order: President Staben, called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm.

In Memoriam. The president read the names of university faculty members who died since the last university faculty meeting:

Robert McDole  
Extension Professor Emeritus of Soils  
September 2018

Delbert Fitzsimmons  
Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Engineering and Department Chair Emeritus  
November 2018

Max Fletcher  
Professor Emeritus of Economics and Department Head Emeritus  
July 2018

Richard Naskali  
Arboretum Director and Professor Emeritus of Science  
September 2018

Ronald Richards  
Instructor in Animal and Veterinary Sciences  
October 2018

Jack Vincent  
Borah Professor Emeritus of International Relations  
September 2018

The President requested a moment of silence in honor of these former colleagues.

Quorum Count: A quorum was not present. 107 voting members of the faculty were required, 44 members were present (Moscow - 34, Boise - 2, Idaho Falls - 3, Twin Falls - 5, CDA – 0).

Minutes: In the absence of a quorum, the minutes of the University Faculty Meeting on September 5, 2018 stand as formally approved in the absence of a quorum pursuant to *Faculty-Staff Handbook* 1520. Section 3.A.

The faculty senate report was given by Chair Aaron Johnson. He first informed the body that, in the absence of a quorum, all the policy items presented on the agenda would be deemed approved pursuant to *Faculty-Staff Handbook* 1520. Section 3.A. He reviewed the policy changes and informational items on the agenda, and invited questions and comments.

Regarding FSH 4620 – Academic Calendars, a faculty member encouraged senate leaders to work with the registrar to avoid scheduling the start of classes too early in August. He urged senate leadership to work to push the start of classes in 2019 and 2026 back one week later in the year and that whenever possible
the university avoid beginning classes before August 20th. He noted that many classrooms are not air
conditioned. President Staben agreed that the early start is a problem and that, with climate change and
the increase in western forest fires, the problems will only become worse. He explained that UI’s
autonomy is somewhat limited because the university works to synchronize its academic calendar with
Washington State University because of the number of joint programs and conflicts over event facilities
and infrastructure.

President Staben addressed the faculty from the UI’s Boise Center. The president first celebrated recent
successes at UI. He noted that the university’s research continues to expand. Once the numbers are
finalized, it is likely that UI will move past $111 million in extramural research for FY18. UI’s research is
diverse from the clean water research of Professor Greg Moller and Research Scientist Martin Baker, to
the fire science research by Professor Leda Kobziar’s team showing that smoke transports living microbes.
Vice Provost for Research and Economic Development Janet Nelson was recently named as a fellow of the
American Association for the Advancement of Science.

In the area of student access/enrollment, UI continues to enhance students’ ability to access higher
education. The university recently launched a new “durable admissions” policy pursuant to which UI’s
offer of admissions remains open for four years. This policy will accommodate students who take a gap
between high school and college for personal reasons. UI recently signed a memorandum of
understanding with the Warm Springs Tribe in Oregon. The tribe will be the 11th to participate in UI’s
program which has expanded from nine tribes when Staben joined the university. The president thanked
Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion Yolanda Bisbee for her efforts in this area. The president noted
that more than 500 students will graduate from UI this Saturday. He thanked faculty for serving as mentors
and advisors. Staben stressed that UI must continue to implement best practices for student success such
as VandalStar and improved advising processes. We have recently increased our retention rate of first to
second year students from approximately 75% to over 80%. Yet our graduation rate for those students
who advance is still below 80%. Staben believes UI must push to increase our graduation rate to above
80%.

Staben hopes to inspire UI to even greater efforts. He reminded faculty and staff of the UI’s mission, vision
and values and asked faculty to reflect on the statements and consider how the concrete goals of the
university’s strategic plan align with the mission, vision and values of the institution. He regretted that in
his urgency to accomplish our mission, his thoughts have sometimes been perceived as criticism and his
tone strident. He asked faculty to remember that what we do is important to students, and to the state,
country, and world.

President Staben reflected that serving as president is one of the greatest privileges of his career. During
the remainder of his time in office he hopes to work on several concrete ideas for moving UI forward. He
first mentioned the Arena project. UI has raised $40 million of the $48 million goal. The university will ask
the Idaho State Board of Education (SBOE) in February for permission to move forward with the project
and plans to break ground in spring. He is proud that the university’s plan to replace our aging gymnasium
has grown to include diverse groups such as the Idaho Forest Products industry and students at the College
of Art and Architecture.

Staben’s greatest disappointment has been that UI has not been able to increase our enrollment despite
the efforts of faculty and staff. After reviewing UI’s efforts to change Idaho’s “go-on” rate, he has
concluded that the biggest impediment for prospective students is affordability. Students in the state of
Idaho do not realize that the costs of obtaining a higher education are outweighed by the benefits. The
gap in affordability is approximately $5,000. He believes that it would take a $10 million investment in
financial funding to change Idaho’s go-on rate by 10%. He believes the state of Idaho can afford this
amount and that UI and the other institutions can participate in meeting this goal. Staben hopes to set the stage for this initiative in the coming months.

The most apparent facilities need that Staben sees is for a tribal and diversity center. Currently, UI’s support programs and staff in these areas are scattered across campus in cramped and sometimes substandard spaces. Diverse populations in Idaho are key to the university’s service mission and to its growth. Staben pointed out that the higher education attainment rate for Latinos in Idaho is the lowest in the nation. He believes a tribal and diversity center would be an important contribution to support these on-campus organizations and to enable the university to more effectively reach out to the state’s underserved communities.

President Staben next addressed athletics funding which has been a challenge over the last several years. UI is spending a higher percentage of general education funds on athletics than is permitted by the SBOE. The funding situation has been created by changes in our athletics programs. To some extent the SBOE spending cap is unrealistic in light of these changes. UI continues to work with the board to responsibly budget for athletics and to seek changes in the SBOE’s policy.

The president will also focus on moving the Center for Agriculture Food and Environment (CAFÉ) forward. This project addresses UI’s obligation to support the animal based agriculture economy of the state.

He concluded noting that the founders of the UI charged the president and the faculty with the responsibility to govern the university for the benefit of the students and the people of Idaho. He called on faculty to work to keep our covenant with the state of Idaho.

A faculty member thanked the president for his encouragement, enthusiasm and occasional impatience. He asked what the university’s legislative priorities for 2019 will be? The president responded that the outcomes-based funding initiative is the priority initiative for all of higher education. The SBOE is seeking an appropriation of $15 million for the 4-year universities, community colleges and technical education. Approximately $11 million will be allocated to the 4-year universities. This funding will be distributed according to the outcomes-based funding formula adopted by the board. In general, the formula recognizes degrees awarded. It also gives weight to some degrees in STEM fields and to degrees awarded to students in need. Based on preliminary calculations, UI will qualify for roughly one-fourth of those funds.

There being no further questions the meeting adjourned at 3:47 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz Brandt
Faculty Secretary