

Faculty Senate Talking Points, September 5, 2023, Meeting #3

- Chair Gauthier opened the meeting with reflections on the importance of shared governance moving forward. Regarding University of Phoenix, he spoke about creating academic pathways with University of Phoenix including an invitation to John Woods, University of Phoenix Chief Academic Officer, to a next session of the Faculty Senate and sending feedback to the accreditation body. He and Vice Chair Haltinner reviewed the Senate priorities for this year, set at the August 17 retreat.
- Childcare availability was identified at the Senate retreat as an issue of concern. Dean of Students Blaine Eckles was at the meeting to provide insight and answer some questions. The UI Children's Center is at full capacity, with multiple waiting lists. They are hoping to double its size through a grant, with the President Green's approval. The DOS team is exploring several options, but there are no easy or quick solutions.
- Each week, the Provost will answer a couple of questions on the University of Phoenix acquisition. The Phoenix question page continues to be updated.
- Enrollment: As of last Friday, the enrollment was up by 2.2% compared to the same day last year – the 10th day benchmark. After the 10th day, things can change, mostly because of dual enrollment.
- There has been some increase in COVID cases lately. Rapid tests and masks are available at the ISUB, the Pitman Center, or the REC information desk. Efforts to offer COVID-19 boosters and flu vaccines are in progress.
- Erin James and Karen Humes presented an undergraduate certificate in sustainability developed by an initial interdisciplinary committee comprising of faculty. Last spring, UCC provided feedback on both the academic content and faculty jurisdiction issues, and the Working Group worked on revising the proposal *per* UCC recommendations. They seek official empowerment from Faculty Senate to propose and maintain the certificate's academic curriculum. Pursuant FSH 4120, the relevant units or colleges submit curricular proposals to UCC. But this is a university-wide program, not suitable to be housed in a single college.
- Common Read: The choice for 2023-24 was "The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier and More Creative," by Florence Williams. The keynote for the 2023-24 choice is October 17 in the International Ballroom. You can send suggestions for the 2024-25 Common Read to Dean Panttaja by September 30.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, September 12, 2023, Meeting #4

- John Woods, Provost and Chief Academic Officer at the University of Phoenix, will visit Senate at our next meeting, September 19. It is important that all voices are represented, so please send your questions – focused on academic topics – by Friday 09/15.
- Provost Lawrence delivered a presentation about the status of higher education and the many factors that are contributing to rapid changes in Higher Ed. It is important to be informed and aware of the landscape around us, as we may identify opportunities for the U of I.
- Senate voted to empower an interdisciplinary faculty-led committee to act as the "*relevant unit and college*" authorized to submit curricular proposals per FSH 4120-E. This committee has the authority to propose the UG Academic Certificate in Sustainability to the University Curriculum Committee as a faculty-led, University-Wide Program, and to set its initial curriculum.
- Based on the outcome of the senate retreat last August and additional feedback and votes collected by email, a number of senate priorities for the year have been identified, to be assigned to some of our standing committees and four *ad hoc* senate task forces. The creation of those task forces and associated charges was discussed and voted at this meeting. The approved task forces are: 1. Employee Retention Task Force; 2. Employee Benefits Task Force; 3. Boundary of APM/FSH Task Force.
- Vice Provost for Digital Learning, Ken Udas, provided an overview of digital learning initiatives his office has worked or is working on, and the support they can provide across campus. Vice Provost Udas emphasized that his office is always open for questions and comments.

Important dates and events

- September is Katy Benoit Safety Awareness Month. Tuesday, September 19, at 7pm, in the International Ballroom: Katy Benoit Campus Safety Forum Keynote Address.
- First UFM of AY 2023-24: Monday, September 18, 3:00pm (PT), *via* Zoom. Please Join us!

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, September 19, 2023, Meeting #5

- We will have a monthly gathering for faculty to meet informally across colleges, exchange ideas, build social relations and share intellectual interests. The first meeting will be Thursday, September 28, 4:30pm to 6:30pm in the ICCU Arena club room. Faculty can bring a guest (must be over 21). These events will continue through the academic year until April, hosted by different colleges. An invite will be sent soon.
- U.S. News & World Report released yesterday a number of significant changes on how rankings are determined. For the 4th year in a row, we are ranked No.1 among public universities in the West. <https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/university-of-idaho-1626>
- John Woods, Provost and Chief Academic Officer at the University of Phoenix, visited Senate to provide background and information about the University of Phoenix (UOPX) and to answer questions in the area of academics. There will be more presentations as we move to other topics related to UOPX. Please send your questions and comments to Jean-Marc, Kristin, and to your senator(s).
- There was a preliminary discussion on the rationale and process for the separation between APM and FSH. Are there specific policies in APM which impact faculty but are nevertheless approved outside faculty jurisdiction? More broadly, there is a concern about faculty not being involved in making decisions about their work conditions.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, September 26, 2023, Meeting #6

- **The possible government shutdown** may impact federally funded programs. Please reach out to ORED if you have questions or need assistance.
- **Student success.** President Green would like to see a refocusing on student success initiatives. Several of our standing committees may be suitable and interested, so we'll form a group with members from multiple committees, and Faculty Senate presence. A call for nominations will be sent soon.
- **Deputy Director Teresa Amos (OIT)** visited Senate today for a conversation on IT issues that are central to research and teaching. The OIT centralized model and long waiting time for IT ticket processing were brought up as a concern.
- **John Woods' presentation.** Provost Lawrence addressed some of the questions submitted by faculty after last week's Provost Woods' presentation.
- **Survey about the UOPX affiliation.** Many faculty have expressed interest in a survey about the degree of approval of the UOPX affiliation. Vice Chair Haltinner asks that people think about suitable questions and, generally, the nature of the survey, to be discussed next week.

Important Dates:

- Monday, October 17, at 7pm: Common Read Lecture. Florence Williams, author of "The Nature Fix," will be present.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, October 3, 2023, Meeting #7

- **Welcome to the team, Chris!** The Provost introduced Chris Parker, new Admin Support for Faculty Senate.
- **UOPX.** Senate discussed and approved the creation of a task force charged with developing a constructive survey to assess employee approval of and concerns about the UOPX affiliation. The conversation with Provost Lawrence about UOPX continues.
- **IT issues.** There was a discussion to identify topics that Faculty Senate would like the IT committee to look into.
- **Faculty welfare.** Issues of particular concern to faculty were identified. They include: campus safety (lighting, firearms, training for lockdown situations), childcare availability, sensitivity to the needs of employees with young children; improving work conditions for our non-tenure track colleagues.

Important Dates:

- Monday, October 17, at 7pm: Common Read Lecture. Florence Williams, author of “The Nature Fix,” will be present.
- The All Employee Required Training is open. It must be completed by November 1, 2023.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, October 10, 2023, Meeting #8

- **UOPX.** Provost Lawrence is in the process of visiting all colleges to talk about the UOPX affiliation.
- **UOPX Survey.** Erin Chapman, Kristin Haltinner, Barb Kirchmeier, Florian Justwan and Stefanie Ramirez are preparing a survey to poll U of I employees' opinions on the UOPX affiliation. The survey will be presented to senate for vote at the October 17th senate meeting.
- **University-Level Committees.** The committee on committees has begun an audit of existing committees ([FSH 1640](#)). Former committee chairs will receive a survey to assess workload, equity in membership, potential redundancies etc.
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Machine Learning (ML).** Senate Chair Gauthier proposed forming a task force to develop responsible uses of AI and ML for academic activities, and to tackle some of the university most challenging problems. Please contact gauthier@uidaho.edu if you are interested in the task force.
- **Policy Tracking.** Faculty Senate Leadership plans to develop a visual tool for easy tracking of policies as they move through the approval pipeline. FSL looks forward to discussing this matter with Policy Coordinator Diane Whitney.
- **Faculty Senate Networking event.** Do you have “senate zoom fatigue”? If so, help us plan an in-person event!

Important Dates:

- Annual Enrollment begins October 16th and ends November 7th at midnight pacific time. This is the annual opportunity to review and make changes to your benefits for the upcoming year. <https://www.uidaho.edu/human-resources/benefits/annual-enrollment>
- UOPX Working Group nominations are due Friday, October 13. The nomination form is at: https://uidaho.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bg50bV9m4qrgS7l
- Homecoming Week is from Saturday October 7 to Saturday October 14. Homecoming schedule: <https://www.uidaho.edu/events/signature-events/homecoming>

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, October 17, 2023, Meeting #9

- **Open Textbooks.** Marco Seiferle-Valencia, General Library, visited senate to talk about State Board's Instructional Materials Accessibility and Affordability Policy. The policy defines a "zero cost" textbook as one with a total list price of \$0, and a "very low cost" textbook as one with a total list price of \$1 - \$30. First Zero and Very-Low Cost courses will appear at U of I in Fall 2024.
- **Enrollment.** Total enrollment is up by 3%. Retention rate is up by 1.4%.
- **UOPX Survey.** The draft of the survey is being revised per comments received from senators and others. The task force will present the new version at the October 24 senate meeting for discussion and vote.
- **UOPX Working Groups.** About 86 nominations/self-nominations were submitted. The names will be announced soon.
- **Campus safety.** Many employees are interested in safety training for highly critical situations, such as the presence of an active shooter. Several options are available at U of I, some in collaboration with the Moscow Police Department. Reach out to Blaine Eckles, Dean of Students, or Lee Espey, Finance and Administration, Division Operation Officer, if you have questions or need information.

Important Dates:

- Don't forget the All Employee Required Training. It must be completed by November 1, 2023.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, October 24, 2023, Meeting #10

- **UOPX Survey.** Faculty Senate approved the survey as proposed by the task force. It is attached to the binder for this meeting. The survey is likely to attract a significant amount of interest. Please do not include any identifying information about yourselves, your units, or others. **Note: the survey in the binder is a draft. The modalities of distribution have not yet been worked out.**
- **CAPE.** Continuing Adult and Professional Education (CAPE) is an organizational unit that provides services to non-traditional education programs providers. Vice Provost for Digital Learning Ken Udas spoke to Senate about a three-year pilot program to start in early 2024.
- **Parking.** Links to useful parking information, provided by Steve Mills Director, Parking and Transportation Services and Tao Xing, Chair of Parking Committee. Survey Parking and Transportation Services conducted in 2020 of peer-institution parking permit pricing: <https://www.uidaho.edu/-/media/UIDaho-Responsive/Files/infrastructure/Parking/future-plans/peer-institution-permit-prices-fy18.pdf> Link to the Budget Books pages for Auxiliary Services; Parking and Transportation Services begins on page 56. [FY2024 Auxiliary Enterprise Budget Book Excluding Athletics \(uidaho.edu\)](https://www.uidaho.edu/-/media/UIDaho-Responsive/Files/BudgetBooks/FY2024%20Auxiliary%20Enterprise%20Budget%20Book%20Excluding%20Athletics%20(uidaho.edu).pdf) There are visitor parking permits, daily or for ten (consecutive or non-consecutive) days. With those, one can park anywhere on campus. [Visitor Parking | Parking and Transportation Services | University of Idaho \(uidaho.edu\)](https://www.uidaho.edu/infrastructure/parking/permits/visitor) Reciprocal parking agreement with WSU: <https://www.uidaho.edu/infrastructure/parking/permits/reciprocal>
- **Campus safety.** A list of safety resources, provided by Dean of Students Blaine Eckles, is being distributed with these talking points.

Important Dates:

- The All Employee Required Training must be completed by November 1, 2023.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, October 31, 2023, Meeting #11

- **Message from Faculty Senate Chair.** I would like to acknowledge that a number of conflicts are going on across the world. We need to keep in mind that social media are bringing these conflicts very close to us and the people around us, with a new level of polarization and disturbing content. As we never know what people are individually experiencing, let's please be sensitive to each other and our students - knowing this can be a difficult time for many.
- **University Distinguished Professor Advising Committee.** Nominations needed. The committee comprises 4 faculty and 3 deans, appointed by the provost for three-year staggered terms. Qualifications: "Nominations will be made by Faculty Senate and the Academic Deans, in consultation with faculty and administrators of units. Committee members must be tenured professors who themselves have outstanding records of teaching, research and/or outreach." Below is the link to the relevant policy
FSH 1565-D-8: <https://www.uidaho.edu/governance/policy/policies/fsh/1/1565#d> Submit nomination for the committee through the form at: <https://forms.office.com/r/ridZTrQB97>
- **Deferred Pay.** The Spread Pay Task Force presented a pathway to offer all 9-month faculty the option of "deferred pay." This is different than the current "Spread Pay," which is incompatible with Banner. The task force recommends that we open up the option of deferred pay to all eligible faculty – fulltime faculty on 9-month contracts. The recommendation will be an action item at the November 7 senate meeting.
- **Magic Valley.** President Green established the Magic Valley Working Group and tasked it with exploring strategic opportunities for the University of Idaho in the Magic Valley. The Working Group – Torrey Lawrence, Chandra Ford, Sean Quinlan, Dean, Michael Parrella – presented their White Paper and recommendations.

Important Dates:

- **Next Faculty Gathering.** Tuesday, November 14, 4:30 – 6:30, in the Vandal Ballroom, hosted by CLASS and Dean Quinlan.

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Faculty Senate Meeting #12, November 7, 2023, was canceled due to internet being unavailable on campus. A few important reminders and time sensitive issues:

- **University Distinguished Professor Advising Committee.** Nominations needed. The committee comprises 4 faculty and 3 deans, appointed by the provost for three-year staggered terms. Qualifications: “Nominations will be made by Faculty Senate and the Academic Deans, in consultation with faculty and administrators of units. Committee members must be tenured professors who themselves have outstanding records of teaching, research and/or outreach.” Below is the link to the relevant policy
FSH 1565-D-8-b: <https://www.uidaho.edu/governance/policy/policies/fsh/1/1565#d> Submit nomination for the committee through the form at: <https://forms.office.com/r/ridZTrQB97>
Nominations are due by Friday, November 10, 2023.
- **University-Level Promotion and Tenure Committee.** Nominations are open for individuals to serve on this year’s University-Level Promotion and Tenure Committees (see [FSH 3500 G-1](#)). Two committees will be convened this year given the number of dossiers to be reviewed.
Nomination deadline: Friday, November 17, 2023. The nomination form can be found at https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=Y2u8fpJXGUqyCwS4JgSIU8wgEFrYhyNO_n_qCDVIL5jNUREVSNURESkRCUzFFVlpUSFMxNFdNVk0xOS4u
See attachment #4 in the meeting #12 binder for detailed information about schedules.
- **Deferred Pay.** The Spread Pay Task Force recommendations will be voted on at the November 14 senate meeting.

Important Dates:

- **Next Faculty Gathering.** Tuesday, November 14, 4:30 – 6:30, in the Vandal Ballroom, hosted by CLASS and Dean Quinlan.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, November 14, 2023, Meeting #13

- **Administrative Procedures Manual (APM).** Faculty Senate started conversations about the approval process for APM policies impacting directly faculty activities.
- **The Spread Pay Task Force recommendations** were discussed further. Of the 122 faculty currently on the old “spread pay” system, several expressed serious concerns about a Summer 2024 transition to the new “deferred pay” system – saving for the paycheck gap in the available timeframe would be a heavy burden. The other source of concern is the shift from a 19.5 units to a 20 units pay schedule. Faculty Senate voted to postpone action on the recommendations until the next meeting and seek additional clarification.

Important Dates:

- **“Talks with Torrey.”** November 16, 11:30am - 12:30pm.
<https://www.uidaho.edu/provost/talks-with-torrey>
- **Athena Mentorship Program:** deadline extended to December 1, 2023
https://uidaho.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9tA1uFfgedGAATk
- **Winter Commencement** is Saturday December 9. There will be two ceremonies, at 9:30am and at 2:00pm, at the ICCU Arena. <https://www.uidaho.edu/events/commencement/winter>

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, November 28, 2023, Meeting #14

- **Spread Pay Task Force recommendations.** Faculty Senate voted in favor of deferred pay effective in AY 2024-25. FSL will continue to discuss the details of the implementation with the Leadership and seek your feedback.
- **Vice Provost for Academic Initiatives** Gwen Gorzelsky is looking for a senator interested in participating in a working group with SBOE about admissions. The project involves discussing a possible direct admissions pact across [Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education](#) (WICHE) states, based on the [Smarter Balanced Assessment](#). If interested, please let Kristin or me know.

Important Dates:

- **University Faculty Meeting #2** is Wednesday, December 6, 3:00pm, via Zoom. Please attend if you can!
- **Next faculty gathering:** Monday, December 4, 4:30pm to 6:30pm, at the Seed Potato Germplasm building, near Facilities. Hosted by CALS. RSVP: <https://forms.office.com/r/pvTQ8UBxYY>
- **Winter Commencement** is Saturday December 9. There will be two ceremonies, at 9:30am and at 2:00pm, at the ICCU Arena. <https://www.uidaho.edu/events/commencement/winter>

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No Faculty Senate Meeting on Tuesday, December 12

Faculty Senate Talking Points, December 5, 2023, Meeting #15

- **Vote on the Spread Pay Task Force recommendations.** At meeting #14, Senate voted to uphold the recommendations of the task force to offer deferred pay as an option for all eligible faculty. The details of the implementation remain to be worked out.

Because of new knowledge of the level of faculty dissatisfaction with the lack of information about implementation details and because the task force has in the meantime learned of a plan that would address concerns about summer contracts, Chair Gauthier entertained a Motion to Reconsider the Faculty Senate vote to accept the Spread Pay task force recommendations. After considerable discussion, Senate voted again to accept the recommendations of the task force to offer deferred pay as an option for all eligible faculty beginning AY 24-25. The task force and Provost's Office will continue to work on ironing out the complications of implementation.

- **Artificial Intelligence.** Senate Chair Gauthier emphasized the importance of our graduates joining the workforce with an understanding of AI, the technological challenges associated with AI, and the impact of AI on their future careers.

Important Dates:

- **Final grades** are due December 19 at noon.
- **Winter Commencement** is Saturday December 9. There will be two ceremonies, at 9:30am and at 2:00pm, at the ICCU Arena. <https://www.uidaho.edu/events/commencement/winter>
- **Football:** we are entering the third round of playoffs. The next game is Saturday, 7pm, at the Kibbie Dome.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, January 9, 2024, Meeting #16

- **The Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning task force** plans to organize an exhibit of U of I faculty projects using AI in both research and teaching. A workshop will take place during Spring 2024. We are placing a call for projects to be shown in the exhibit.
- **R1 Initiative.** Vice President Chris Nomura gave a summary of where we are with the R1 Initiative, and reviewed the new Carnegie Research Classification (2025 release). All indicators suggest that we are on a great trajectory towards R1 status.
- **Deferred Pay – brief recap.** President Green considered the senate recommendation and decided not to approve the proposed summer 2024 implementation date because, due to the short timeframe, it could potentially hurt some employees. Watch for a communication about tools that can help employees presently on standard pay. Details towards implementation in summer 2025 are being worked out.
- The legislature convened yesterday. The Governor delivered the State of the State Address, which focused on specific priorities, such as the Idaho Launch Program.
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=State+of+the+state+address+Idaho

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, January 16, 2024, Meeting #17

- **Optional Retirement Plan (ORP).** Brandi Terwilliger, Director of Human Resources, provided a brief background on the upcoming (December 2024) change from TIAA-CREF to Fidelity as the sole vendor for ORP. This was a state-wide decision from SBOE. See FAQ at <https://boardofed.idaho.gov/resources/optional-retirement-plan-transition-to-fidelity-as-sole-retirement-plan-provider/>
- **SUCCESS.** It's a task force charged by the President with identifying three initiatives with the objective of increasing our current six-year graduation rate of 61% to 77% (the average for R1 universities). The President's charge focuses on instruction and curriculum based initiatives for which there is evidence of success. Campus-wide feedback will be collected. The team is especially interested in success stories, namely, what is being done in departments/units that has been effective in increasing graduation rates. This way, they can identify existing U of I strengths to build on. (Point Persons: Daniel Eveleth, Erin Chapman.)
- **Vandal Gateway Program (VGP) update.** The team (Annette Folwell, Program Coordinator Brian Dulin, and Sean Quinlan) presented an update on VGP. They compared available data for the AY 2023-24 cohort with those from AY 2022-23. They are pleased with the success of the program (e.g. improvement in academic standing). The presentation is attached to the minutes of this meeting.

Important dates and announcements:

- The next faculty gathering is hosted by CBE in the Albertson Atrium, January 24, 2024, 4:30 – 6:30pm. Please RSVP at <https://www.uidaho.edu/provost/faculty-gathering>
- Check out the Daily Register for interesting events coming up, such as: <https://www.kenworthy.org/events-calendar/backcountry-film-festival-2/> and <https://www.uidaho.edu/cogs/resources/workshops> (particularly the CIRTLL workshop series)

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, January 23, 2024, Meeting #18

- **Admission Standards.** Due to emergency measures taken during the pandemic, our current admission standards do not require SAT scores. Retention rate data shown by Vice Provost Dean Kahler indicate that the absence of SAT scores did not cause substantial changes in student success. The data can be found in the binder for meeting #18. This spring, faculty will decide about admission standards for the Fall 2025 cycle.
- **P3 funds and University Housing.** Toni Broyles, Special Assistant to AVP Auxiliary, gave an update on efforts to improve university housing. At this time, they are at the stage of research and analysis, to be followed by a set of recommendations. As a future R1 university, and to be among the 25 top public residential universities (a priority for President Green), we need suitable on-campus housing.
- **Message from the Chair.** Today, we talked about admissions and housing, two important factors for the long-term evolution of the university. These conversations reinforce the role of senate leadership as a place of dialog and shared governance. Please help us make our role more efficient and productive by providing your feedback.
- **Deferred Pay.** Vice Provost for Faculty Diane Kelly-Riley sent a communication on 1/19/2024 about deferred pay implementation. Please visit: <https://www.uidaho.edu/provost/faculty/salary/deferred-pay>
- **FY24 CEC Summary.** Kim Salisbury, Associate Vice President for Budget and Planning, gave a summary of CEC for FY24. The slide with the detailed data is attached to the minutes of Senate meeting #18.
- **Parking.** We had a conversation with Steve Mills, Director of Parking and Transportation Services, about availability of parking and the cost of parking permits. The option of different models, such as a sliding scale where the cost of the permit is commensurate to one's salary, was discussed.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, January 30, 2024, Meeting #19

- **2024 MLK Jr. Art and Writing contest.** The deadline for (digital) submission is February 16, 2024, by 5pm. Please share with students in your departments or units. To commemorate the life, work and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., University of Idaho undergraduates, graduates and professional students enrolled for the 2024 spring semester are invited to create a written work or piece of art in any medium of their choice about equality and social, racial and ethnic justice. The contact person is Caitlin Cieslik-Miskimen, caitlinc@uidaho.edu . Visit <https://www.uidaho.edu/student-affairs/ubuntu/mlk-art-and-essay-contest>
- **Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) Transition to Fidelity.** Brandi Terwilliger responded to some of the questions about ORP. Rankings: Fidelity is a mutual fund company and does not hold reserves in a general account, so ratings are not applicable. Bitcoin: Fidelity made some announcements about making bitcoin investments available through retirement plans. This will not be an option for the ISBOE plans. Currently, the self-directed brokerage is limited to mutual funds and therefore bitcoin is not (and will not be) an option for this plan.
- **School of Health and Medical Professionals.** In the state of Idaho, there is shortage of medical professionals, poor health care, high suicide rate. We rank 50th in the country in the number of mental health professionals and health professionals. Faculty Senate approved a novel medical program to meet critical needs in the state. The school will be housed in the College of Graduate Studies. Read more: attachments #3-8 in the meeting #19 binder.
- **Enrollment.** 10th day enrollment was measured last week. It indicated an increase of 6.8% over the same time last spring. This percentage is likely to change and stabilize around 3-5% (increase).

The Talking Points are approved by Faculty Senate Leadership as an informal communication tool to engage constituents and get quick feedback on issues discussed at the Faculty Senate weekly meetings. All Faculty Senate agendas (including attachments and supporting documents) and meeting minutes are made available on the new Senate webpage: <https://www.uidaho.edu/governance>

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, February 6, 2024, Meeting #20

- **Admission Standards.** Faculty Senate Chair Gauthier reported on a recent meeting with SBOE. Several options were discussed, such as requiring admission criteria based only on high school GPA, or both GPA and SAT/ACT, or GPA and ISAT. ISAT (Idaho Standards Achievement Test) is a new test specific to Idaho students.
- **Student Financial Aid.** There is significant delay with the federal government reporting FAFSA information. This is seriously impacting our financial aid process, especially problematic for new students.
- **University of Phoenix Survey.** Faculty Senate Vice Chair Haltinner presented preliminary results of the University of Phoenix Survey on behalf of the task force. The report is attached to these talking points.
- **Computing Resources Available for Research.** Luke Sheneman, Director, Northwest Knowledge Network, and Joe Leister, HPC Systems Administrator, introduced the Collaborative Computing Center (C3+3), a statewide collaboration of the Idaho Universities and the Idaho National Laboratory to develop a regional educational and research system within the framework of statewide high-performance computing (HPC). The core of the presentation was about the impressive capabilities of the Falcon supercomputer. Faculty, students and other users are welcome to request an account and invited to register for Falcon workshops. For more information, visit <https://www.c3plus3.org> . For help with Falcon, contact: help@c3plus3.org The slides of the presentation can be downloaded from: <https://www.northwestknowledge.net/cloud/index.php/s/glZ6m5z2asISAqE>

Important dates and deadline

- University Excellence Awards. Deadline for nomination: Friday, February 9.
<https://www.uidaho.edu/governance/faculty-staff/>

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, February 13, 2024, Meeting #21

- **Admission Standards.** Faculty Senate Chair Gauthier reported that a proposal is forthcoming and will move through the appropriate process as prescribed in FSH 4120 for permanent catalog changes. The timing is tight – we are asked to deliver our recommendation, if possible, before the end of the month. A meeting about admission criteria in the state will take place in Boise on February 27.
- **First Aid Training.** Occupational safety specialist Beau Babcock (Environmental Health and Safety) talked about [safety resources at the U of I](#).
 - [PDF document about first aid kits](#)
 - [PowerPoint about the Automatic External Defibrillator \(AED\) program](#)

For information on all safety training, follow the link to <https://www.uidaho.edu/dfa/division-operations/ehs/safety-training>

- **First Gen Forward Designation.** In an effort to think more comprehensively about how we serve First Gen students, the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences, together with multiple partners, are working on a proposal to have us recognized as part of the First Gen Scholars Network. They hope to find a faculty member who would join the team in the initial proposal stage. Faculty who are themselves First Gen students are preferred.
- **Slate.** The university contract with VandalStar (\$159k per year) is about to expire. Slate is a possible replacement. Vandal Star has not yet been discontinued. Dean Kahler, Vice Provost Strategic Enrollment Management, and Brenda White, Slate Strategy Director, presented some of Slate's features. They want the faculty to participate in this dialogue.

Important dates and deadline

- **The AI + ML Exhibition** (Artificial Intelligence plus Machine Learning) will be in the Reflections Gallery, in the ISUB building, from Monday April 1st to Saturday April 13. Please let your constituents know that they can email their submission to vtd@uidaho.edu. The deadline 03/17/2024.
- **The next faculty gathering** is Tuesday, February 27th. It will be at the ICCU arena in the Alumni room, hosted by the College of Graduate Studies and Dean Jerry McMurtry.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, February 20, 2024, Meeting #22

- **Admission Standards.** Faculty Senate continues to discuss admission criteria for fall 2025 and beyond. (Reminder: We're still under an emergency action. If we do nothing when the emergency action expires, we go back to our pre-COVID requirements – the GPA and a standardized test score.) At this time, we are gathering data that may guide us in our selection of long-term admission standards. The University Curriculum Committee (UCC) is working on a proposal expected to be ready in early March. When approved by UCC, it will come to Faculty Senate for their review and approval. We are participating in meetings and conversations with the State Board to facilitate folding our criteria with the statewide “direct admit” system.
- **Political Activities.** As we get into the busier part of the legislative session, a reminder that university resources are not to be used for political activity. Please do not use the university email and make sure it’s clear that you are not speaking on behalf of the university. See memo of February 21, 2024, from General Counsel.

Important dates and deadline

- **The next faculty gathering** is Tuesday, February 27th. It will be at the ICCU arena in the Alumni room, hosted by the College of Graduate Studies and Dean Jerry McMurry. Please RSVP [here](#).

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, February 27, 2024, Meeting #23

- **Admission Standards.** After meeting with BSU and the SBOE admissions change workgroup, we received more data and are able to answer some of your questions. Please go to the minutes from this meeting for more information.
- **Senate Bill 1357.** There is great concern at Faculty Senate about the potential impact of this bill.
- **MyUI** will soon replace VandalWeb. We invited a representative of OIT to visit Faculty Senate next week for a conversation about the transition.

Important dates and deadlines:

- **Midterm grades** are due March 11.
- **The next faculty gathering** is on March 21, 2024, 4:30 – 6:30, in the Vandal Ballroom. It is hosted by COS. RSVP at <https://www.uidaho.edu/provost/faculty-gathering>

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, March, 5, 2024, Meeting #24

- **Admission Standards.** At the next Faculty Senate meeting, March 19, the University Curriculum Committee will present their recommendation concerning admissions criteria for Fall 2025.
- **FSH 2700 Student Feedback on Teaching Effectiveness,** formerly Student Evaluation of Teaching, was approved by Faculty Senate. Revisions focus on reducing bias and discrimination associated with the questions that are counted towards candidate's student course evaluation summaries used in the tenure and promotion processes. See supporting documents in this meeting's binder.
- The provost addressed questions about the article found at <https://www.idahoednews.org/top-news/u-of-i-funnels-7-3-million-of-phoenix-consulting-to-greens-former-employer/> and on legislative actions discussed at <https://idahocapitalsun.com/2024/02/15/idaho-legislators-threaten-lawsuit-to-stop-university-of-phoenix-purchase/>. More in this meeting's minutes.
- **MyUI** will soon replace VandalWeb. At the next Faculty Senate meeting, March 19, representative(s) of OIT will return to Faculty Senate to continue the conversation about the transition and other OIT initiatives.

Important dates and deadlines:

- **Midterm grades** are due March 11!

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, March 19, 2024, Meeting #25

- A reminder of the exhibit of the AI/ML Task force from Monday, April 1, to Saturday, April 13, in the Reflections Gallery in the ISUB Building. Based on the number of submitted posters and videos, it's going to be a larger than expected exhibit.
- David Paul, Chair of UCC, spoke on the admissions standards proposal from UCC. Dean Kahler was also present. We reviewed a number of data, and discussed other aspects to be considered when looking at the broad picture.
- Teresa Amos, Director of IT Planning and Initiatives, is talking to senators about recent OIT updates, such as the transition to MyUI.
- We have four finalists for the position of dean in the College of Law. For more information on the candidates and public events, visit <https://sitecore03l.its.uidaho.edu/provost/administrative-searches>
- The SUCCESS Team is hosting a Town Hall tomorrow, at 3:30 PST. More at <https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/84282522599?from=addon>. Link to Stage 2 Feedback Survey: https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=Y2u8fpJXGUqyCwS4JgSIU5scQ5_mUx5Erb1revX2YQpUOUFMRTThOVEFaM1RUMFIUREFVTVIWSkdaQS4u&origin=lprLink
- Search for president of the Honors Society of Phi Kappa Phi. Current president Dean Panttaja seeks nominations for people who might be interested in this leadership role. Phi Kapa Phi Nomination Form can be found at <https://forms.office.com/r/j3BzgtDD0u?origin=lprLink>

Important dates and deadlines:

- March Faculty Gathering: Thursday, 4:30 to 6:30, in the Vandal ballroom, hosted by the College of Science. Please RSVP at <https://forms.office.com/r/rYZ95ku7Dg>
- The College of Engineering is hosting a gathering in Idaho Falls, Tuesday, April 9, from 4:00 to 6:00.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, March 26, 2024, Meeting #26

- **Elections for AY 24-25** Senate seats are coming up. Please remind your colleges to hold elections, if the term of their Senate representatives ends in 2023-24. We need to know the names of the new Senators before 4/23/2024. Thanks!
- **Admissions criteria.** The UCC recommendation is before Senate. The discussion continues. Message from the Senate Chair: Apologies for the communication glitch about the admission data. Please be assured that the data was shared at the time it became available to us.
- **Administrative searches.** <https://sitecore03l.its.uidaho.edu/provost/administrative-searches>
 - **Dean of the College of Law.** After the last interview, Thursday, 03/28, there will be opportunity for feedback. People are encouraged to participate.
 - **Director of General Education.** Please share this information with your colleagues.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, April 2, 2024, Meeting #27

- **Elections for AY 24-25** Faculty Senate seats are coming up. Please remind your colleges to hold elections if the term of their Senate representatives ends in 2023-24. We need to know the names of all new senators before 4/23/2024. Nominations and elections of officers will take place on 4/23/2024 and 4/30/2024, respectively.
- **Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning.**
 - The AI steering Team is planning to organize a symposium in the Fall.
 - The AI and Machine Learning Task Force is focusing on AI literacy. They launched an exhibition this week at the ISUB.
 - The AI Working Group is proposing new courses, which include a 200 level course, “AI for All of Us”, a course about AI ethics, and a 400-level Computer Science course.
- **Admissions criteria.** New SBOE regulations may introduce additional elements in the discussion on direct admission criteria. We’ll provide updates as soon as possible.
- Look out for updates on all **legislation** impacting U of I.
- **Distinguished Scholars Program (DSP).** Dilshani Sarathchandra, Associate Professor of Sociology and Sandra Reineke, Professor of Political Science, visited Faculty Senate to present on the DSP. Contact: dsp@uidaho.edu ; www.uidaho.edu/academics/honors/scholarships

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, April 9, 2024, Meeting #28

- **Elections for AY 24-25** Please remind your colleges to hold elections if the term of their Senate representatives ends in 2023-24. We need to know the names of all new senators before 4/23/2024. Nominations and elections of officers will take place on 4/23/2024 and 4/30/2024, respectively.
- On April 4, we all received a memo from President Green and Provost Lawrence about **strategic plans**. Nominations for members of the strategic plans steering council are being sought. The nomination form is at https://uidaho.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0NGjSqS9N1zTPo. A strategic plans town hall will be announced soon.
- **Long-Range Campus Development Plan**. Input on campus visioning is encouraged. <http://www.uidaho.edu/vision2050>. Please share this information with your colleagues. You can be entered in a raffle for a \$50 vandal gift card.
- **Admissions criteria**. The new proposal from the University Curriculum Committee was discussed. Faculty Senate expects to be ready to vote at the next meeting, April 16.
- **Dependent Benefits**. Kristin Haltinner, Vice Chair of Faculty Senate, gave an update on the work of the Dependents Benefit Task Force. This committee was created last Fall to look at the possibility of expanding the dependent benefit at the University of Idaho. See documentation attached to these talking points.
- **Distinguished Scholars Program (DSP)**. The slides promised last week were forgotten. Please find them attached to these talking points.

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DEPENDENT BENEFITS TASK FORCE

In the fall of 2023, Faculty Senate charged a task force to investigate the possibility of extending the University of Idaho tuition benefit for dependents. The task force has reviewed UI's current policy and evaluated similar policies at regional institutions as well as our aspirational peer institutions. Based on this analysis, we seek to extend the tuition waiver benefit such that multiple dependents can access it concurrently. We would also like to extend the benefit to dependents of retirees with greater than five years of service and the children of deceased employees.

Task Force Members:

Kristin Haltinner, Vice Chair Faculty Senate

Charles Tibbals, Senator/Staff Affairs

Lyudmyla Barannyk, Senator/Faculty Senate

Rebecca Latshaw, Staff Affairs

CURRENT STATUS OF BENEFIT

The University of Idaho currently offers a 50% tuition rate for eligible dependents of employees. However, only one dependent per household is eligible to receive the benefit in a given term. It also does not extend to retirees or to dependents of deceased employees.^[1]

Currently the cost of this benefit hovers in the mid- to upper- \$300,000. (See table below provided to us by HR). We are uncertain how to estimate the number of employees who have additional children that would be eligible if this benefit was extended. However, it is important to note that many employee children are high achieving and are likely to receive other scholarships that might offset some of the impact of these costs.

	Fall	Spring	Total
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	Head Count	Amount Waived	Head Count	Amount Waived	Head Count	Amount Waived
FY 23	100	\$207,592.00	90	\$186,393.00	190	\$393,985.00
FY 22	95	\$195,960.00	82	\$169,507.50	177	\$365,467.50
FY 21	86	\$177,288.00	76	\$156,529.00	162	\$333,817.00
FY 20	95	\$196,180.50	88	\$182,688.00	183	\$378,868.50
FY 19	100	\$196,325.50	84	\$164,946.50	184	\$361,272.00

BENEFIT PROVIDED BY REGIONAL PEERS

Washington State University offers free tuition up to 6 credits with no limit on number of students/children at a time.^[2]

Idaho State offers 50% tuition for dependents, only one at a time. It is not transferable to other institutions.^[3]

Boise State provides employees with free tuition for dependents under the age of 26. This benefit can also be extended to other state institutions. Only one person can use the benefit at a time.^[4]

BENEFIT PROVIDED BY OTHER PUBLIC RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

There is range of tuition reimbursement for dependents at other public research institutions. Of those with information on their public facing websites, the amount of tuition waived ranges from 30%-100%. We did not find any such institutions that limited the number of dependents eligible to receive the benefit at a time. Below is a sampling of our findings, chosen to show the breadth of offerings.

Arizona State University provides 75% off tuition for dependents of employees, retirees (who served at least 5 years), and deceased employees. There is no limit on the number of children.^[5]

Georgia State University offers up to 9 credits per semester at any of the University System of Georgia institutions to the dependents of fulltime benefits-eligible employees. There is no limit on the number of children.^[6]

DRAFT

Kansas State University provides 7 credits for free each term. There is no limit on the number of dependents eligible at a given time.^[7]

University of Maryland provides free tuition for dependents of employees (for their first undergraduate degree) after two years of service to the university. They can also attend another Maryland State university at a rate of 50% tuition. There is no limit on the number of children.^[8]

University of New Mexico offers free tuition for up to 8 consecutive semesters for dependents of employees. Multiple dependents can access this benefit concurrently.^[9]

Oregon State University allows employees to transfer their tuition benefit to an eligible family member (including a dependent) each year. The benefit for family members is 30% of resident undergraduate tuition assessed at the teaching institution. This benefit applies to all Oregon Public Universities.^[10]

Colorado State University covers 50% of the base tuition for in-state, regular on-campus credits. This is nothing stipulating that this benefit only applies to a single child, nor does there appear to be a maximum number of terms this benefit can be applied, although the award must be applied for each year. ^[11]

Utah State University provides a 50% tuition remission for dependents of qualified employees. There is no mention of limiting this requirement to one dependent nor how many years this benefit may be applied.^[12]

North Dakota State University provides a 50% tuition waiver for classes per spouse/partner or dependent. There is no mention of this waiving being limited to a single dependent.^[13]

University of Nebraska provides tuition assistance as a scholarship to an employee; up to 15 credits a year (with limitations on how many credits may apply per semester). This benefit may

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be transferred to a dependent. The Dependent Scholarship Program shall provide tuition equal to the University's resident tuition charge per semester credit hour at the campus of attendance.^[14]

ESTIMATED COST TO EXTEND THIS BENEFIT

According to the Human Resources Department there are 517 dependents between the ages of 17-24 currently claimed by UI employees. We do not know how many of them are multiple children in the same household, so assuming that half are (to maximize the potential cost assessment associated with expanding that benefit), that suggests that up to 268 additional people would be eligible for the benefit. Given that 100 people currently use the benefit, this suggests that, at most, 37% of eligible students take advantage of the tuition benefit (100/268). Applying this rate to potential second children, our total number of people accessing the benefit would also double. Thus, we estimate that the maximum potential cost of expanding this benefit to additional dependents would cost no more than \$390,000 annually, but it is likely to cost much less.

WAYS THIS WILL BENEFIT THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

The tasks force seeks to extend the dependents tuition benefits to multiple children in a family concurrently. We contend that this benefit will save the university money in recruiting employees as it will increase retention rates. We further argue that it will provide an important morale boost to employees as we continue to hit our salary goals. Finally, extending this benefit provides important alignment with our land-grant institution goals and will keep high-achieving regional students in Idaho.

^[1] <https://www.uidaho.edu/-/media/UIIdaho-Responsive/Files/current-students/student-accounts/forms-and-downloads/employee-forms/employee-dependent-tuition-waiver-faq.pdf>

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^[2] <https://va.wsu.edu/pullman/tuition-waivers/>

<https://policies.wsu.edu/prf/index/manuals/business-policies-and-procedures-manual/bppm-60-70/>

^[3] <https://www.isu.edu/media/human-resources/documents/benefits/Dependent-Tuition-Reduction.pdf>

^[4] <https://www.boisestate.edu/policy/human-resources/educational-tuition-fees-waiver-benefit/>

^[5] <https://cfo.asu.edu/reduced-tuition>

^[6] <https://hr.gsu.edu/benefits/tuition-assistance-program/>

^[7] <https://www.k-state.edu/sfa/scholarships-aid/employee-tuition-benefits/dependent-spouse-grant.html#:~:text=For%20Dependents%20or%20Spouses%20that,credit%20hours%20per%20regular%20fall%2F>

^[8] <https://uhr.umd.edu/benefits/tuition-remission/spouse-and-dependent-tuition-remission-eligibility/>

^[9] [https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/3000/3700.html#:~:text=The%20University%20will%20pay%20resident,except%20for%20the%20nursing%20program\).](https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/3000/3700.html#:~:text=The%20University%20will%20pay%20resident,except%20for%20the%20nursing%20program).)

^[10] https://hr.oregonstate.edu/sites/hr.oregonstate.edu/files/2023-12/family_transfer-fillable-staff-fee-form-11-21-2023.pdf

^[11] <https://financialaid.colostate.edu/tuition-scholarship-for-eligible-family-members-of-csu-employees/>

^[12] <https://www.usu.edu/policies/350/>

^[13] https://www.ndsu.edu/fileadmin/policy/133_1.pdf

^[14] <https://nebraska.edu/faculty-and-staff/resources/employee-dependent-scholarship-program>



University
of Idaho

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM (DSP)

WHAT ARE DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIPS?

- I They are competitive awards that provide remarkable experiences for undergraduate and graduate students and alumni, funded by federal agencies, foundations, private donors, and others.
- I They support education abroad, language study, graduate study, research, careers in public service, international affairs, etc.
- I They vary widely in terms of eligibility requirements, financial award amounts, fields of study, career objectives, language requirements, and deadlines.
- I In many cases, the applicant must be endorsed or nominated by the University of Idaho.
- I The DSP program is housed in the University Honors Program. The Faculty Fellow DSP reports directly to the Honors Program Director.

A SELECTION OF RECENT AWARDS (2019-23)

- I Fulbright U.S. Student Program.
- I Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation.
- I The U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship.
- I Freeman Asia Awards.
- I Boren Awards.
- I Benjamin A. Gilman international Scholarship.
- I National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.
- I Still waiting to hear about Fulbright, Goldwater, and Udall awards for 2023-24.



LAST YEAR'S AWARDS (2022-23)

- I The U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship – 1 award.
- I Benjamin A. Gilman international Scholarship – 23 awards.
- I National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship – 2 awards.
- I A complete list of recipients can be found here:
<https://www.uidaho.edu/about/distinguished-awards>



OUR SERVICES

- I** Recruiting prospective students.
- I** Delivering information sessions for current students.
- I** Mentoring and advising current students and alumni.
- I** Assisting students with applications, including acting as foundation or agency campus representative, selecting on-campus faculty committees, helping with interview preparations, and assisting with endorsements for student applications if needed.
- I** Promoting and publicizing awardees.



STUDENT BENEFITS

- I Learning the ins and outs of developing a competitive scholarship application.
- I Encouraging research and scholarship.
- I Receiving monetary rewards.
- I Getting access to highly prestigious institutions.
- I Gaining international experiences.
- I Networking with future leaders.
- I Acting as pathways to later awards.
- I Gaining recognition and connections.
- I Being featured in the Vandal Scholars Gallery on campus.



UI BENEFITS

- I** The UI gains great recognition and bragging points through students receiving nationally competitive scholarships. This is also true for UI colleges, departments, and programs.
- I** The UI gains recruitment opportunities for high achieving students, including national merit scholars.
- I** The UI gains an increase in student participation in high-impact practices (HIP) that improve academic and post-graduation outcomes.



HOW FACULTY CAN ASSIST STUDENTS

- I Encourage your students and advisees to consider distinguished scholarship opportunities.
- I Direct your students and advisees to dsp@uidaho.edu.
- I Share information about upcoming information sessions with students, advisees, and colleagues.
- I Participate in information sessions as resource persons where relevant.
- I Work 1:1 with students on their applications.
- I Help students by reviewing early drafts of their applications.
- I Write letters of recommendation.
- I Serve on campus review committees.
- I Serve on mock interview committees.
- I Help publicize student awards and accomplishments.



CONTACT

Email: dsp@uidaho.edu

Web: www.uidaho.edu/academics/honors/scholarships



Faculty Senate Talking Points, April 16, 2024, Meeting #29

- **Elections for AY 24-25** Please remind your colleges to hold elections if the term of their senate representatives ends in 2023-24. We need to know the names of all new senators before 4/23/2024. Nominations and elections of officers will take place on 4/23/2024 and 4/30/2024, respectively.
- Ben Hunter, Dean of Libraries, presented an overview of **VERSO**, a Research Information Management System and Institutional Repository. Vandal Expertise, Research, and Scholarship Online (VERSO), preserves and provides access to the research and creative output of the university of Idaho faculty, students and staff. The presentation slides will be attached to the minutes from this meeting.
- **The IT university-level committee** is working with senate leadership toward the best process to address faculty IT concerns.
- **Admissions criteria.** The proposal from the University Curriculum Committee will be ready for a vote at the next meeting, April 23, 2024.

Important dates and Events:

- **University Faculty Meeting #3** – Monday, April 29, at 3pm, via Zoom.
- **Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival** starts Wednesday evening, and continues all day Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. There will be about 3,400 students on campus.
- The College of Science will have “**Vandal Science Days**,” Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20, from 10am to 3pm in the IRIC atrium. <https://www.uidaho.edu/sci/news/vandal-science-days>
- **Faculty Gathering:** Wednesday, April 17, 4:30 to 6:30, at the WWAMI Medical Education Building. <https://www.uidaho.edu/provost/faculty-gathering>
- **Commencement** on May 11th. Please encourage your faculty to attend.

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Faculty Senate Talking Points, April 23, 2024, Meeting #30

- **AY 24-25 Faculty Senate Leadership.** Nominations for the offices of Faculty Senate Chair and Vice Chair were gathered. Elections will take place on 4/30/2024.
- **New Admission Requirements** were approved by Faculty Senate. Please attend the UFM (see below) to hear more about and vote on this very important item.
- **The Vandal Health Clinic**, which has been operating through a contract with Gritman Medical Center, is being brought back in house and turned into a teaching clinic where our faculty, working with students in the WWAMI program, provide medical services to our students. There will be no changes to the medical services our students receive.
- Check the **COGS workshops** for graduate students interested in grants. The calendar is attached to these talking points.
- The slides from last week presentation by Ben Hunter about **VERSO** (Vandal Expertise, Research, and Scholarship Online) are being distributed with these talking points.

Important dates and Events:

- **University Faculty Meeting #3** – Monday, April 29, at 3pm, via Zoom. Please attend!
- Open forum events for the three finalists for the position of **Director of General Education**.
Russell Meeuf, April 23, 2024 2:30 – 3:20 p.m. PDT, Menard Law Courtroom
Zoom: <https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/89851718106>
Barbara Kirchmeier, April 24, 2024 2:30 – 3:20 p.m. PDT, Menard Law Courtroom
Zoom: <https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/84616572908>
Annette Folwell, April 25, 2024 12:30 – 1:20 p.m. PDT, Menard Law Courtroom
Zoom: <https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/85924212199>
- **Commencement** on May 11th. Please encourage your faculty to attend.

The Talking Points are approved by Faculty Senate Leadership as an informal communication tool to engage constituents and get quick feedback on issues discussed at the Faculty Senate weekly meetings. All Faculty Senate agendas (including attachments and supporting documents) and meeting minutes are made available on the new Senate webpage: <https://www.uidaho.edu/governance>

Remember to share this email with faculty and staff in your colleges

Check the [Faculty Senate website](#). Please send your questions, concerns, and feedback.

January 2024				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	CIRTL: 25 LTD	GPSA 26
HT: 29 STEPS	30	MH 31	1	2

February 2024				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
HT: 5 AWARDS	6	7	ICG 8	GPSA 9
HT: 12 FORMAT	13	14	CIRTL: 15 TAR & LTD	16
19	20	21	PDI 22	GPSA 23
HT: 26 PLANS	27	MH 28	PDI 29	1

March 2024				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
HT: 4 FUND	GWS 5	6	ICG 7 CIRTL: LTD	GPSA 8
11	12	13	14	15
18	GWS 19	20	PDI 21	GPSA 22
25	26	MH 27	28	29

April 2024				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
1	2	3	PDI 4 ICG	GPSA 5
8	PFW 9	10	11	12
15	16	17	CIRTL: 18 LTD	GPSA 19
22	PFW 23	MH 24	25	26
29	30	1	ICG 2	GPSA 3

COGS Spring 2024 Graduate Student Support Programs

- **CIRTL: Learning Through Diversity (CIRTL: LTD)**
Thursdays 6 – 7 p.m. via Zoom
January 25, February 15, March 7 & April 18
 - **GPSA Coffee Hour (GPSA)**
Fridays 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. IRIC Atrium
January 12 & 26, February 9 & 23
March 8 & 22, April 5 & 19, May 3
 - **Grad Student Mental Health Series (MH)**
IRIC 321 and via Zoom
Wednesdays 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
January 31, February 28, March 27 & April 24
 - **CIRTL: Teaching as Research Series (CIRTL: TAR)**
Thursday 3:30 – 4:45 p.m. via Zoom
February 15
 - **International Stud. Community Group (ICG)**
First Thursday of each month 4–5 p.m.
February 8, March 7, April 4, May 2
 - **Professional Development Initiative (PDI)**
ISUB 329 and via Zoom
Thursdays 10 – 10:45 a.m.
February 22, 29, March 21, April 4
 - **Graduate Writing Symposium (GWS)**
IRIC 321 and via Zoom
Tuesdays 1 – 2 p.m.
March 5 & 19
 - **Prestigious Fellowship Workshops (PFW)**
Tuesdays 3 – 4 p.m. via Zoom
April 9 & 23
 - **Grad Student HOW TO Series:**
Mondays 10 a.m. via Zoom
 - Steps to Your Graduate Degree (STEPS)**
January 29
 - Apply for GPSA Awards (AWARDS)**
February 5
 - Format Your Thesis/Dissertation (FORMAT)**
February 12
 - Study Plans and Degree Audit (PLANS)**
February 26
 - Fund Your Graduate Education (FUND)**
(ideally for prospective students)
March 4
- Note: All times listed are in Pacific Time**

College of Graduate Studies

Spring 2024 Graduate Student Support Programs

Note: all times are in the Pacific Time Zone

Professional Development Initiative

The Professional Development Initiative (PDI) includes events, workshops, and classes intended to provide opportunities to promote the academic and professional success of graduate students, postdocs and other early career trainees. This series of events is facilitated by the Career Services office.

<https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/81923089223> | Meeting ID: 819 2308 9223

10-10:45 a.m. Thursdays | ISUB 329 and via Zoom

February 22: *Getting the Most Out of a Conference*

March 1: *Writing Teaching Philosophies and Diversity Statements*

March 21: *Writing Cover Letters, CVs, and Resumes*

April 4: *Demystifying Careers in Academia*

Graduate Writing Symposium

This series of workshops is designed to help graduate students across disciplines develop a strong sense of genre specific writing critical to success in academia. In the first workshop, we will discuss and practice strategies for writing clear, concise, and engaging abstracts for articles, conferences proposals, and more. Many of the writing forms in this first workshop will be applicable to other forms of scholarly writing. Guided by department specifications and feedback from faculty in a range of disciplines, this workshop will focus on strategies for crafting strong, well-articulated proposals for theses, dissertations, and more. Writers from all academic disciplines are welcome.

<https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/87630895130> | Meeting ID: 876 3089 5130

1-2 p.m. Tuesdays | IRIC 321 and via Zoom

March 5: *Crafting a Strong Abstract*

March 19: *writing Research-Related Proposals (including Thesis and Dissertation Proposals)*

Graduate Student Mental Health Series

Led by Faculty from the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), these monthly presentations center around mental health topics especially relevant to graduate and professional students.

<https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/86598180151> | Meeting ID: 865 9818 0151

11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Wednesdays | IRIC 321 and via Zoom

January 31: *Let's Talk about Imposter Syndrome*

February 14: *Navigating Dating and Relationships in Grad School*

March 27: *Fostering Personal Wellness*

April 24: *Managing Anxiety*

College of Graduate Studies

Spring 2024 Graduate Student Support Programs

Note: all times are in the Pacific Time Zone

Prestigious Fellowship Workshop Series

The Prestigious Fellowship Workshop series, led by Dean Jerry McMurtry, prepares students to submit federal fellowship applications in the upcoming funding cycle, 2024 - 2025. Students in the final stages of writing an application for the GRFP, Ford Foundation, National Defense, or F31- NIH fellowships are encouraged to attend these sessions. Attendees may bring in-progress application documents and any questions they have about the application process. Additionally, students will learn the differences between the major prestigious fellowships, how to determine which fellowship is the best fit, and how to effectively plan for the 2024 - 2025 application cycle. Any students in need of faculty reviewers for fellowship application components may contact Michael Decker (mdecker@uidaho.edu) for assistance.

<https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/83450865632> | Meeting ID: 834 5086 5632

3-4 p.m. Tuesdays | via Zoom

April 9: *Introduction to Fellowship Applications*

April 23: *The Application Process and Components*

GPSA Coffee Hours

Led by students in the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA), Coffee Hours are held about twice a month in the IRIC Atrium. Coffee hours provide opportunities for networking, social connections, and learning about ways to become involved in graduate student leadership. A wide array of food and drinks will be provided. Graduate students, staff, faculty, and postdocs are encouraged to attend.

8:30-10:00 a.m. Fridays | IRIC Atrium

January 12 & 26

February 9 & 23

March 8 & 22

April 5 & 19

May 3

International Student Community Group

The goal of this group is to create an informal space for international graduate students to support one another, make connections, and learn more about campus resources. Group meetings will be led by an international student facilitator and pizza will be provided. Monthly meeting dates will be finalized soon.

4-5 p.m. First Thursday of Each Month | IPO Conference Room

February 8

March 7

April 4

May 2

College of Graduate Studies

Spring 2024 Graduate Student Support Programs

Note: all times are in the Pacific Time Zone

CIRT Network Workshop Series

The Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (CIRT) and the College of Graduate Studies present a series of workshops relevant to graduate students and postdocs seeking future faculty positions. These workshops will explore Teaching as Research (TAR) and Learning Through Diversity (LTD) pedagogical frameworks. Workshops will be led by Brian Smentkowski from the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL). This is a valuable opportunity for graduate students and postdocs to become involved in CIRT levels, opportunities, and credentials. For more information about the benefits of becoming involved in the CIRT network, contact Michael Decker at mdecker@uidaho.edu.

<https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/86407211044> | Meeting ID: 864 072 1104

Learning Through Diversity Series

6-7 p.m. Thursdays | via Zoom

January 25 (Session 4): *Universal Design for Learning*: Participants in this session will learn evidence-based practices for adapting, adopting, and integrating techniques that support multiple means of engagement, representation, and expression of knowledge.

February 15 (Session 5): *Culturally Responsive Pedagogy*: Participants will develop insight into the role that culture plays in framing student presence, participation, and success, and strategies for identifying and navigating both multiple barriers to, and opportunities for, inclusive learning mindful of the impact cultural differences play in engaged learning.

March 7 (Session 6): *Inclusion by Design*: Participants will apply a simple but effective methodology for embedding inclusive teaching and learning principles and practices in all aspects of a class, from the syllabus to the first day to final grades and everything in-between.

April 18 (Session 7): *Sharing*: This conversational session is reserved for participants to share what they have learned, to answer any remaining questions, to seek input, and to share inspiration and tactics for making a difference in the learning and lives of their students.

Teaching as Research Series

3:30-4:45 p.m. Thursday | via Zoom

February 15 (Session 3): *Developing a Teaching-as-Research Question/Idea*: This session focuses on developing a good question, formulating a reasonable hypothesis, or simply exploring an idea about how an aspect of our teaching can have an impact on an aspect of student learning. The focus is on your ideas, your classes, and your fields of study. The goal is to set everyone on a course for engaging in a TAR project and, hopefully, to participate in the CIRT Network's Online TAR Summer Program. Assistance may be available for participants to present TAR projects at a conference.





10 a.m. Mondays via Zoom

<https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/82268562320> | Meeting ID: 822 6856 2320

HOW TO: Steps to Your Graduate Degree

January 29

The College of Graduate Studies presents this workshop to guide currently enrolled graduate students through every step of the master's and PhD processes, including dates, deadlines, planning documents, and explanations of COGS forms and procedures. Students should bring their questions!

HOW TO: Apply for GPSA Travel and Publication Awards

February 5

Led by students from the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA), this workshop will guide graduate students through the process of applying for Travel or Publication Awards through GPSA. Covered topics will include eligibility, deadlines, application requirements, and helpful tips to make the process go smoothly.

HOW TO: Format Your Thesis or Dissertation

February 12

This workshop helps graduate students understand how to start formatting a thesis or dissertation, provides helpful tips and guidelines, and describes all required components of a finished product. The workshop includes troubleshooting any problems students encounter during the formatting process.

HOW TO: Create a Study Plan and Check your Degree Audit

February 19

In this program, College of Graduate Studies staff will show students where they can access study plan resources, in addition to demonstrating some strategies for the study plan development process. Students will also learn how to interpret their Degree Audit and use this function as a tool to inform their study plan.

HOW TO: Fund Your Graduate Education

February 26

Join members of the College of Graduate Studies team along with other prospective students to learn the process of grad school funding. This session takes a close look at opportunities and resources for funding your graduate education. *(ideally for prospective students)*

Additional Graduate Student/Postdoc Support Opportunities

Teaching Assistant Community Group

Graduate Teaching Assistants are invited to join the TA Community Group, led by the College of Graduate Studies and the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL). Students will discuss with their peers the joys and challenges of teaching while building a community of support. Any graduate student or postdoc who is currently teaching in a higher education setting is encouraged to join.

9-10 a.m. Tuesdays | One World Café (533 S Main St.)

February 6 & 20, March 5 & 19, April 2, 16 & 30

5-6 p.m. Tuesdays | IRIC 321

February 20, March 19 & April 16

Research Assistant Community Group

Graduate Research Assistants can find support, share resources, and build community at the RA Community Group, led by the College of Graduate Studies and graduate faculty members. This group is ideal for graduate students who wish to discuss their struggles and successes during the research process. Any graduate student or postdoc who is currently planning or conducting research is encouraged to join.

1-2 p.m. Thursdays | IRIC Atrium

February 1 & 22, March 7 & 21, April 4 & 18

Writing Support from the Graduate Writing Tutor

The Writing Center employs a Graduate Writing Tutor, Isabel Marlens, who is available to help graduate students with every step of the writing process. Isabel can help you with setting goals, scheduling writing time, dealing with writer's block, organizing your thoughts, as well as helping you to improve your individual assignments and writing projects. You can make an appointment using the Writing Center's [online calendar](#) and selecting the schedule for Graduate Writing Support. For questions, email Isabel (imarlens@uidaho.edu) or drop by the Writing Center office in ISUB 323.

Grant and Fellowship 1-Credit Classes

Led by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, Jerry McMurtry, and Director of Graduate Student Support Programming, Michael Decker, these classes will provide students with a comprehensive overview of major grants and fellowship applications. Students will have the opportunity to workshop application drafts and gain a more critical understanding of what makes a winning application. Additionally, we will have regular presentations by faculty and grad students who have authored and received major funding sources. For more information, contact Michael Decker at mdecker@uidaho.edu.

Prestigious Fellowships I (INTR 412/512) – *Identifying and Selecting an Appropriate Fellowship*

Late Start (March 18) | 6-7:20 p.m. Tuesdays | Physical location TBD and via Zoom

Grant Writing and Development (INTR 407/507)

Late Start (March 18) | 6-7:20 p.m. Wednesdays | Physical location TBD and via Zoom



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Research Information Management Systems (RIMs)



Research information management(RIM) systems support the **transparent aggregation, curation, and utilization of data** about institutional research activities. (Bryant et al, 2021)





Institutional Repositories (IRs)

...digital collections capturing and preserving the intellectual output of a single or multi-university community.
(Crow, 2002)

Theses and Dissertations Collection
Open Access Repository of University of Idaho Graduate ETD

University of Idaho Library

Home Browse Subjects Programs Timeline Data

Search

University of Idaho Institutional Repository Collection
University of Idaho Library

Home Browse Subjects Locations Timeline Data

Search

Browse Items

Filter ... Search Reset Sort by Random

143 of 143 items

IDAHO AT A GLANCE
Hispanics: Labor Force & Economy
November 2010

Highlights

- Hispanics make up 14% of the state's civilian labor force, compared to 14% in the U.S. civilian labor force as a whole.
- Hispanic workers in Idaho tend to have lower wages and jobs in lower skilled sectors than other workers. In 2008, median earnings were about \$21,300 for Hispanic males compared to roughly \$42,000 for non-Hispanic males.
- The recession has hit Idaho's Hispanic workers especially hard. In 2007, their unemployment rate was 7%. By 2008, Hispanic unemployment increased to 12%.
- Undocumented workers—foreign born, non-citizens of any background who do not have legal immigrant status—make up a smaller share of Idaho's labor force (9%) than in the U.S. as a whole (19%).

This report is the second of three in our *At A Glance* series on Idaho's Hispanics. The first focused on demographics (June 2009), and the third will focus on education.

Business Ownership and Buying Power

In 2007, there were 1,874 Hispanic-owned businesses in Idaho, up from 2,775 in 2002. One-quarter of these businesses were in construction. In terms of average sales, Hispanic businesses were significantly smaller than non-Hispanic businesses.

Between 2002 and 2007:

- The number of Hispanic-owned businesses grew by 67%. Receipts for Hispanic-owned businesses grew from \$102 million to \$402 million, a 285% increase.
- The number of non-Hispanic-owned businesses grew by 24%. Receipts for non-Hispanic-owned businesses grew from \$72 billion to \$224 billion.

Chapter 16
Shuffle the Cards, Save the Cat, and Eat the Cake
Rick Stoddart

Traditionally, a final chapter is seen as closing or concluding a book—bracketing the contents like bookends on a shelf. This type of chapter looks back among the other chapters and tells you what you have read and why it might be important. Unfortunately, I don't think I am going to be able accomplish this conventional undertaking with this chapter... nor do I think I want to. This chapter is not here to tie a nice little bow around the book's contents and declare everything well and good. Just as autoethnography challenges the reader to engage and react, this chapter will instead serve to smite the bow, open the box, and spill out its contents. The authors in this volume have crafted remarkable observations on their own lives and those around them, and in this chapter...

Idaho's Forest Products Industry Current Conditions and 2011 Forecast
Station Bulletin 97
January 2011

Produced by
The Inland Northwest Forest Products Research Consortium, a research cooperative centered at the Forest Products Department at the University of Idaho, the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana-Missoula, and the Wood Materials and Engineering Laboratory at Washington State University.

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Search Reset Sort by Random

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Modeling Deep Infiltration from Irrigated Agriculture to Support Regional Water Management

Author: Olson, Bailey
Date: 2021-12
Keywords: Agricultural Management; Deep Infiltration;

duates--

RIM use case	Description
Faculty Activity Reporting (FAR)	Processes that support annual academic progress reviews and/or promotion & tenure (P&T) processes for academic staff.
Public portal	Public portals feature profiles of individual researchers affiliated within an institution to expose and promote their research and that of the institution.
Metadata reuse	The repurposing of data stored in the RIM system to populate department or faculty websites or internal lists beyond the original purpose of the RIM system.
Strategic Reporting & Decision Support	The use of RIM data to support reports, visualizations, and actionable recommendations. It is like metadata reuse, but it requires significantly more processing, data mining, and analysis.
Open Access Workflows	Workflows that streamline processes for researchers to deposit open content into institutional repositories, adding convenience, improving metadata, and increasing discoverability and access to research.
Compliance Monitoring	The tracking and reporting required to ensure both individual and institutional compliance with external requirements, such as those that may be associated with awarded grants.



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University of Idaho Library

Menu | Search | About VERSO | Report an Issue

Sign in

Search the repository

Outputs | All | Search

Welcome to VERSO

VERSO (Vandal Expertise, Research, and Scholarship Online) preserves and provides access to the research and creative output of the University of Idaho's faculty, students and staff.

Faculty & Researcher Scholarship | Open Access | Theses & Dissertations

Output | Researcher Profiles | Research Units



VERSO: verso.uidaho.edu

The screenshot shows the homepage of the VERSO repository. At the top left is the University of Idaho Library logo. The navigation bar includes a 'Menu' dropdown, a search icon, and links for 'About VERSO' and 'Report an Issue'. A 'Sign in' link is located at the top right. Below the navigation is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search the repository'. To the right of the search bar are dropdown menus for 'Outputs' and 'All', and a search icon. The main content area features a large heading 'Welcome to VERSO' followed by a paragraph: 'VERSO (Vandal Expertise, Research, and Scholarship Online) preserves and provides access to the research and creative output of the University of Idaho's faculty, students and staff.' Below this are two columns of text: 'Faculty & Researcher Scholarship | Open Access | Theses & Dissertations' and 'Output | Researcher Profiles | Research Units'. The background of the main content area is dark with a network diagram pattern. On the right side, there is a photograph of a person working at a computer with a microscope in the foreground.

University of Idaho Library

Menu | Search | About VERSO | Report an Issue

Sign in

Search the repository

Outputs | All | Search

Welcome to VERSO


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Faculty & Researcher Scholarship | Open Access | Theses & Dissertations


Output | Researcher Profiles | Research Units


Faculty pages



 University of Idaho Library

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 Edit profile



Ben Hunter

Dean, University of Idaho Libraries

Library Science / Music

Overview Output Activities Teaching & Supervision

Organizational Affiliations

Dean, University of Idaho Library, University of Idaho

Education

Managerial Leadership in the Information Professions
2020, Doctor of Philosophy, Simmons University (United States, Boston)

Library Science
Master of Science in Library Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (United States, Chapel Hill) - UNC

Music Composition
Master of Music (MM or MMus), University of Oregon (United States, Eugene) - UO

Music Composition
Bachelor of Music (BM or BMus), University of Idaho (United States, Moscow) - UI

Global ID

Pivot ID
[916D6C6D7F000001007E36A738085FFB](#)



VERSO: verso.uidaho.edu

The screenshot displays the VERSO search interface. At the top left is the University of Idaho Library logo. Navigation links include 'Menu', a search icon, 'About VERSO', and 'Report an Issue'. A 'Sign' link is in the top right. The search bar contains 'artificial intelligence cancer' with a search icon and 'Advanced Search' text. Below the search bar, it indicates 'Page 1 of 13 results'. On the left, there are filters for 'Refine the results', 'Sort by Relevance', 'Availability' (Open Access 13, Peer-reviewed Journals 1), 'Resource Type' (Thesis 7, Dissertation 5, Journal article 1), and 'Research unit' (Computer Science 9, Electrical and Computer Engineering 1, Mathematics and Statistical Science 1, Nuclear Engineering and 1). The main content area shows search results. The first result is a 'JOURNAL ARTICLE' titled 'BI-RADS-NET-V2: A Composite Multi-Task Neural Network for Computer-Aided Diagnosis of Breast Cancer in Ultrasound Images With Semantic and Quantitative Explanations' by Boyu Zhang, Aleksandar Vakanski and Min Xian, published in IEEE access, Vol.11, pp.79480-79494, 2023. The abstract describes a computer-aided diagnosis (CADx) system based on explainable artificial intelligence (XAI) for breast cancer diagnosis in ultrasound images. The second result is a 'DISSERTATION' titled 'Assessing cognitive workload from multiple physiological measures using wavelets and machine learning' by Roger Lew, Doctor of Philosophy (PHD), University of Idaho - College of Graduate Studies, 2014. The abstract discusses improving system safety and reliability through tailored interfaces and cognitive workload measures. The third result is a 'THESIS' titled 'Mobile Computer Aided Diagnosis (CAD) for Breast Cancer Detection'.

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- Built on Ex Libris' Esploro platform
- Integrated RIMS and IR
- Automatic daily harvesting of data
- SSO for personal profile maintenance
- Detailed reporting functions for description and strategic decision making
- Easy listing of researchers and research by unit
- Increase discoverability and access to university research and publications
- Custom list generation
- ORCID integration



Release Timeline

Fall 2023

- Migrate data from VIVO
- Establish single-sign-on and other system features

Spring 2024

- Begin initial data harvests
- Create policies and protocols
- Gather feedback from various faculty and units
- Soft rollout to faculty in March/April 2024
- Retire VIVO and redirect to VERSO

Summer 2024

- Data cleaning and further harvests
- Establish IR deposit protocols and workflows
- Further testing and feedback from campus

Fall 2024

- Full campus/public rollout
- VERSO becomes discoverable via Google, Google Scholar, and other indexes

Future Plans

- Analytics/Reporting improvements
 - Specialized use cases, commonly requested reports
- API Use
 - Fairly robust and allows for both read/write capabilities
- Center/Institute Support
 - Open to discussions on how to make this maximally useful
- Ongoing software update/improvements
 - Ex Libris continues to roll out improvements, so expect new functionality over time
- CV Generation



Questions?