

August 17, 2009

Letter to UI Community

From Dr Rod Hill, Secretary of the Faculty.

**RE: Recent changes in Shared Governance**

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Dear Friends

I write you to inform you of changes to shared governance at the university: There are new constitutional changes that are intended to increase representation and participation in shared governance across the state. These changes also mean that we need to implement processes for off-site participation in shared governance.

**Renaming the Faculty Council to the Faculty Senate.** The new term is one more broadly recognized and also used by our peer institution. It also invokes the notion of proportional representation and reflects the importance of the work of your representative body in shared governance.

**New Faculty Senate Representatives and participation across the state in University Faculty Meetings.** We have changed representation and participation at two levels. In the Faculty Senate we have now added one representative from each of the Centers at Boise, Coeur d'Alene and Idaho Falls. Prior to this, each Center had non-voting representatives.

The next change has broad implications for representation of the faculty at University Faculty meetings (often called General Faculty meetings). Faculty from across the state will now be included in calculation of the quorum and will be able to fully participate in these meetings via A-V link.

**Processes for off-site participation in General Faculty Meetings.** Modern audio-video communications have provided a key element to facilitate state-wide conduct of meetings. In order to have meaningful participation, two way communication is essential. Our university now has many A-V studios across the state that facilitate real-time two way electronic communication amongst large groups. In addition to the electronic means, we also needed to implement an effective logistical system to enable vote counting and orderly recognition of speakers at all sites. The next piece needed was a way to include new participating sites. Thus, to be brief, my message on this topic is that faculty at sites remote from Moscow can now participate via A-V link, conditional on the following: 1) The site needs prior approval by faculty senate, 2) a delegate to fill coordination functions needs to be nominated and approved by Committee on Committees.

For faculty who wish to participate at sites across the state in AY 09-10, the time-frame to complete the above steps is challenging. I have prepared a template proposal that will need to be completed and returned to the Faculty Secretary's office by Wednesday August 26 via e-mail attachment to

[rodhill@uidaho.edu](mailto:rodhill@uidaho.edu) or via fax to 208-885-7036. The template is attached to this message and can be down-loaded from the Faculty Secretary's webpage, <http://www.webs.uidaho.edu/facultysecretary/>. Although time is short to process proposals, my office will work hard to ensure that all proposals received by the due date will be processed to enable faculty to fully participate in General Faculty meetings in AY09-10. For more complete information about these policy changes please see the Faculty Staff Handbook: FSH 1520 III, 1540 A-1 and 1640.94.

My hope is that faculty across the state will be energetic in participating in shared governance. The hardware and logistical pieces outlined above can be put into place with cooperation and some institutional, technical support. I encourage faculty who wish to be included in our shared governance culture to contact me and/or work with their faculty senators and administrators to achieve much broader participation in these important functions. I strongly believe that we should all be proactive in enhancing our sense of community across the entire university. This will lead to greater understanding and interaction that will make us a stronger, more effective institution. This outcome will benefit us all.

Best wishes

Rod Hill.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Hill", with a small flourish at the end.

Secretary of the Faculty.