

**Idaho State University  
Faculty Constitution  
Draft v 0.5**

with proposed changes recommended by Subcommittee 9/26/2011  
and Preamble, Articles I, II and III as approved so far by Provisional Faculty Senate 10/03/2011

**Preamble**

To facilitate communication, understanding, and cooperation among the officers of Idaho State University, and to ensure the orderly development of educational programs and policies committed to our trust, we, the president and faculty of Idaho State University, do hereby subscribe to this constitution establishing principles of organization, authority, and responsibility of the Idaho State University faculty. In adopting this constitution the president and faculty of Idaho State University affirm our belief in academic freedom and responsibility as specified in the Idaho State Board of Education policy (Section III.B, April 2002) and the American Association of University Professors 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure.

Institutions of higher education are established for the common good and not to further the interest of either the individual faculty member or the institution as a whole, and the common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition through scholarship.

Academic freedom is essential to these purposes and applies to teaching, research (including scholarly and creative activities), and service. Academic freedom in teaching is fundamental for the protection of the rights of the teacher in teaching and of the student to freedom in learning. Academic freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Academic freedom in service is fundamental to the advancement of the common good and the development of educational programs and policies. Academic freedom should not be abridged or abused. Academic freedom carries with it duties correlative with rights.

Faculty are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, but they should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial matter which has no relation to their subject.

Faculty are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution.

Faculty are entitled to speak or write freely without institutional discipline or restraint on matters pertaining to faculty governance and development of educational programs and policies.

College and university faculty members are citizens, members of a learned profession, and officers of the educational institution. When they speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. As scholars and educational officers, they should remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Hence they should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for

the opinions of others, and should make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the institution.

### **Article I: Name**

The Idaho State University faculty as defined by Article II shall be referred to throughout this document as THE FACULTY.

### **Article II: Membership**

THE FACULTY of the University shall comprise two categories of members hereinafter referred to as: 1) Academic Faculty, and 2) Administrative Faculty. Associated faculties constitute a third category: 3) Adjunct, Affiliate, and Visiting Faculty.

#### **Section 1: Academic Faculty**

The Academic Faculty of the University will include all Tenure-track and Tenured faculty with appointments as Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Instructor, Departmental chairpersons and professional librarians other than the Dean of the University Libraries. The Academic faculty also includes non-tenure track faculty with appointments as Instructor (all levels and designations), Lecturer, Associate Lecturer, Assistant Lecturer, Clinical Professor, Clinical Associate Professor, Clinical Assistant Professor, Clinical Instructor, Research Professor, Research Associate Professor, and Research Assistant Professor.

#### **Section 2: Administrative Faculty**

The Administrative Faculty of the University will include the president of the University; the provost and vice president for academic affairs, the vice president for research, the deans of the colleges, divisions and the university libraries, and all permanent administrative officials who are qualified to hold academic rank and are designated as members of the administrative faculty by the president.

#### **Section 3: Adjunct, Affiliate, and Visiting Faculty**

The Adjunct, Affiliate, and Visiting Faculty include those faculty with a limited contractual relationship with the University, including part-time (adjunct), non-compensatory (affiliate), and visiting faculty. Individuals in this category are not part of THE FACULTY.

*Above items approved to this point by Provisional Faculty Senate on Sept. 26, 2011*

### **Article III: Powers and Authority**

#### **Section 1: General**

Recommendations are made to the president and the provost and vice president of academic affairs of the University.

- a. THE FACULTY has primary responsibility on matters of educational policy within the limits prescribed by federal and state law and the regulations of the Idaho State Board of Education. Educational policy pertains to such matters as curricula, methods of instruction, facilities and materials for instruction, standards for admission and retention of students, and criteria for the granting of degrees. It

also includes those aspects of student life that relate directly to the educational process including the establishment of regulations concerning financial aid, academic performance, extracurricular activities, and freedom of action and expression.

On these matters the power of review or final decision lodged in the governing board or delegated by it to the president should be exercised adversely only in exceptional circumstances, and for reasons communicated to the faculty. It is desirable that the faculty should, following such communication, have opportunity for further consideration and further transmittal of its views to the president or board. Budgets, personnel limitations, the time element, and the policies of other groups, bodies, and agencies having jurisdiction over the institution may set justifiable limits to realization of faculty advice.

- b. THE FACULTY has primary responsibility for policies and procedures governing the performance of research, scholarship and creative activities.
- c. THE FACULTY has primary responsibility for policies and procedures governing faculty appointment, tenure, and promotion.
- d. THE FACULTY has primary responsibility for policies and procedures governing the performance of faculty service.
- e. THE FACULTY will normally function through its representative body, the Faculty Senate (see Article V). However THE FACULTY will also have the rights of initiative and referendum, as specified in Article IV: Section 2e, Article V: Section 3d, and in Article VI: Section 1.

## **Section 2: College, School, Division, Department, and the Library**

Within the limits of policies approved by the Idaho State Board of Education, the policies and practices within the particular college, school, division, department, or the library will be determined by the members of THE FACULTY of the specific college, school, division, department, or the library and will normally be implemented by the interested dean or chairperson.

## **Article IV: Organization of THE FACULTY**

### **Section 1: Presiding Officer**

The Chair of the Faculty Senate is the presiding officer of THE FACULTY. The Chair of the Faculty Senate or his or her designee will preside at the meetings of the THE FACULTY, and will oversee the reporting and distribution of the non-transcripted summary of the meeting.

### **Section 2: Meetings of THE FACULTY**

#### **a. Schedule**

Meetings of THE FACULTY may be called by the president of the University or the president of the Faculty Senate. The president of the Faculty Senate

must call a meeting at the written petition of ten percent of THE FACULTY or a majority vote of the Senate.

b. Notice

Written notice of each meeting shall be circulated to THE FACULTY at least three days prior to the date of the meeting. The agenda for each meeting will be attached to the notice.

c. Quorum

Twenty-five percent of THE FACULTY constitutes a quorum. Members must be physically present designated meeting sites. Proxy votes will not be recognized for absent individuals. The Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs will provide on September 1 the number of Academic and Administrative Faculty as described in Article II.

***Above items approved to this point by Provisional Faculty Senate on Oct. 3, 2011***