Dear Boise State University Faculty,

Reflection on 2010
The Boise State University Faculty Senate wishes to welcome you back for the New Year. Reflection on 2010 indicates that many positive events took place that enhance faculty workplace quality; among these are the Faculty Incentive Pay Program, Dependent Tuition Assistance Program, revision to student grievance policy, and approval of a new core curriculum. While we have been effective in working with the administration, much remains to be done to mitigate the financial challenges ahead. In an effort to meet the State Board of Education mandate to double the number of college graduates in Idaho, while simultaneously taking budget cuts in state appropriated funds, President Kustra has proposed a series of new initiatives to deliver a state-of-the-art curriculum in a more efficient manner. Two such proposals include a Technology in Teaching and Learning task force lead by Max Davis-Johnson and Susan Shadle and an Alternative Academic Calendar Committee lead by Mark Wheeler and Michael Blankenship. If you would like to contribute content to either committee, please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate representative.

Other noteworthy events that directly impact faculty have been the turn over in senior administrators. We have recently welcomed Max Davis-Johnson as the new Associate Vice President (AVP) for Information Technology and Pablo Coblentz as the new AVP Human Resource Services. Search committees have been assembled and advertisements posted to fill vacancies for a Vice President for Student Affairs, and Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. The VP Student Affairs search committee is chaired by Mark Wheeler, Dean of Extended Studies, and the Provost and VP for Academic Affairs search committee is being chaired by Mark Rudin, VP for Research. With respect to the Provost Search, an advertisement for the position will appear in the January 7 edition of the Chronicle of Higher Education. Candidate selection is expected to occur by April with the successful applicant beginning at BSU in June.

Constitution Discussion
The rapidly changing landscape at Boise State University puts faculty in a vulnerable position. The security and protection that allow faculty to focus on their work and not obsess about job security is written into university policies that are based on the foundation created by the faculty constitution. The last time the constitution was amended was April 1998. At this point in time, the constitution no longer represents the current campus climate. An explanation of the changes made to the constitution and a justification for those changes are as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Change to Constitution</th>
<th>Justification</th>
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<td>1) Preamble: Academic Freedom and Academic Duty</td>
<td>In Spring 2010, a request to incorporate academic freedom language into the constitution was made. The result of that request has been the incorporation of academic freedom and duty language as it appears on the American Association of University Professors website (<a href="http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/pubsres/policydocs/contents/1940statement.htm">http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/pubsres/policydocs/contents/1940statement.htm</a>) into the preamble of the BSU constitution.</td>
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<td>2) Article II, Section 1-5: Membership</td>
<td>Adjustments have been made to the categories of faculty to reflect changes approved in BSU policy 7000 in Spring 2010.</td>
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3) Voting rights
The faculty eligible to vote on faculty-wide elections remains the same and includes Academic (Tenured/Tenure-Track) and Administrative Faculty. New categories of faculty (Research, Clinical, and Teaching) are not included in the voting faculty, however they may participate as non-voting participants AND will now be allotted one voting member on Faculty Senate. Adjunct/Visiting/Affiliate faculty may participate as non-voting observers in faculty governance and otherwise do not have representation on Faculty Senate.

4) Presidential Succession
   (Article IV, Section 1, a-c)
Succession and Officers of the Senate: The (non-voting) Secretary position in Faculty Senate was removed, since the lion's share of that work (taking minutes) has been done, and will continue to be done, by a student assistant to the Senate. The remaining duties were switched to Vice President. A Past President position was created to improve continuity. The Vice President will become the next President, so as to reduce the catch up time needed by the new President and to improve continuity. The new architecture consists of a Vice President, President, and Past President. It is expected that the Vice President will be elected to serve a three year term, one year as VP, one as President, and one as Past President. The succession is subject to the approval of the Senate on an annual basis, and leaves the opportunity for a President to serve more than one year.

On January 12, 2011 at 9 a.m. in the Jordan Ballroom of the Student Union Building, President Kustra will host a Spring Update. Following the President’s remarks, the Faculty Senate will provide an open forum panel discussion to address amendment to the constitution, work accomplished, and work remaining to be done. Faculty are requested to read the revised constitution and bring questions and remarks to be addressed by the Senate panel. Documents that are available to faculty are a policy cover sheet containing an explanation/justification for constitution amendment, and the original, mark up, and amended constitution.

Following the open forum, an email survey will be sent to all voting members of the faculty (“Official” Faculty). All eligible faculty are requested to provide a vote with respect to the amended constitution. The electronic survey will serve as the secret ballot that must receive a two-thirds majority vote by the Academic and Administrative Faculty for the constitution amendment to be accepted. If approved, the constitution must be further approved by the BSU administration and the Idaho State Board of Education.

Best regards,

Owen M. McDougal, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry
President, Faculty Senate