



FACULTY ADVOCATE

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UI Faculty Votes on Academic Freedom (again)

Jan. 17, 3 PM, SUB Ballroom

See previous article at www.idaho-aft.org/AcademicFreedomStaben.pdf

On April 29, 2014, the UI general faculty voted 176-0 to support their right “to speak or write freely without institutional discipline or restraint on matters pertaining to faculty governance and university programs and policies.” The UI Faculty Federation initiated the process that made this vote possible.

Relying on the UI Counsel’s opinion, UI President Chuck Staben vetoed the proposals, primarily because these changes “could result in slanderous or libelous speech or writing going without remedy within the institution.” He was advised that the new language undermined the Regents’ “plenary powers,” presumably the power to discipline professors who have been perceived to be uncivil in their speech.

UI Faculty Senate leaders met with Staben and were encouraged to focus on the UI Constitution rather than changes to *Faculty-Staff Handbook* Sec. 3160. After consultation with the faculty union the following amendment (in italics) to the UI Constitution was approved by the Faculty Senate on November 11, 2014, by a vote of 17-0-2.

Section 4. Constituent Faculties. The university faculty is composed of various constituent faculties, including the faculties of the several colleges and other units of the university. *Faculty are entitled to speak or write freely on matters pertaining to university governance, programs and policies.*

We urge all UI faculty once again to turn out for the meeting and in numbers greater than the previous 176.

Please Join Us in Protecting Faculty Rights; Increasing Salaries and Benefits

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