

UPCOMING EVENTS

Holiday Market

- December 9th from 9-4 at the conference center across from the Gateway Center, shuttles will be available. We already have 47 vendors signed up – it is going to be a great event! This event is Staff Senates main fundraiser for the year, so we welcome you to attend and make purchases. – A huge thank you to Senator Heupel and the Holiday Senators for all their hard work.

Openings on Staff Senate Committees for non-senators!

- Staff Senate would like to welcome any interested Staff member to join one of our ongoing committees: contact your staff senator if you would like to get involved.

Homecoming

- 2022 Homecoming is Saturday, October 22!
- Staff senators worked diligently with UW administration to be able to give away 300 tickets to the Cowboy's football game to classified staff – Congratulations to all the winners of the drawing.
- We would like to let you know that Staff Senate is also in the process of acquiring UW t-shirts that will also be given away to classified staff members as part of Homecoming's Staff Recognition – More details to come.

November Food Drive

- Staff Senate is bringing back the November Staff Food drive with the return of more staff to campus. Collected items will be given to selected classified staff members to enhance their Thanksgivings celebrations.
 - More details will be coming soon.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Academic Affairs – Provost Carmen

A. VP for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- a. The search for a candidate is almost complete with interviews completed. Faculty and Staff survey responses are being reviewed by President Siedel who will be making a recommendation to the Board of Trustees for approval soon.

B. Freshman 1st Year Seminar – has been suspended for the Fall 2023 term

- a. Findings from reviewing the course:
 - i. Current UW faculty and Staff levels are not able to accommodate the program next fall without affecting other mandatory degree related courses.
 - ii. This is a 3 credit course at UW, other colleges offer a similar course for one 1 credit hour and have a higher number of students per class.
 - iii. This course was initiated to (but not limited to) present, teach and practice critical thinking skills that are needed at a college level and help with freshman retention.
 - iv. For 2023, other UW courses can add critical thinking into lesson plans.
 - v. 1st year seminar did not have the desired effects on retention that were anticipated.

- vi. There have not been discussions on how the 2023 Summer Bridge Program will be affected by this decision, but those talks will start quickly now that it has been brought to Administration's attention.
- b. UW administration hopes to have a restructured program available and ready for Fall 2024

Division of Administration – VP of Budget & Finance Alex Kean and VP of Governmental Affairs and Community Engagement Mike Smith

- A. The **annual external audit** is in full swing and anticipated to be completed in November.
- B. UW **administration is working on a 2nd round of salary increases for FY 24**, the raises that were approved for FY 23 were welcome, but did not go far enough
 - a. Although UW administration has many projects in the works, this is their #1 Priority this year.
- C. Other areas of interest and inclusion in the supplemental budget request to the 2 year bi-annually budget that was approved this summer for FY 23 – FY 24 are (but not limited to):
 - a. Inflation adjustments for utility expenses, programmatic funding for the Science Initiative and Tier I, security and card access to doors.
- D. These requests have been approved by the UW Board of Trustees. The next step for UW to send the requests to Governor Gordon which will happen in the next couple of weeks..
 - a. Once approved by the Governor, the request will be sent to the WY State legislature in January 2023 to review, discuss and approve.
 - b. Senator Gomez asked **how can UW Staff senate and private citizens may help and/or support these initiatives**:
 - i. Involvement from UW staff members, and personal narrative at Board of Trustees meetings last year were compelling and made a huge impact.
 - ii. UW Staff members should work with their leadership and communicate their needs as they arise.
 - iii. It would be good for Staff members to re-familiarize themselves with UW regulation 12-4.
 - 1. Senator Gomez asked for additional distribution of this topic to be made available to the UW community. Suggested this as a Deep Dive Topic.
- E. **Classification & Compensation Study Updates**:
 - a. NOTE: this is NOT to a staffing reduction, the study is to make sure all UW roles and jobs are defined appropriately and accurately and that the pay scale associated with both are valid and current.
 - b. VP Alex Kean would like for this process to be integrated in UW processes and become a long term dynamic classification and compensation system which may continue to evolve.
 - c. Administration anticipates the study will begin around the 20th of October.

Human Resources – HR Manager of Talent Acquisition Deb Marutzky

- A. **Open enrollment** for your UW benefits is taking place now and is open until Nov 30th.

- a. Any changes you would like to make to your benefit packages need to be made during this time. There have been and will continue to be emails coming out with more information on this topic.
- B. HR's current PR manager, Sherlyn is retiring in the spring of 2023. The position has been filled and her replacement will be starting this month as to learn and train with Sherlyn While she is still at UW.
- C. HR received an IT notification that the actual number of employees on campus does not correspond to WyoCloud – **Terminations for employees who have left are not being done in a timely manner.**
 - a. If you are a supervisor, please check out your teams in WyoCloud to make sure you have terminated anyone who has left.

Student Affairs – VP of Student Affairs Kim Chestnut

- A. We have seen a high level of student engagement this year on campus. It is natural that students want to be in person.
 - a. Student Affairs is accessing if Saddle up had an effect on this.
- B. October is Hispanic heritage month. If you would like more information about events for Hispanic heritage month, please contact the Student Affairs Office.

A&S Interim Dean Scott Turpen

- A. Update on conversations he has had with Staff Senators and A&S staff to improve communication and morale in the College of A&S
- B. Dean Turpen has implemented a town hall meeting for classified staff with him every semester. It is not required, but is an opportunity for staff to share their thoughts with him. He is holding 2 sessions each semester, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.
 - a. He is also sending a qualtrics survey (anonymous) out after each town hall if you would like to make your voice heard outside of the town halls.
 - b. The turn out this past one was not as good as they had hoped for.
 - c. He is asking for suggestions on how to make it better – He wants your feedback! Give it! Now is your chance to invoke change!
 - i. So far, the feedback has been a lack of professional development opportunities
 - ii. Linked In is good, but staff would like something more and in person – He has already submitted a budget request to make this a reality.

STAFF SENATE UPDATES

- A. **This month Staff Senate passed on Resolution #246, “The Providing of Appropriate Work Attire Relative to Job Responsibilities”** in an effort to ensure that all employees have equal access to required uniforms and gear on and at a consistent level as others across campus.
 - a. This resolution will now be passed on to the President's office in the next step of adopting it across campus as part of Staff Senates contribution to shared governance.