

STAFF SENATE RESOLUTION #242

Title: Support for Faculty Senate Resolution #398 Regarding 2-13 Reorganization

Date: November 3, 2021

Author: Senator Kennedy

Sponsors: Senator McKenna, Senator Vick

1 WHEREAS, the purpose of the University of Wyoming (UW) Staff Senate is to provide a means of
2 communication between staff and administration relative to issues of mutual concern, and;

3 WHEREAS, the college restructuring proposal was made known to faculty and others in the campus
4 community in July 2021 and was presented concurrently with proposed program/unit discontinuances,
5 mergers, and consolidations aimed at budget reduction and reallocation and subject to UW Regulation 2-
6 13 with its attendant time restrictions, thus effectively affording only a few months (including summer
7 time) for campus-wide consideration of the pros and cons of the proposal for comprehensive
8 restructuring, and;

9 WHEREAS, despite its emergence in conjunction with specific budget reduction proposals, the college
10 restructuring proposal has not been explicitly tied to immediate budget remedies but has instead been
11 framed as better positioning the university for future endeavors, and;

12 WHEREAS, a recent survey of UW students conducted by the Associated Students of the University of
13 Wyoming indicates that most students are unaware of the proposed changes and, of those who are aware,
14 nearly half do not favor the proposal, and;

15 WHEREAS, shared governance focused on aligning priorities is valued at UW (Regulation 1-4), but staff
16 have not yet been afforded the opportunity to engage in the formulation of the comprehensive proposal
17 for college restructuring, and;

18 WHEREAS, the President will develop and present a final reorganization plan to the Board of Trustees at
19 the November meeting, yet staff of the University will not have access to the plan until just prior to that
20 meeting, and;

21 WHEREAS, the faculty and staff of UW have a responsibility and a right to diligently review the
22 opportunities, obstacles, benefits, and consequences of the Final Plan and the budgetary impacts and
23 implications of the plan prior to the Board of Trustees consideration of the plan, and;
24 WHEREAS, Faculty Senate Resolution 398, Appendix A, introduced on Monday, October 25th,
25 emphasizes these same issues;
26 THEREFORE, be it resolved the Faculty Senate of the University of Wyoming does not endorse the
27 current restructuring proposal and instead advocates that the UW campus community engage in
28 meaningful deliberation of comprehensive reconfiguration as part of future strategic planning, and;
29 THEREFORE, be it further resolved the Staff Senate of the University of Wyoming echoes the Faculty
30 Senate request for a review period of three months in order that the UW campus community may, in
31 advance of comprehensive restructuring, thoughtfully consider and offer suggestions regarding the
32 advantages and challenges of the changes proposed in the Final Plan prior to the Board of Trustee action.

Date of Passage: 11/03/2021

**“Being enacted on 11/03/2021, I do hereby sign my name hereto and approve this
Senate action.”**


Staff Senate President, Chris Maki

Resolution in Support of Extending Time for UW Campus Community to Evaluate Proposal to Reconstruct UW Colleges

WHEREAS, President Seidel's administration's proposal to restructure the UW colleges involves substantial and complex change for the entire university, affecting the constitution and alignment of colleges that have effectively functioned for decades, change that will likely result in intended and unintended consequences of cultural, logistic, and financial significance to the entire campus community, including students, staff, and faculty, as well as for the state, and

WHEREAS, the college restructuring proposal was made known to faculty and others in the campus community in July 2021, presented concurrently with proposed program/unit discontinuances, mergers, and consolidations aimed at budget reduction and reallocation and subject to UW Regulation 2-13 with its attendant time restrictions, thus effectively affording only a few months (including summer time) for campus-wide consideration of the pros and cons of the proposal for comprehensive restructuring, and

WHEREAS, despite its emergence in conjunction with specific budget reduction proposals, the college restructuring proposal has not been explicitly tied to immediate budget remedies but has instead been framed as better positioning the university for future endeavors, and

WHEREAS, a recent survey of faculty conducted by the UW Faculty Senate Executive Committee shows that a majority of respondents do not favor the restructuring proposal, do not feel their views have been considered in its construction, and do not feel the campus community has had sufficient time to consider the proposal, and

WHEREAS, a recent survey of UW students conducted by ASUW indicates that most students are unaware of the proposed changes and, of those who are aware, nearly half do not favor the proposal, and

WHEREAS, shared governance focused on aligning priorities is valued at UW (Regulation 4-1), but faculty have not yet been afforded opportunity to engage in the formulation of the comprehensive proposal for college restructuring, and

WHEREAS, the proposed plan does not address the existential issues at UW (faculty numbers, staffing, workforce development, salaries, funding and morale) that need to be considered in any plan to move UW forward, and

WHEREAS, the President will develop and present a Final Plan to the Board of Trustees at the November meeting, yet the faculty will not have access to the plan until just prior to that meeting, and

WHEREAS, given the timeline as proposed, the Faculty will only have several weeks to consider large scale changes to the institution,

WHEREAS, the faculty and staff have a responsibility and a right to diligently review the opportunities, obstacles, benefits and consequences of the Final Plan and the budgetary impacts and implications of the plan prior to the Board of Trustees consideration of the plan,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Faculty Senate of the University of Wyoming requests a Faculty Senate review period of 3 months in order that the UW campus community may, in advance of comprehensive restructuring, thoughtfully consider, and offer suggestions regarding, the advantages and challenges of the changes proposed in the Final Plan prior to Board of Trustee action.