A regular meeting of the University of Wyoming Faculty Senate was called to order by Chair Rudi Michalak at 3:30 p.m., on October 12, 2020, via Zoom due to social distancing in place because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The roll was called by Secretary Treva Sprout Ahrenholtz, with the following not in attendance and not represented by an official alternate or by proxy: Christensen, Coupal, Crawford, Harkin, Hoberg, Lake, McDonald, Miller, S., Moran, Pratt, Reiser, Skiba, Tahmasebi, Urynowicz.

Chair Michalak called for a motion to approve the agenda of September 28, 2020; motion made, seconded, and carried. Chair Michalak called for a motion to approve the minutes of September 14, 2020; motion made, seconded, and carried. Chair Michalak called for a motion to approve the agenda of October 12, 2020; motion made, seconded, and carried. Chair Michalak called for a motion to approve the minutes of September 28, 2020; motion made, seconded, and carried.

Chair Michalak reported that the Budget Reduction working group’s subcommittees have been reporting their conclusions, and he advised to review UW Regulations 2-12, 2-13, and 2-14 for possible future reference. He gave an update on COVID-19 issues being addressed. He announced there will be a faculty listening session on October 22 for discussion of the preliminary budget reduction plan in order to provide input into the final plan.

Riley Talamantes, president of ASUW, reported they have passed a resolution in support of student employees, and noted that several other ASUW administrative bills have passed.

Chair-Elect Adrienne Freng announced a call is forthcoming for nominations of Faculty Senate officers for next year. Offices open are chair-elect, secretary (one-year term), and two members-at-large (two-year terms).

Dr. Brant Schumaker, Director of UW COVID-19 Testing Program, and Associate Professor of Epidemiology, UW Department of Veterinary Sciences, updated the Senate on the status of the testing program. There was a question, answer, discussion period following his update, along with input from Vice Provost Tami Benham-Deal.

Chair Michalak introduced and led discussion on the topic of developing a faculty vision for the University of Wyoming. Immediate past chair Ken Chestek gave a brief history of the Morrill Act, that established the law for land-grant universities. There was discussion about the idea of resetting and rethinking priorities. Senators will take the discussion to department colleagues and bring back ideas to start the conversation at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned to executive session at 5:08 p.m.

Treva Sprout Ahrenholtz, Secretary
Dated: October 26, 2020