

Staff Newsletter

May 2020

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY: STAFF SENATOR LISA HARSH
PHOTO CREDIT: GREG WISE

COVID-19 WORKING GROUPS

Five working groups made up of faculty, staff and students have been assembled to form policies and procedures that may be used if the trustees decide to reopen campus this fall. The working groups include: *University Operations*, *University Structure*, *Social Structure*, *Personnel Policies*, and *Community and State Interaction*. Additional subgroups have been created under the University Structure working group including, *Scheduling and Instructional Delivery*, *Research*, and *Reflection, Assessment and Lessons Learned*. More information on the focus of these groups and their members can be found in a [recent news release](#).

If you would like to provide general input to the University Structure subgroups, [submit your comments here](#).

Stay up to date on the University of Wyoming's response to COVID-19 by visiting [UW's official page for COVID-19 communication](#).

STAFF SENATE MEETING BRIEFS

- VP Bill Mai announced that construction projects will continue to move forward and there are no plans for layoffs or furloughs in the coming budget year. He also suggested looking at the Governor's website for COVID-19 orders and directives: governor.wyo.gov
- Human Resources Associate VP Tom Koczara announced that HR is considering the transition of recruiting and learning tools from Taleo to the Oracle equivalent.



STAFF RECOGNITION

Due to many logistical challenges, this year's Staff Recognition Day event (including the virtual event) had to be canceled. A [complete list of award recipients and nominees](#) can be found on our website. UW would not be the same without these individuals' hard work and dedication! Distribution of Years of Service gifts and door prizes will be coordinated at a later date – stay tuned for more information.

A full list of [2019 Employee of the Quarter nominees](#) has been posted to our website.

KRISTIN LEWIS SELECTED AS 2019 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Kristin Lewis, a senior office associate in the Department of Economics, is the recipient of the 2019 Employee of the Year Award. In regards to Lewis' assistance in an office reorganization last year a colleague stated, "Kristin always had a smile on her face, she has worked harder than anyone else in our department to help things run smoothly. Without her, I am pretty sure our department would fall apart in a second." Her nominators commented on her ability to quickly learn new skills, her creativity, efficiency, and excellent work ethic. Lewis says she feels fortunate to work with "some of the kindest, caring and most interesting people" she has ever met. [Read more in this recent news release](#).

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LIBBY THORSON SELECTED AS EMPLOYEE OF FIRST QUARTER

Congratulations to Libby Thorson, recipient of the Employee of the First Quarter Award! Thorson has worked in the Dean of Students office since 2017 as a sexual misconduct investigator. Additionally, she serves on the UWYO Cares threat assessment team and is a UW chapter adviser for the sorority Alpha Phi. Thorson also recently took on an interim role in January starting the implementation of the [Green Dot bystander intervention program](#) on campus. In regards to her support of the Green Dot Program a colleague stated, "She is helping to improve our campus in so many ways by leading this initiative. In addition, she is great at organizing groups of people and calling for action." In April, Thorson also initiated a campaign collaborating with the UW Foundation and Institutional Marketing to raise funds for the Survivor Emergency Fund during Denim Day, a day which focuses on the prevention of sexual violence. "She just has a service-oriented heart and does a great job being an innovator,

a servant and an outstanding employee at UW," a nominator says. A reception to honor Libby's achievement will be held at a later date. [Read the full news release here.](#)

Employee of the Second Quarter nominations are open. [Fill out the form to nominate someone today!](#) Nominations close Friday, June 12th.



STAFF SENATE 2020 OFFICER ELECTION RESULTS

President: James Wheeler

Vice President: Chris Stratton

Secretary: Jennifer McKenna

Parliamentarian: Jody Sullivan

Member-at-Large: Barb Hill

UPCOMING EVENTS

● June Staff Senate Meeting

Wednesday, June 3rd at 1:15 PM
Virtual meeting via Zoom

Learn how the 2020 Census affects the UW community at: uwyo.edu/cowboyscount

LIAISON REPORT

(Due to COVID-19, most liaison committees didn't meet, met virtually, or simply shared documents with Staff Senate.)

Food Insecurity Task Force (FITF)

The FITF has been very busy because of the COVID-19 situation.

- The Pokes Make a Difference Student Emergency Fund reached its donation goal of \$500,000.
- The UW Food Insecurity Task Force is submitting a proposal to the Heyward Fund 2020 for the following initiatives:
 1. Growing and sharing food with ACRES Student Farm;
 2. Meal swipe sharing with Dining Services;
 3. Planning for a campus store/pantry;
 4. Supporting food share cabinets;
 5. Expanding good food recovery and sharing.
- FITF student survey will be going out soon.
- The FITF is reaching out to community colleges in the State to offer support and share best practices.

Athletics Planning Committee

AD Tom Burman reported on the effects of the Coronavirus on Athletics and the plans being discussed.

- Student-Athletes are concerned about campus remaining closed during the fall, which will prevent teams from practicing and working out together.
- Canceling the basketball conference tournament caused a shortfall of \$1.1M.
- Three Football Season Options being discussed:
 1. Start season in September and play all 12 games.
 2. Delay season until October and play the remaining 6 games.
 3. Consider a Spring season, which is least likely.
- If the football season is canceled, it will be a \$13M loss for Athletics.
 - o Note: Fans who purchased season tickets will be refunded if necessary.
- Sports that can more easily practice social distancing may start in the fall, but travel will still be an issue.