



Staff Newsletter

November 2020

NEW STAFF SENATE OFFICERS

After accepting a position as the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (ASUW) Advisor, James Wheeler has resigned as Staff Senate president. Confirmed in the November meeting, Chris Stratton was elected as the new Staff Senate President and Elizabeth Traver was elected as Vice President.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

Open Enrollment closes on November 30th at 5p.m.

Review the most recent [Benefit Press](#) to help you prepare for any adjustments you would like to make. Visit the [Open Enrollment webpage](#) for more information and how to access your account. Questions may be directed to Cherise Laud at claud@uwyo.edu.



DON'T FORGET to use your two free personal days before the end of the year! Specifics can be found in [this press release](#).

● December Staff Senate Meeting

Wednesday, December 2nd at 1:15 PM
Virtual meeting via Zoom

FOOD DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Staff Senate will be moving the annual Food Drive to spring 2021. In this season we encourage senators and constituents to take advantage of the following opportunities in the Laramie community:

Laramie Interfaith, Laramie Connections Center, and the Laramie Soup Kitchen are partnering to ensure Thanksgiving Dinner is available to all in our community in need.

- [Laramie Soup Kitchen](#) will be offering full microwavable Thanksgiving Dinners, made in house by the Laramie Soup Kitchen. Great for individuals, smaller families, ones without ovens, or maybe just those too busy to prepare a full meal at home.
- [Laramie Interfaith](#) will be offering boxes with items needed to make a Thanksgiving Dinner at home, along with a voucher to buy a turkey from a local grocery store. Great for families that want the cooking experience or have a larger family to feed.
- [Laramie Connections](#) is seeking volunteers to help deliver around 700 Thanksgiving meals on Wednesday, November 25.
- The [UW Food Share Pantry](#) is an on-campus resource available to staff, students, and faculty throughout the year. Currently the UW Food Share Pantry is operating in a curbside delivery model to minimize the number of people in the pantry space.

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EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER NOMINATIONS

Employee of the 4th Quarter Nominations are now open! Fill out a [nomination form](#) today for your favorite staff member. Remember, each nominee needs three separate nominations to qualify. **Nominations close December 4th.**

JILL ALDRIDGE SELECTED AS EMPLOYEE OF THE THIRD QUARTER



Last month, Jill Aldridge was named UW Staff Employee of the Third Quarter. Aldridge has worked at UW for three and a half years in the Residence Life and Dining Services (RLDS) contracts division. She has been in her current position as contracts manager since January.

Her colleagues say Aldridge has a warm personality and is efficient in getting difficult tasks done. She gives her best to every situation and makes sure each task is done with great importance. Aldridge's dedication to deliver the best is only matched by her positive attitude and her customer service skills. She is excellent to work with and puts a smile on everyone's face who comes in contact with her. In her new management role, she has come forth with many ideas to improve department practices. As one of her nominators stated, "...she is truly seen as a joy to work with by absolutely everyone."

Aldridge says she is honored to receive this award and acknowledges the amazing RLDS staff she works with each day. "From our dedicated dining staff and meticulous custodial crew, to our full-time live-in staff and energetic student staff, I truly believe we have some of the most dedicated and hard-working individuals on campus," Aldridge says. "This is what makes it so easy to fully enjoy my work and look forward to whatever new challenges each day may bring."

In her free time, Aldridge keeps up with her three sons (the youngest is a Junior at UW) and likes to retreat to her sewing room, bake cookies and bread, or venture outside for a walk. She is currently working on a home building project and had the recent victory of completing a remodel on her bathroom and kitchen. In these strange times, there's nothing like improving the comforts of home!

A reception will be held to celebrate Jill Aldridge's achievement at a later date, [read the full news release here](#).

LIAISON REPORT

Athletic Planning Committee Report

The Athletic Planning Committee had their first meeting of the academic year on November 4th. Most of the meeting was taken up with budget and COVID-19 discussions and concerns. Following are highlights from the meeting:

- Athletic Department staff earning over \$37,000 annually will take a permanent 2.5% salary cut to help meet Block Grant cuts. (Athletics is the only UW department cutting salaries.)
- Complaints of social distancing and mask mandates not being observed at the Hawaii football game were discussed at length. AD Burman said those concerns are being addressed and a better plan will be in place for future games. He reminded the committee that only 7,000 fans are allowed in the stadium, less than a quarter of its capacity.
- Concern of the uptick in cases following the Hawaii game was addressed by Dr. David Jones who said it was too early to attribute the increased cases to the game as it takes longer than a few days for the virus to incubate.
- Gender Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee
 - Goal of recruiting 30% minorities only reached 26%.
 - Of 45 new hires, 7 were minorities.
 - Currently working on an equity advisors program which will put a diversity advisor on every search committee.
- Academic Integrity Committee reported student-athlete GPA averaged 3.3 last year making it the highest ever for UW athletes. Tennis had highest team average at 4.0.
- Fiscal Integrity Committee
 - Projected net revenue loss of \$3.5 million due to COVID
 - Total revenue decrease of \$7 million due to COVID
 - NCAA will only pay for athlete COVID testing through the fall, which will increase expenses
 - Vacant positions will not be filled
 - Pausing all facilities projects
 - Cowboy Joe Club support will be less this year
 - Student fees down by \$800K



COVID-19 RESPONSE RESOURCES

- [UW's Official Page for COVID-19 Communication](#)
- [Employee Concerning Behavior Reporting Form](#)
- [Accommodations and Workplace Exceptions](#)
- [Request form for Expanded Family Medical Leave Act \(EFMLA\)](#)



COWBOYS CAN

The University of Wyoming has officially entered Phase 4 of the Fall Return Plan. Visit the recently updated [COVID-19 Resources page](#) to learn what to expect and to easily access relevant information.

ASUW REPORT

ASUW had a very busy October passing several pieces of meaningful legislation including writing legislation with recommendations to the Fee Book Committee due at the end of the month.

ASUW has created a new standing committee called the ASUW Safety and Wellness Committee. ASUW felt it was relevant to create the committee to address needs during the COVID-19 pandemic, sexual misconduct on campus, and sustain meaningful conversations in the safety and wellness realm.

A few weeks ago, ASUW passed legislation to recommend that faculty include "Lauren's Promise," in their syllabuses along with resources for students who are in situations of domestic abuse. Lauren's Promise is an initiative that resulted from the death of Lauren McClusky, a student at the University of Utah who was being stalked and eventually murdered by her ex-boyfriend. The UT police department didn't do much to help Lauren despite her frequent requests for protection fearing for her life. Lauren's Promise states *"I will listen and believe you if someone is threatening you."* Our Chief of Legislative Affairs, Hunter Swilling, and ASUW student, Lucy Ward, worked hard on this legislation. Data from the [2018 UW Sexual Misconduct Climate Survey](#) were alarming. 27.1% of UW students reported having been the

victim of sexual assault while at UW, 35% of respondents reported experiencing at least one form of harassment by faculty or staff, 58% of respondents reported experiencing at least one instance of sexual harassment by other students, and 21.7% of students have experienced intimate partner and dating violence while at UW. ASUW is committed to work with other support groups and programs on campus to end this type of violence.

Lastly, ASUW passed legislation on November 10th approving our student success priorities. Of the 2% of the revenue generated from tuition increases, ASUW gets to make recommendations on where that money should go. We have indicated five areas: Food Security, Mental Health, Green Dot Bystander Intervention Training, Advising, and Across-Campus Free Menstrual Products.

ASUW continues working with administration on other areas of student concerns including the online learning environment, how best to accommodate disabled students, and a resolution process for all students having academic issues.

