



Staff Newsletter

March 2021

JOIN STAFF SENATE!

Staff Senate is seeking nominations for open Senate seats.

- Want to broaden your network and meet staff from across campus?
- Looking for the chance to influence university policy and governance?

Make your voice heard! Nominate yourself or someone you know today. Nominations are open until April 23rd. Email David Keto, Senate Credentials & Elections Committee Chair with nominations and questions, dketo@uwyo.edu.

Qualifications: Any benefited staff employee working at least 20 hours/week who has worked for UW for at least one full year preceding the nomination.

STAFF SENATE FOOD DRIVE

NOMINATIONS DUE FRIDAY!

The Staff Senate Food Drive is a little different than other food drives on campus. We organize all of our donations to create well rounded food packages which are then distributed to nominated recipients. ***If you are aware of a staff member (and their family) who may be in need of assistance with stocking their pantries, we ask that you take a moment to fill out our [nomination form](#).***

Staff Senate will be gathering items for the food drive through March 25th. Collection boxes are stationed around campus – a list of locations can be found on our [website](#).



PRESIDENT SEIDEL'S REPORT

President Seidel was a guest at the March Staff Senate meeting and talked about projects and plans that will benefit UW, as well as budget cuts. He stated that we need to be prepared for dramatic budget cuts and that every academic program is being reviewed as part of the process. We can expect to see cuts in both academic and non-academic units. We were assured that A&S will not be cut and the humanities programs will continue. He is looking to bring in new leadership and develop partnerships to help create funding opportunities for UW.

One of the initiatives he discussed is the **Wyoming Innovation Network (WIN)**, which was unveiled in January by Gov. Gordon and calls for closer collaboration between UW and the state's community colleges. Work has already begun on the WIN effort, which is intended to support the state's economic vision to strengthen our workforce, support Wyoming businesses, and attract out-of-state businesses as well as develop a statewide software engineering program.

Pres. Seidel will chair a committee directing the effort that includes higher education leadership from around the state.

He also talked about working with Argonne National Laboratory on an energy storage research project that could ultimately save UW millions in electricity costs.

He anticipates an increase in extension efforts in Wyoming in order to create more research opportunities for grad students as well as growing distance education by using talent from within UW.

STRATEGIC SCENARIO PLANNING SURVEY CLOSING MARCH 19TH!

Share your thoughts on the future of UW by [completing this anonymous WYSAC survey](#).

 uwyo.edu/staffsenate

 staffsen@uwyo.edu

 [@UWStaffSenate](https://www.facebook.com/UWStaffSenate)



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BUDGET REDUCTION UPDATES



For Staff Senate, and likely for other staff members on campus, budget cuts continue to be a top concern. During this month's Senate meeting President Seidel and Senior VP of Finance & Administration Theobald answered some questions and gave an update.

Reductions under Governor Gordon's "step 1-2" and major maintenance reductions were finalized by the Board of Trustees in November 2020. [The President's Proposed Budget Reduction Plan](#) is now available – fair warning, this is a long a detailed document; if you're short on time, take a look at the introduction, overview, and the specific budget for your unit. Most of the FY2021 cuts have already occurred and FY2022 cuts are detailed in the document.

Even with these cuts there are still major sources of ongoing uncertainty:

- Governor Gordon sent a proposal to the legislature for an additional \$10 million in cuts. The final version (more, less, or the same) will be settled by the end of the legislative session.
- The recently passed COVID relief bill will likely contain some money for the University, but the details of those funds remain unknown at this time.
- 2021 fall enrollments will remain unknown until the official 15th day of class enrollment numbers in September, but we have seen enrollment declines in fall 2020 and spring 2021. The pandemic has made it hard to estimate fall enrollments.

SVP Theobald shared that in light of these uncertainties, an additional request for \$4 million in cuts was distributed to units across campus earlier this month. Another \$2 million dollars was also cut by upper administration.

Further budget changes are likely as [academic program reviews](#) and [strategic scenario planning](#) are completed later this spring.

Be sure to provide feedback and engage in conversation whenever you have the opportunity throughout the strategic planning and academic program review processes.



CONGRATULATIONS COWGIRLS!

Coached by Wyoming native Gerald Mattinson, the Women's Basketball team achieved a historic run in the Mountain West Conference tournament winning four games in four nights and earning their first tournament title and their second trip to the NCAA tournament. The Cowgirls will play their first NCAA game on Monday, March 22nd at 8p.m. MST against UCLA on ESPN.



SHEPARD SYMPOSIUM on SOCIAL JUSTICE

SHEPARD SYMPOSIUM CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Shepard Symposium on Social Justice will be held virtually from April 14 - 16, 2021. Each year awards are given to recognize leadership, advocacy, and action in addressing social justice causes. The Shepard Symposium Awards

Committee is calling for [award nominations](#) to ensure that those who do this work are honored and recognized.

The Shepard Symposium on Social Justice will honor one undergraduate student, one graduate student or post-doctoral fellow, one faculty or staff member, and one community member.

[Submit your nominations](#) for the Shepard Symposium on Social Justice Awards by 11p.m. (MDT) on April 2, 2021.

Stay tuned to the [Shepard Symposium website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for updates about the symposium schedule.



CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Have you been hearing the buzz around campus?

The Lodge is officially open! [The Lodge](#) is a spacious, heated tent on UW's Fraternity Mall with comfortable seating options, games, activities, and other amenities. Visitors may use this space in many ways, from studying, to small gatherings, to game nights. To enhance the cozy atmosphere, coffee and pastries will also be available for purchase. All students, staff, and faculty who are a part of the UW surveillance COVID testing are welcome. Visitors may gain entry by simply showing their COVID pass. This is a great place to have a small meeting, grab a cup of coffee, play a game, or just relax with friends.

The Lodge is open during the following hours:

- Monday-Friday, 11AM - 9PM
- Saturday and Sunday, 11AM - 5PM



● April Staff Senate Meeting

Wednesday, April 7th at 1:15 PM

Virtual meeting via Zoom

Meeting ID: 933 3994 3636

PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

2020 Performance Evaluations are due by March 31st, 2021! If you need assistance, check out HR's [resource web page](#).

LIAISON REPORTS

Athletic Planning Committee Meeting

- Some competitions were cancelled because of Covid-19, but none of the cases were on UW teams.
- **Jahmari Moore** (FB, Sr.) is the 2021 Willena Stanford Commitment to Diversity Award Recipient. The award is named after Dr. Willena Wilkinson Stanford, a former faculty member in the UW Department of African American and Diaspora Studies and recognizes students who, through their actions, have demonstrated a commitment to enhance and support diversity and equal educational opportunities for all students at UW.
- Student-athletes' Graduation Success Rate is 71% compared to the general student body at 60%.
- Rolling out eating disorders program this fall, which has a high mortality rate among student-athletes.
- Mental Health First Aid Certification Program launched last fall. Currently only offered in Athletics, but if there is enough interest it may be opened up to other campus departments.
- Athletics will be reaching out to the UW Counseling/ Psych Unit to form a partnership in an effort to ramp up the diversity education programs and counseling efforts.
- Sports Medicine's Dr. Boyer announced COVID rates among athletes have gone from a high of 4% last fall to less than 1% despite in-season teams competing and traveling. Athletes should be able to get COVID vaccinations by late spring or early summer.
- SAAC Pres. **Katelyn Blattner** was congratulated for her outstanding performances at the MWC Swimming Championships earning two titles—200 freestyle and the 500 freestyle events. Katelyn announced plans are underway for the annual WESPY's Awards Event.

Enterprise Risk Management Advisory Committee

The ERM Committee meets once a quarter and as their name indicates, the main focus is Risk Management. Their goal is defining risk and accountability issues. Currently ERM is looking at what risks UW should start assessing post-COVID.

Staff Relations Committee

AVP Koczara reported that last year only 10 exit interviews completed. He will be making one of his 2021 goals to improve this process in order to increase that number.