



**SENATE RESOLUTION #2531**

**TITLE:** Statement in Support of Amendments to UW Regulation 5-1 Concerning the Faculty Designation for Professors of Practice

**DATE INTRODUCED:** November 29, 2016

**AUTHOR:** Senator Drake

**SPONSORS:** President Rotellini; Senators Ellingrod, Julian, Kerbs, Mckee, Morton, Strock and Wetzel; SALs Costello and Shaffer

1. WHEREAS, it is the purpose of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
2. (ASUW) Student Government to serve our fellow students in the best manner possible
3. through professional interaction with campus programs and organizations; and,
4. WHEREAS, the University of Wyoming (UW) Board of Trustees (BOT) have requested the
5. review of their proposal concerning the Faculty Designation for Professors of Practice within
6. UW Regulation 5-1 by the UW Deans Council, Faculty Senate, the University
7. Reappointment, Tenure and Promotion Committee, Staff Senate, and the ASUW Student
8. Government; and,
9. WHEREAS, it is an expressed goal of the 104<sup>th</sup> ASUW Student Government to work towards
10. improving faculty retention as it directly impacts the student experience; and,
11. WHEREAS, Professor of Practice is a faculty position held by a limited number of
12. individuals who do not fit the tenure track model for a leading research university but who
13. can contribute to graduate and undergraduate education through teaching students the skills,
14. methods, and values of their profession; and,
15. WHEREAS, this is a designation normally for faculty members who have had primary
16. employment in a profession outside of academia; who have had distinguished careers and
17. have made substantial impacts to disciplines important to academic programs at UW; and,

18. WHEREAS, exceptionally distinguished universities including, but not limited to, the  
19. University of Nebraska, MIT, Harvard, Purdue, Penn State, Duke, and UC San Diego  
20. have established this faculty designation; and,  
21. WHEREAS, proposals at other universities have addressed some of the same concerns with  
22. the position expressed by faculty and students at UW, stating that the “Adoption of this  
23. faculty classification has not been without controversy, with both the AAUP and some  
24. faculty unions questioning whether it was intended as an entering wedge to abolish or dilute  
25. tenure. However, at some of the leading universities in the nation limited use of this  
26. classification has contributed to the variety of faculty talents and to the advancement of the  
27. institution without in any way damaging the institution of tenure or diverting resources to  
28. non-tenure track faculty.”; and,  
29. WHEREAS, this designation also intends to attract distinguished people who have been laid  
30. off in downturns, or have retired but wish to pursue contributing to instruction at UW; and,  
31. WHEREAS, stated concerns of not only the Faculty Senate, but also Professors of Practice  
32. themselves, also included the lack of promising no more than one year of an employment in  
33. this position, such that potential faculty members would uproot their family for a single year  
34. of work; and,  
35. WHEREAS, if there is no promise of tenure, it is recommended that ensuring five (or  
36. more) years of employment after a predetermined review period be considered; and,  
37. WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that funding for Professors of Practice may cause an  
38. acceptable increase in student tuition to pay for these faculty members, but only specifically  
39. within the individual college where the position is held; and,  
40. WHEREAS, students themselves have worked towards understanding why the original bill

41. was voted against on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 by the UW Faculty Senate, and have since  
42. collaborated in support of passing a more comprehensive bill; and,  
43. WHEREAS, UW Students-at-Large in the College of Engineering started a petition in favor  
44. of the Professors of Practice faculty designation, which received 278 signatures from  
45. students across campus; and,  
46. WHEREAS, few current professors at UW have been designated with this academic title  
47. including revered professors in the College of Engineering; and;  
48. WHEREAS, these professors currently hold temporary positions, but are of long-lasting  
49. importance to UW and the students themselves; and,  
50. WHEREAS, education has been improved greatly because of the industry applications that  
51. these professors bring into the classroom; and,  
52. WHEREAS, this position will ideally contribute to ascertaining the goals of the Tier I  
53. Engineering Initiative; and,  
54. WHEREAS, all representatives of UW ought to strive to ensure that all students receive a top  
55. tier education at UW in all colleges, and it is vital that departments across the University  
56. have the ability to attract distinguished professors of practice; and,  
57. WHEREAS, this position at UW would place the University in great company and give UW  
58. a competitive edge in attracting both students and professors; and,  
59. WHEREAS, widespread and positive academic exposure will impact the morale of  
60. current faculty members, potential employees of UW, the State of Wyoming as a  
61. whole, and influence decisions made by individuals to apply for and remain in positions at  
62. UW.  
63. THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming

64. Student Government support the amended language in University of Wyoming (UW)

65. Regulation 5-1 in its entirety as found in Addendum A; and,

66. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that this resolution be distributed to all members

67. of the UW Faculty and Staff Senates, and the UW Board of Trustees.

Referred to: AT & S

Date of Passage: 11/29/16 Signed: Tyler Warrick  
(ASUW Chairperson)

"Being enacted on 12/05/2016, I do hereby sign my name hereto and  
approve this Senate action." [Signature]

ASUW President

## **Addendum A**

### **UW REGULATION 5-1 Academic Personnel**

#### **B. FACULTY**

##### **1. DESIGNATION**

Faculty status shall be granted at the appropriate professorial rank to those individuals engaged in teaching or research in the colleges of the University and to such other groups or individuals as the Trustees may designate. The general qualifications for the various faculty ranks shall be as follows:

[...]

g. Professor of practice shall be the title granted to persons who have had distinguished careers and have made substantial impact on fields and disciplines that are important to academic programs at the University of Wyoming. The primary function is intended to be instructional; however, duties and responsibilities may also include some research and advising. Such appointments shall be only at the professorial rank and for not more than one year in duration; however, one may be reappointed annually subject to a satisfactory annual performance evaluation and available funding. Service as a professor of practice does not entitle one to tenure and its privileges, nor does it provide an alternative route or structure for conventional tenure track positions.

The general qualifications for faculty designation defined above may be waived or modified at the discretion of the President and the Trustees.

[...]

