

ASUW SENATE MEETING MINUTES

The February 24, 2026, senate meeting was called to order by Vice President McGuire at 7:00 p.m. The land acknowledgement statement and mission statement were read, and the Pledge of Allegiance was done at the individual members' discretion.

ROLL CALL

Senator Wellikson entered the chamber after roll and the Abernathy Clause was suspended. NTSC and SAAC were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were approved.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was amended to change SB 3090 to SR 3090.

Senator Smith moved to postpone SB 3088 and 3089 to next meeting (3/3/26), Senator Golden seconded. Senator Golden moved to previous question, Swingley seconded. By a vote of 12-10-1, the items will be postponed until 3/3/26.

OPEN FORUM

Alyssa Pile spoke in the open forum regarding the Graduate Student Council Budget.

COMMUNICATIONS

President Medina: I want to start by thanking everyone that attended the Legislative Luncheon yesterday. It was a great opportunity for discussion and engagement with our State Representatives. Most importantly, it gave us the opportunity to highlight the Universities' greatest assets, students. I hope that we can continue our efforts with the Legislature and see some more success as this year's session comes to an end.

Also yesterday, Chief of Staff Hargett, Director of External Public Affairs and Advocacy Fernholz-Hartman, Director of Internal Public Affairs and Advocacy Heard, and I met with Governor Gordon to talk about ASUW's legislative priorities. ASUW's asks to the Governor were for the Governor to:

1. Continue to advocate for his original budget request in conjunction with SR 3083
 - a. This includes supporting the Universities Supplemental Budget Request Priority No.6 for an "Internship Program"
2. Continue to support Hathaway increases
3. Support efforts that increase Parking in the areas surrounding the University main campus and that expand bus routes across Laramie
4. Keep in contact with future ASUW administrations and their priorities

Governor Gordon expressed that he would follow up on these items to the best of his ability, including talking to the Board of Trustees about ASUW's parking initiatives.

There is still more to do in this effort though. If you have any availability to travel to the Capitol, please sign up on the Legislative Session Calendar. If you can't, please encourage other students to travel to the Capitol or write a letter to their legislators that can be delivered by ASUW.

Postcards for this are in the office. Lastly, make sure to encourage any student organization that you are part of to also write a letter on any issue related to the Legislature or talk to me or Director Fernholz-Hartman on how we can coordinate lobbying efforts.

Already, we are working with the John Burman Student Bar Association to coordinate with law students on lobbying efforts.

On to more internal matters:

- Senator Keasling will talk more about the AI subgroup, but last week, I sent out the "charge letter" for this group. Please reach out to Senator Keasling or me for more information on this.
- Overall, the AI subgroup serves the AI commission group, which I serve on. Last Monday, this group met to talk about AI needs at the University. Mainly, we discussed the necessity of tool box for staff, students, and faculty that can teach these populations basic information on AI, best use practices, and any ethical concerns. On this note, I would appreciate if all of you all took the time to think about your experiences with AI and what would be useful to you as a student to make sure that your work is not replaced but enhanced by AI tools.
- On a different note, the **Foreign Influence, Risk, Security, and Travel (FIRST) Working Group** also met this week. Our main updates were communicated to all ASUW members earlier this week, but to summarize the changes, USDA has created new regulations and policy for all USDA awards which will mainly:
 - o Prohibit funding for any benefit from this award to go to any foreign person or entity subject to FOCI or FCOC
 - o To strengthen this provision, USDA has circulated additional monitoring and required certifications. Please read about those in my email

And please also reach out if you have any questions.

- The Budget model working group gathered to discuss and review the state budget and came up with alternatives and proposals to different scenarios related to the legislature. The group is working hard to make sure that students are not harmed by any scenario, but constraints still exist. Regardless, this stresses the importance of ours and other students lobbying efforts at the legislature. Please keep up the fight. We need it.
- Last, I met with Mary Keller Senior Lecturer for Philosophy & Religion who has been leading an exciting initiative to increase awareness of Native communities. The original grant provided \$500 worth of materials to the Keepers of the Fire and other native communities to do signage and learn about how to do exhibitions. The end goal will be to name the Paths for Prexy's pasture with the different languages from native communities who previously occupied this land.

VP McGuire: DSS group met last week on what we can do for them. Have been meeting with Central Fee Committee, parking permits and tickets will be getting reviewed by TASFRC. Please reach out with any questions. Coming up on end of tabling period, please get these hours in. End of admin coming up, look to getting projects started so we don't finish with loose ends. If anyone is interested in President/Vice Presidency, himself and President Medina are available for questions. Tonight is the budget debate, so please be respectful of time and content.

Advisor Disque: fys scholarship is open, those of you who are mentors to any fysers please encourage them to apply! closes march 15

COS Hargett: Director of Wellness (Molly)

Molly has a few different updates for you all. ASUW/SWAC will be tabling at the PCCR event on Thursday, Substance Abuse awareness week on 3/2 and for Denim Day 4/22. Her reboot kits are here, and she has packed around 300. She will be handing them out at these tabling events and giving them to wellness locations around campus. Earth day is coming up, and she is working on plans to hand out seed planters with the sustainability coalition and plans to have an emphasis on recycling in the dorms.

Director of Internal Public Affairs and Advocacy (Logan)

Logan has been working on updating the DIA shuttle policy and working with charter services on additional changes. He has also been collaborating with the legislative branch in regard to saddle up changes. Additionally, he has been supporting ASUW's efforts at the legislature and with LASSO.

Director of Finance (Casey)

Casey is happy to report that the ledger for 2025 has been finished and the 2026 is being worked on to wrap up FY2026. He also has 2 meetings scheduled with COB and SFS to work on financial Friday's and get us to the correct posture to work with them in future administrations.

Director of Marketing (Peyton)

Good evening everyone! I would really love for us to be more intentional and effective with tabling this semester, especially when it comes to encouraging students to follow the ASUW Instagram and engage with what we're doing. Following the use of spinning the wheel to gain a prize AFTER they follow the instagram. Justice and I are currently working on a merch order that should help with tabling efforts and campus disability. We have been working on the chilli cook off event happening this Thursday and I'd love to see everyone attend and support HOPE!

Marketing Intern (Justice)

Working on elections with Peyton, she wants everyone to know to grab a post card for the lobbying efforts.

Director of Student Organizations (Ashlyn)

Ashlyn is working on ticketing conversations with the Union staff and the SOFB ticketing working group to revise the SOFB ticketing policy (ideally before the end of the semester). Additionally, Ashlyn is collaborating with Student Legal Services to host a presentation to the Fraternity and Sorority Life community on police interaction on May 1st!

Director of Programs and Events (Grace)

Grace is actively working with each of her programs to strengthen collaboration and ensure they are receiving the support they need through the end of the semester. In addition, she is coordinating with the University Admissions team to expand outreach efforts by beginning to table with FYS during New Student Days coming up this spring.

COLA Heffley: Send me comms and announcements please. I will send out emails regarding scholarship committees tomorrow afternoon. More info on the whole process will be provided in those emails to relevant folks. Also, scholarship policy will be submitted this week if anyone wants to chat about that. It's just codifying best practices about scholarships and establishing the language of our scholarships outside of the endowments.

FYS: Going well, begun mentor program.

NTSC: NTSC is okay with the budget cuts as they feel they would be better suited towards SOFB funding due to demographic issues and capacity. Looking hopeful towards getting more engagement as an RSO. NTSC feels the \$13,000 available in SOFB is more useful than the \$2,500 they requested as its an easier process for events than realignments. NTSC wants to remind the body of the difference between NTSC and GSC and the very different roles they provide and to not conflate them in the budget deliberations.

Steering: Considering codifying RFI process

B&P: Budget tonight! Please yield to chair or accountant with any questions in this process. B&P will be auditing special projects, and working on endowments and scholarships

HOPE: The HOPE committee is still working on elections, we have a set timeline, and a budget realignment has been submitted that will be heard in BnP next Tuesday for election week events.

And for the last time HOPE's chili event will be this Thursday from 12-4 in the Union Family Room. Also when you're tabling this week please push the chili day. Chili will be served starting at 12 and the UW Food Pantry will be coming to give a presentation on food insecurity around 2:30ish. There's also a raffle with some super cool prizes that you can win if you bring canned goods. As a reminder one canned good equals one raffle ticket. Additionally if you are helping out with the event, when collecting the raffle tickets make sure that there's a name on each raffle ticket. I will send out an excel sheet with the hours for anyone wanting to help out.

PID: PID is continuing to do some wonderful work. We have two pieces of legislation we will be submitting for first reading next week. We are working with SWAC and SOFB on some projects per their request, as well as reviewing scholarship policies. As most of you know, we've had our committee chairs and programs come and speak with us and how we can best collaborate and support them, which has been incredibly valuable. This past week I connected with the GSC Chair and they are now serving as a voting member on PID. Overall, that's really it. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please reach out as I am always happy to chat!

SWAC: Hello everyone! SWAC is pretty busy right now. Currently, we are working on defining our scope as a committee and also participating in events put on by Campus partners. We are going to table to Substance Awareness Week, which is next week. We are in connection with Campus partners and looking at ways we can collaborate. As for our other projects, more to come on those!

SOFB: The Muslim Student Association's Iftar Dinner is this Saturday, Feb 28th, at 4:00 pm.

TASFRC: TASFRC has been working to plan our tuition and fee education events that will be hosted on April 7 and 9. More information will be coming out about those soon. This Friday we will also be hearing a proposal from transit regarding parking permit cost and fines. After hearing the proposal, TASFRC will make a recommendation on the matter that will be sent forward to the Central Fee Committee. The committee decision will also be shared with the rest of the senate. In the next month we will also be touring 4 different departments on campus to see how they use student fees. These tours will be of Campus Rec, Transit, Recycling facility, and housing and dining regarding the new halls and dining hall. If you are interested in these tours and not on TASFRC please let me know.

OLD BUSINESS

SB 3086 Revisions to the ASUW Elections Policy Concerning Applications and Financial Expense Report Form Deadlines

HOPE and PID recommended a do pass.

Senator Golden moved to table to next meeting, Swingley seconded.

By a vote of 19-5-0, the legislation is tabled until 3/3/26.

SB 3087 Revisions to the ASUW Elections Policy Section 1.01

HOPE and PID recommended a do pass.

Golden moved to table to next meeting, Swingley seconded.

By a vote of 18-6-0, the legislation is tabled until 3/3/26.

Senator Smith moved to reconsider the agenda, Senator Swingley seconded. By a vote of 16-8-0, the agenda will be reconsidered.

SB 3088 Revisions to the ASUW Elections Policy Regarding Section 1.05 Senate Candidate Requirements for Transfer Students

POSTPONED

SB 3089 Revisions to the ASUW Elections Policy Regarding Section 1.04 Process for Student Representative Elections

POSTPONED

SR 3090 ASUW's 2025-2026 Lighting Safety Audit

SWAC recommended a do pass with amendments.

Senator Morales moved to pass, Swingley seconded

Morales moved to adopt SWAC's amendments, Wellikson seconded.

By a vote of 24-0-0, the amendments pass.

By a vote of 24-0-0, SR 3090 passes.

SB 3091 ASUW Budget for Fiscal Year 2027

Steering, PID, HOPE, SOFB, TASFRC recommended a do pass. B&P and SWAC recommended a do pass with amendments

Keasling moved to pass, Morales seconded

Keasling moved to adopt SWAC's amendment, Hathaway seconded.

Smith moved to amend the funding source from SOFB to carryover in therefore, Wellikson seconded.

By a vote of 23-1-0, the amendment to the amendment passes.

Morales moved to amend the non-employee meals language to hosting expenses, Keasling seconded.

By a vote of 24-0-0, the amendment to the amendment passes.

Swingley moved to amend the amendment to add language specifying that GSC would only receive funding for FY 27 and would not have ASUW funding consideration moving forward, Smith seconded.

By a vote of 13-12-0, the amendment to the amendment passes.

Senator Kaiser moved for previous question, Smith seconded.

By a vote of 10-14-0, the amendment fails.

Keasling moved to adopt B&P's amendments, Kaiser seconded.

By a vote of 22-2-0, the amendment passes

Keasling moved for a 5-minute recess, Shosh seconded. The recess fails.

Keasling moved to adopt the executive marketing amendment, Morales seconded.

By a vote of 17-7-0, the amendment passes.

Smith moved to propose a friendly amendment to correct the numbers of the Vote Center

Senator Kaiser moved to update the numbers in the therefore clauses to reflect the numbers passed in amendments on the floor, Westman seconded.

By a vote of 24-0-0, the amendment passes.

By a vote of 24-0-0, SB 3091 passes.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Robinson: music events

Keasling: President Medina has asked me to attend the AI Services & Tools Subcommittee which is apart of the University's AI Commission. Our subgroup has been tasked with leading the development and implementation of AI-driven services and tools as a part of the University's AI Strategy. Specifically, develop a business-driven AI strategy, Identify opportunities and governance best practices, Identify candidate AI services, Assess organizational readiness, Develop an AI Services roadmap, and Implement candidate use cases. This week we have a workshop throughout the week which is where our work begins. Last Friday I met with VP of IT & CIO McLaughlin about the work of this group. One outcome of this meeting is to gather student input to bring to these sessions throughout this week. In the general teams, I will

circulate a message outlining some of the broad topics we are discussing. If you have any ideas regarding these, please reach out ASAP as tomorrow is the second day of the workshop and where I will be spending a fair bit of time that I can allocate for the remainder of the week. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Morales: Hello everyone. I have several announcements today. Mainly, I wanted to update our body as to the status of our legislative priorities in Cheyenne right now. Firstly, unfortunately, a parking amendment that would have made it possible to preserve the union parking lot failed on the house floor. This is a disappointing outcome, but we had a good effort! Secondly, regarding UW funding, the budget the Senate passed would restore all funding to UW but it excludes the extra \$6 million Athletics has requested for NIL. The House Budget would cut UW funding by \$20 million, with a further \$20 million cut on the table if UW does not produce \$5 million in cost saving by next year. The house did approve the \$6 million of Athletics however. With this in mind, both budgets are very different and it is, as of now, looking unlikely that both chambers will be able to produce identical budget via the conference procedure. With this in mind, it is very likely that a joint conference committee will be created to try and create a budget that both chambers can agree on. Depending on the chair of the committee, public testimony may be allowed, and if so, this is the greatest place where ASUW can testify on the potential budget cuts. I will keep all of you informed as to the status of the budget and if this actually occurs. Thirdly, expansion of the Hathaway scholarship is going well. Hathaway Lump Sum Merit Scholarship, which would have made the Hathaway a lump sum scholarship that could be applied as the students wanted, has failed in the House CoW. This means that the bill is effectively dead. Although this is a disappointing result, SF0047, Increases to the Hathaway Awards, overwhelming passed House CoW which means that it will go through second and third reading. Actually, this is very recent, it passed second reading in the house with amendments that would increase the 40% to a 60% increase! This is a huge win. Now, it has to go through third reading, which it likely will tomorrow. If passed, it then will go to the Senate and they will have to approve the amendments made by the house! I will keep all of you posted.

Finally, unrelated to the Capitol, MEChA will be hosting another Latin Night at the Cowboy this Thursday! This event is 18+ and will be a great experience of Latino music and culture. It will be this Thursday at 8 p.m., but everyone does arrive late so it will really start at around 9. All are welcome to attend.

President Medina: Joining Center for Global Feedback on history of partnership, flyer will be in teams chat.

After processing, the meeting adjourned at 9:49. The next regular meeting of the Senate will be on March 3, 2026, at 7:00p.m. in the Senate Chambers.

Ray Heffley

