

**Executive Committee – Faculty Senate
Minutes**

Monday, December 9, 2024

Attendance: Ray Stuart Fertig III (*Chair*), Ashley Hope Carlisle (*Member-at-Large*), Gregg Cawley (*Member-at-Large*), Tiger Robison (*Member-at-Large*), Rob Godby (*Chair-Elect*), Treva Sprout-Ahrenholtz (*Secretary*), Matt Griswold (*Vice Provost, Online and Continuing Education - Remote*)

Absent: Vladimir Alvarado

Guest(s): Beth McMullen (*School of Computing*), Ed Seidel (*President, University of Wyoming*), Scott Turpen (*Interim Provost*), Kelsey Kyne (*Chief of Staff, President's Office*), Mandy Gifford (*Chief of Staff to the Provost*), Nevin Aiken (*Academic Director- CIEL*)

Called to Order at 12:03pm

Call to approve agenda; seconded, measure carried.

Call to approve minutes of last session; seconded, measure carried.

Chairs Report:

Cyber-attack on RID. I.T. offered to come to Fac. Senate and other departments to come and discuss cyber-security.

Discussion of how to develop a stable financial model for the future of UW is ongoing.

Chair then turned over the meeting to President Seidel for his business.

Business:

President Seidel expressed gratitude for the level of work that went into the Fac. Senates response to proposed changes to the University Studies Program. Further discussion of the outstanding issues regarding the proposed changes to the USP.

Interim Provost Turpen then addressed the committee, discussing the proposed changes. Expressed considerable gratitude for the level of the work done on Fac. Senates response. Interested in continuing to work with Faculty Senate and further the dialogue. The changes to the USP are a high priority for academic affairs.

President Seidel expressed curiosity about the issues faculty senate has with the digital literacy and experiential learning requirements of the proposed USP changes.

Member-at-Large Cawley addressed the Committee, providing clarification for the definitions and summary of some of the issues regarding digital literacy. Chair also provided further information about issues regarding digital literacy component of the proposed USP changes. Further discussion from other members of the Committee. Definition of digital literacy is one of the issues surrounding the proposed changes.

President Seidel spent some time further advocating for the necessity of digital literacy and provided some clarification as the intent and goals behind the USP requirement.

Member-at-Large Robison discussed the utility of computational thinking as a possibility of being incorporated instead of ‘digital literacy’, based on the virtues of that type of thinking. Clarification of the purpose of the USP’s and its intended goals for each graduate of UW, under the question of ‘What does it mean to have a college educated mind’. Nevin Aiken also addressed the committee, advocating for the “high-impact practice” advocated by various agencies to increase post-graduation success. Chair-Elect Rod Godby addressed the committee about the necessity of addressing specific changes and the importance of USP’s not being the “vehicle that does everything”.

Provost Turpen asked the committee to provide suggestions in how to improve or change the perception that faculty are not involved in the process. Secretary Sprout-Ahrenholtz provided a few suggestions. The question then was then asked by President Seidel “How can we make this broader”, improving reach and garnering more input from faculty to help improve stakeholder (faculty) involvement and legitimacy of decisions being made. Chair-Elect Godby suggested dispensing with the timeline for the time being to remove the time crunch pressure.

Meeting then turned to the specific issue of the experiential learning requirements.

Secretary Sprout-Ahrenholtz discussed some of the problems with mandating experiential learning opportunities. Member-at-Large Cawley brought up the student-oriented side of the E requirement: how to find it, how to afford it, how to get there; Perception that community Colleges train for jobs, and Universities do not. Member-at-Large Robison offered commentary expressing gratitude for the process that brought everyone together and made some points about how processes are structured at UW.

Chair-Elect Godby brought up three areas where FS would like additional information: programs with imbedded experiences already, disparate experience between differing reports being utilized, how much feedback has there been with programs that have extant experiential learning. Chair summarized the issues faculty senate has regarding oversight of experiential learning, and lack of faculty control over some of those experiential learning experiences.

President Seidel addressed specific concerns about experiential learning opportunities. Internships should not be required; teams were instructed to assess whether UW can guarantee students a paid internship.



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Chair-Elect discussed several issues with experiential learning regarding resources promises, allocations of personnel to the effort of experiential learning. “Perception” problems arising from the creation of new administrative units to generate oversight, and from the funneling of funds in an already resource-starved environment into new directions.

President Seidel summarized next steps for discussion, including cooperative creation of definitions and documents to move forward and ways to gain broader involvement in the discussion.

Chair delegated meeting leadership to Chair-Elect, citing previous engagement at 1:27pm.

Guests departed at 2pm.

Motion to adjourn at 2:01p; seconded, carried.