

FACULTY SENATE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES

September 11, 2023

IN ATTENDANCE:

OFFICERS: Robert Sprague, *Chair*; Treva Sprout Ahrenholtz, *Secretary*; Renee Laegreid, *Past-Chair*; Ray Stuart Fertig III, *Chair-elect*; Gregg Cawley and Vladimir Alvarado *Members-at-Large*; David Bagley, *Chair of the Committee on Committees (Ex-Officio)*. Member-at-Large Tiger Robinson was excused; Member-at-Large Rob Godby was absent.

Guests: Mandy J. Gifford, *Chief of staff to the Provost*.

Chair Robert Sprague called the meeting of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSE) to order at 12:04 pm.

The Chair called for a motion to approve the agenda for September 11; made seconded and carried. The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes of August 28; made seconded and carried.

The Chair reported that Member-At-Large Robison would not be present for the meeting due to a change to his itinerary during a visit to another University and that Member-at-Large Godby would permanently be late to meetings of the Committee this fall due to a conflict with a PhD course he was teaching.

The Chair reported that the members of the Executive Committee should remember to RSVP for the lunch meeting with the Board of Trustees on September 21. The Chair reported that President Seidel was planning on hosting a faculty forum at noon on October 10th at a location to be decided. The Chair noted that changes had been made to SAPP 2-7.2 and asked the Committee whether the Senate should be consulted on said changes to the peer group language. The Committee discussed and advised that the Senate be reminded of the changes.

The Chair reported on President Seidel's proposal for the creation of a University of Wyoming AI Initiative and the President was working to form a working group around the subject matter with support from several members of the State Legislature, but that initial plans called for the hiring of ten faculty for years 1 and 2 with core focuses in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science to be placed in those respective departments and twelve faculty for years 2 and 3 who would focus on AI driven discoveries, i.e. research on the application of AI within other fields, and the legislature would support financial allocations to insure these hirings are permanent. The Chair emphasized that these were preliminary but asked the Committee when it would be

advisable to discuss this with the full senate and if there was anyone in the Senate that should be recommended to the President. The Committee Discussed.

The Chair reported that along a similar line the Provost was working on the creation of a more pedagogic AI working group that would focus on around the effect that AI would have on the classroom and on education.

The Chair reported that the President's encouragement of the Provost to focus on faculty retention was encouraging and that leadership training for department Chairs had the potential to improve the environment within each department.

The Chair reported on Senior Vice-Provost Tami-Benham Deal's release of new data on faculty wages and salaries. The Committee discussed and found that the data was not particularly helpful and considered asking for an interpretation of the data. The Chair asked if the data should be distributed to the full senate and the Committee encouraged the Chair to do so.

The Chair reported on Senior Vice-Provost Tami Benham Deal's 2-7.3 SAPP on Criteria and Sources of Information for Reappointment, Tenure and Promotion. The Chair reported on Pythian papers written by Senior Vice-Provost Benham-Deal on Community Engagement & Outreach and Innovation & Entrepreneurship and noted that the Chair, Past-Chair Laegreid, and Chair-elect Fertig would be meeting with Senior Vice-Provost Benham-Deal on Friday to discuss these items and could be a late addition to the next meeting's agenda.

The Chair reported that the Academic Program Committee (APC) had received a Bachelor of Science in Ranch Management and Agricultural Leadership degree proposal and that to meet deadlines the degree proposal would have to be voted on by the faculty senate no later than November 27. The Chair reported that he had asked the APC to complete their report by October 23. The Committee discussed.

The Chair reported that University of Wyoming honorariums were often being distributed to University Employees, outside of faculty members and that there was discussion of the creation of a new SAPP created by Vice President and General Counsel Tara Evans restricting the distribution of Honorariums by the University to University employees. The Committee Discussed.

The Chair noted that Past-Chair Laegreid and Office Associate Engel-Cartie would soon be distributing their survey to faculty members that had recently left the University to gather data on their reasons for leaving the University.

The Chair noted that Multicultural Affairs would be hosting a drag show on October 14th and that the University of Wyoming Chapter of Turning Point USA is inviting a speaker on October 24th.

The Chair concluded his remarks and opened the floor to questions from the Committee. The Committee discussed.

The Chair intervened in discussion to briefly note that Kelsey Kyne would be present at Faculty Senate meetings and would provide regular (approximately once a month) updates from the President's office going forward.

The Chair noted an email sent by Senior Vice-Provost Benham-Deal on suggestions for changes to the Reappointment, Tenure, and Promotion Committee at the University, noted the presence of Member-at-Large Alvarado, Chair of the University Reappointment, Tenure, and Promotion (URT&P) Committee, and David Bagley, Chair of the Committee on Committees (CoC) and asked for them to speak on some of the changes proposed by Senior Vice-Provost Benham-Deal. CoC Chair Bagley asked if the changes came from the Committee or from Senior Vice-Provost Benham-Deal, URT&P Chair Alvarado responded that most of the suggestions were from Senior Vice-Provost Benham-Deal and not from the URT&P Committee. The Executive Committee discussed. CoC Chair Bagley stated that he would present the proposed changes to the CoC for its recommendations and report back.

Chair Sprague noted that the Provost is working on revising the degree approval process and yielded the floor to Provost Chief of Staff Gifford to speak on some of the changes being made. Chief of Staff Gifford explained that the object of the changes was to streamline the timeline for the creation of degrees so that the Faculty Senate would not be rushed by the arrival of new degrees needing approving from those respective bodies. Chief of Staff Gifford noted that this was a first attempt and that Academic Affairs was looking forward to receiving feedback from faculty and individual departments. The Committee discussed.

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn the Committee at 1:27 PM. Made, seconded, and carried.