

**Faculty Senate  
University of Wyoming**

Laramie, Wyoming

Minutes of the Meeting of  
21 October, 2024

A regular meeting of the University of Wyoming Faculty Senate (FS) was called to order by Chair Ray Fertig at 3:15 p.m., on October 21, 2024, in the Family Room, University of Wyoming Union. Additional FS members and guests were able to join via Zoom.

The roll was called by Secretary Treva Sprout Ahrenholtz, with the following senators not in attendance and not represented by official alternate or by proxy; Alvarado, Dillon, Griffiths, Laegreid, Marks, Mocsary, Myers, Nganga, Okpodu, Rettler, Sieger, and Todd.

Chair Fertig called for a motion to approve the agenda for October 21, 2024; a motion was made and seconded. Secretary Sprout Ahrenholtz moved to amend the agenda to allow for re-ordering the discussion and introduction of resolutions so that General Counsel Tara Evans could provide explanation and rationale before the USP discussion on experiential learning (Agenda item III). Amendment seconded and carried; move to approve amended agenda passed. Chair Fertig called for a motion to approve the minutes of October 7, 2024; motion made, seconded, and carried.

Chair Fertig started his chairs report with a timeline of the Next Generation USP 2026 feedback cycle. The draft of the proposed new USP is now out for campus-wide review, and there will be special feedback sessions on the entire USP with the Faculty Senate on November 4<sup>th</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup>. There is also a survey for campus wide feedback, which will close on December 20, 2024.

The chair continued with information on a potential new concealed carry firearms policy from the Board of Trustees (BOT), in response to Governor Gordon's directive for local control and creation of firearms policies. Chair Fertig reported the following timeline for the BOT would be followed: proposed policy draft due to Legislature October 21; publication of draft policy in BOT packet November 13; communication to different groups on policy from the period of November 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> including a webinar on the 14<sup>th</sup> and a town hall on the 15<sup>th</sup> with the Firearms Research Center, a meeting with Faculty Senate on the 18<sup>th</sup>, and Dean's meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>; full BOT meeting with provision for public comment on the 21<sup>st</sup>; presidential recommendation to the board during the November meeting; and finally, BOT action on the policy if board chooses to vote at this meeting.

Discussion of chairs report followed.

There were no ASUW or Staff Senate Reports, nor were there any committee reports or general announcements.

Chair Fertig brought to the floor Resolution 471: Resolution in Support of Modifications to University Regulations 1-1, 2-206, 3-1, 4-1, 4-2, 4-5, and 6-9. Motion was made and seconded. Secretary Sprout Ahrenholtz offered the following amendments to Resolution 471: strike Regulations 1-1, 4-2, and 6-9 from the title; under "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED", strike

Regulation 1-1 (Organization of the University), Regulation 4-2 (Discrimination and Harassment), and Regulation 6-9 (Project Development Policy and Procedures for UW Capital Construction Projects). Amendments seconded and carried after discussion. Discussion on entire resolution followed. Chair Fertig called for a vote on the regulation as amended; passed with majority voting aye and a single nay vote.

Next, Chair Fertig brought to the floor Resolution 472: Resolution in Support of Modifications to Standard Administrative Policies and Procedures on Limited English Proficiency Plan and Course Syllabus Requirements. Motion made and seconded. Discussion followed. Chair Fertig called for a vote on resolution; motion passed unanimously.

Chair Fertig introduced Resolution 475: Resolution in Support of Changes to University Regulation 4-2 Discrimination and Harassment. General Counsel Evans provided explanation and insight into UW Regulation 4-2 including: definition of protected vs non protected class in harassment and discrimination; the need to maintain compliance with the Office of Civil Rights updates; and the need to match definitions in Titles VI, VII, and IX for federal funding. Discussion followed.

Chair Fertig next introduced Resolution 476: Resolution in Support of Changes to University Regulations 1-1, Organization of the University, and 6-9, Project Development Policy and Procedure for UW Capital Construction Projects. Again, General Council Evans provided some background information on the rationale for the changes. UW Regulation 1-1 defines the organization of the university, and the bulk of changes are to align safety and operations (Operations proposed as a 1-1 divisional unit), with biological safety, chemical safety, fire safety, occupational health and safety, radiation safety, regulated materials management, the chemical stockroom and incident and injury reporting falling under the purview of Operations. The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion would also be removed from UW Regulation 1-1. Changes to UW Regulation 6-9 would include replacing the former Finance and Administration division with the Operations division proposed in UW Regulation 1-1. Also, the language clarifies that the ADA Coordinator would be consulted in project development, rather than the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Discussion followed.

Next, Resolution 473: Resolution in Support of the Undergraduate Nuclear Energy Science Certificate, and Resolution 474: Resolution in Support of the Graduate Nuclear Energy Science Certificate were introduced by Chair Fertig. Kami Danaei and Caleb Hill from the School of Energy Resources joined via Zoom to discuss the rationale for the new Nuclear Energy Science Certificates. The 15 credit certificate program would provide tangible credentials to demonstrate nuclear literacy, with content offered at both the undergraduate and graduate level. SER has secured significant financial support for the program, including for faculty development. While not trying to prop up a major at this time, in the near term, they are looking to develop even more courses to integrate into the program. Finally, Danaei responded to concerns brought forth by the Academic Planning Committee, with an explanation that the HLC approval process comes after UW approval of the certificate proposal, not before.

After resolutions were voted on or introduced, Nevin Aiken provided a presentation and discussion of the Next Generation USP 2026 Experiential Learning component. Experiential Learning (E) is a new USP designation proposed in the Next Generation USP. The credit could be accomplished via separate pathways, earning 0-3 credits. Pathway one would be for traditional for credit pathways like internships, teaching assistantships for credit, significant research experiences, study tours, etc. Pathway two would basically be a zero credit co-curricular pathway fulfilled by significant

leadership activities, community service, etc. Aiken shared that the rationale for the E credit grew from groundwork laid by the Innovative Pedagogy sub-committee of the original Next Generation USP cohort. Aiken asserts that Experiential Learning has a high level of evidence as a high impact practice in education, increases employment prospects as practical skills are highly valued by employers, and is a powerful attractor for potential students. These benefits are even greater for first generation or underrepresented students. The E experience must be significant in a class or co-curricular pathway, with 40+ hours dedicated to planning, executing, and reflecting upon the experiential activity. Along with the new credit comes a proposed Office of Experiential Learning that would serve as a central hub to help support the E component of the USP. Robust discussion followed.

Following the discussion, Chair Fertig called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made, seconded and carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:12 pm and went into Executive Session.