



Faculty Senate

Minutes

Monday, March 10, 2025

A regular meeting of the University of Wyoming Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:16pm on March 10th, 2025, in the Family Room of the University of Wyoming Union. Some Faculty Senate members and guests appeared via Zoom.

The meeting of Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:12pm.

Secretary Treva Sprout Ahrenholtz called the roll and a quorum was present.

A motion was called to approve the agenda; seconded, carried.

A motion was called to approve the minutes of the last session; seconded, carried.

No member of ASUW was present to provide a report.

No member of staff senate was present to provide a report.

Guests

Scott Turpen - Interim Provost, Tara Evans – UW General Counsel, Gabrielle Allen (School of Computing), Vice President Alex Kean – Associate VP for Budget & Planning, Cameron Wright (Dean – College of Engineering and Physical Sciences.)

Reminder: Next meeting will be 3/24/25

Reminder: Faculty Senate Speaker Series at 2pm by Jennifer Stephens

Chairs Report

Cabinet Updates:

Provost Turpen heading up the working group focused on House Bill that was signed into law regarding discrimination. The difference between advocacy and inquiry will be nuanced.

Raises (1%) will cost approximately 1.9 million dollars, and without an appropriation from the Legislature, is unlikely to occur.

Chair discussed the conversation he had with new head of Risk Management and reiterated the fact that lack of raises, and wage movement contributes a serious risk to the university by contributing directly to high turnover rates.

Other Business

Chair-Elect Godby addressed the Senate, discussing the election for positions on the Executive Committee (primarily the member-at-large post). Chair Fertig then spoke a little more at length about election processes and reiterated the fact that the committee needs information before the end of the week.

Chair Fertig then turned the meeting over to Tara Evans, who asked for questions regarding several matters related to the current political environment both nationally and locally. Tara Evans advised



there would be a forthcoming SAPP dealing with protests, affirming the Constitutional First Amendment rights to protest and assembly. Tara Evans then asked for and received several questions. Tara Evans mentioned that an administrative directive (by President Seidel) will be changed into a SAPP and is currently in the works. Further discussion of the concealed carry gun law as it relates to campus. Tara Evans received several questions about the use of pronouns, that will require further follow-up on her part. Tara Evans received questions regarding the recent House law, regarding the nature of advocacy versus inquiry, and she indicated that there is a process being developed for Academic Freedom complaints. Tara Evans fielded several questions regarding gun-safety and the concealed carry law as it relates to campus.

Alex Kean, Associate Vice President for Budget and Planning, then addressed the Faculty Senate, to discuss the effects of changes in property tax and the changes that may or may not impact the University. VP Kean discussed how while the University is relatively safe from immediate changes to property tax law, local school districts and the community colleges are going to be impacted more severely. Kean discussed how shrinking revenues impact the broader structure of the state, and how those effects are likely to be felt by UW and by the state. Kean took several questions, and responded to them.

Director (SoC) Gabrielle Allen then addressed the senate regarding the School of Computing and its separation from CEPS. The 2-13 proposal being brought forward is necessary and important to the transition of the school into its own academic unit.

Chair Fertig then discussed Resolution 484, regarding the name change of the School of Culture, Gender, and Social Justice. This resolution will be voted on 3/24.

Motion to Adjourn was made at 4:00pm, seconded; carried.