



**Faculty Senate**  
Minutes  
Monday, May 5, 2025

A regular meeting of the University of Wyoming Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:15pm on Monday May 5, 2025, in the Family Room of the University of Wyoming Union. Some Faculty Senate members and guests appeared via Zoom.

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

Members Absent: Gabriel Barrile, Greg Cawley, Tony Denzer, Shawn Griffiths, John Hoberg, Subhasis Mallick, George Mocsary, Adam Myers, Lydia Nganga, Stefan Rahimi, Crystal Sieger, Reza Taheri, Amy Turpin.

Guests Present: Vice Provost, Enrollment Management, Kyle B. Moore, Mandy Gifford (Office of the Provost); VP of Budget & Finance, Alex Keen.

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

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

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

No representative from Staff Senate was present to make a report.

No representative from ASUW was present to make a report.

## **Chairs Report**

Chair Elect Godby addressed the Senate regarding Cabinet updates. Chair-Elect made announcement regarding the death of Jackie Buchanan, and arrangements that are being provided for memorial services. Enrollment updates from the cabinet stayed relatively flat compared to this time last year. A slight increase is likely. Vice President Keen and individuals from the research office will address the Senate regarding the potentiality of grant cancellation and how that might impact campus hiring and personnel matters. A document is being put together to weigh the potential effects of changes and cutbacks based on federal and state grants. Chair-Elect advised the senate to remember University Regulation 12-4, about contact with the public and to be careful to avoid 'advocating on behalf of the University of Wyoming'. The provost also complimented and thank the faculty members who have been involved in recruitment efforts.

Chair Fertig addressed changes to the SAPs being considered for legislative action by the Senate.

## **Committee Head Reports**

*Casey Frome, Chair of Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee* addressed the Senate regarding the progress of the committee over the last year. Main goal for this semester was to create a policy for determining actions and limitations that may or may not go beyond the bounds of Academic Freedom, and to ensure that recruitment duties were not becoming a part of 'unpaid' responsibilities of faculty members.



*Nicole Choi, Chair of the Budget Advisory Committee*, addressed the Senate, detailing how the committee was resuscitated for this academic year to provide for independent look into the primary budget models utilized by land-grant universities in other states to draw comparisons for potential changes here at UW and on the state level. The committee has received anecdotal responses about the changes of budget models. Chair Choi noted that the committee has not been able to meet this semester but is optimistic of beginning to meet again next academic year.

*Jared Bushman, Grad Council Committee Chair*, was not present to provide a report.

*Grant Lindstrom, Chair of the Academic Planning Committee*, was not present but Chair Fertig read a statement from him. The committee has worked on and approved various certificate programs, and various departmental changes, as well as approving minors in various departments and colleges across campus.

*Ken Simms, Chair of the Research Advisory Committee*, addressed the Senate, detailing two primary actions undertaken by the committee, including securing seed grant money for various programs. Compliance for proposal submittals was an area they were also tasked with advancing to try and drive compliance numbers higher. Chair Simms discussed some of the actions and interventions undertaken by both the Committee and Chair Fertig regarding punitive changes.

## **Other Business**

VP of Budget & Finance, Alex Keen, then addressed the Senate regarding employees that are on 100% of pay derived from grant sources number slightly over 100, estimated total number of potential individual's effects that have their salary derived partially from grants is considerably higher. The current plan is to provide 30-days of paid administrative leave in the event of the cancellation of their funding streams and provide the potentiality of replacement jobs through the UW campus community. VP Keen took several questions, including questions about the considerable turnaround times between application for a new position for those unlucky souls who did not get to keep their job, and whether that there will be a guaranteed interview. New funds are being used to provide for this special situation, and the policy is still being drafted and considered prior to implementation but is anticipatory of a federal 'stop-work' order sometime in the next several months based on actions undertaken by the Trump administration. VP Keen took several other questions from the Senators. Michelle Hilaire, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, addressed the potential effects of grant cuts to Graduate Students.

Discussion and Vote on Resolution 489, *Conveying a Suggested Path Forward on Shared Governance*. A motion was made to bring the resolution to the floor; seconded, carried. Chair Fertig opened discussion of the bill and potential changes to be added to the resolution were discussed by the faculty. Several questions were asked and answered. A vote was held, the resolution was passed by a voice vote unanimously.

Discussion and Vote on Resolution 490, *In Support of Extending Test-Optional Admittance*. A motion was made to bring the resolution to the floor; seconded, carried. Discussion of the potential actions that might be undertaken by the Board of Trustees in the event of Senate inaction. Vice Provost, Enrollment Management, Kyle B. Moore addressed the Senate and provided some information on the potential benefits of extending the policy, which primarily seemed to be centered around keeping up with marketplace competitors regardless of quality of the students. VP



Moore asked for the involvement of the Senate in developing guidelines and assessing metrics to ensure data-driven results are accurate and well isolated. A vote was held, the Resolution was passed by a voice vote, with Senator Clements voting Nay.

Discussion and Vote on Resolution 491, *In Support of the Equal Opportunity and Prohibited Efforts SAP as Amended*, was brought to the floor for discussion after a motion to do so was made and seconded. Several comments were made by various senators, especially as touching on Academic Freedom. An amendment was proposed by Senator Leotti to add a footnote to a line to reference UW Regulation 2-15 about Academic Freedom, to provide a definition. A vote to amend the resolution was conducted, was seconded, and passed. Senator Tabler proposed to remove a footnote as an amendment, which was seconded, and passed. Senator Rettler proposed an Amendment to remove a line from footnote six (6) concerning potential federal or state actions. A motion was made, seconded, and the amendment carried. Senator Robison reminded the Chair to include 'abstaining' votes if the resolution comes to the floor for the vote. Several other questions were asked and answered. The vote for the Resolution was called; majority of the votes were aye, there was one abstention by Senator Tiger Robson.

The agenda was amended to remove Resolution 494 from the agenda.

Discussion and Vote on Resolution 492, Support for the 2-13 Process. Senator Nippgen addressed the Senate regarding some of the specifics behind the resolution related to atmospheric sciences and discussed the potential impacts of program consolidation. Senator Nippgen proposed an amendment to remove the soil sciences. Discussion was had from several senators touching on matters of shared governance, the viability of certain academic programs, and the 'reasonability' of eliminating programs from a state where agricultural is a major component. Senator Nippgen, aided by Sen. Sprout-Ahrenholtz, proposed an amendment to the resolution regarding a shift of language for Soil & Environmental Sciences, to remove a recommendation for SEI programs for consolidation. Amendment, as proposed by Senators Nippgen and Sprout-Ahrenholtz, passed. Resolution 492 was passed by the Senate.

Discussion and Vote on Resolution 493, was brought to the floor for a vote. There was no commentary or question. Resolution 493 was passed by a voice vote.

Chair Fertig made mention of the end of Sen. Sprout-Ahrenholtz long service to faculty Senate, she was thanked and received gifts from the Executive Committee, and was thanked for her long service.

Chair Fertig surrendered the Gavel of the Faculty Senate to Chair Godby. Chair-Emeritus Fertig received gifts from the Faculty Senate (Executive Committee) and was thanked for his exemplary service.

Motion to adjourn at 5:32p; seconded, carried.