

University of Wyoming at Laramie

FACULTY SENATE

MINUTES

September 11, 2023

A regular meeting of the University of Wyoming Faculty Senate (FS) was called to order by Chair Robert Sprague at 3:13 pm on September 11, 2023, in the Family Room, University of Wyoming Union. Additional Faculty Senate members and guests were able to join via Zoom.

The Secretary Treva Sprout Ahrenholtz called the roll and the following Senators were not in attendance or represented by a proxy: Senators Dana, Coupal, Dillon, Edwards, Godby, Hoberg, Lake, McCoy, McElroy, Mocsary, Nejadmalayeri, Rettler, Robison, Shannon and Urynowicz.

The Chair called for a motion to approve the agenda, made, seconded, and passed.

The Chair called for a motion to approve the Minutes, made, seconded, and passed.

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 reported that Past-Chair Laegraid would be sending out a survey to recently departed faculty members to gather data as to why they had left the University. The Chair then advised the Senate of the data provided by Senior Vice-Provost Benham-Deal regarding the recent pay increase and reviewed that data with the Senate and distributed that information to the Senate before opening the floor to questions from the Senate. The Senate discussed.

The Chair called for ASUW reports. No ASUW representatives were present.

The Chair yielded the floor to Christina McDonald to report on behalf of Staff Senate. Mrs. McDonald reported that the Staff Senate had undergone major restructuring and had centralized from five to three committees and that the Senate aimed to increase wages, equity, and engagement on campus. Mrs. McDonald noted that the Staff Senate would be holding its fundraiser on December 8th. Mrs. McDonald yielded the floor for questions from the Senate. The Senate discussed.

The Chair yielded the floor to Secretary Sprout-Ahrenholtz to report on the 2-13 SAPP Committee. Secretary Sprout-Ahrenholtz had no report.

The Chair yielded the floor to Senator Fisher to report on the Gen-Ed Revision. Senator Fisher had no report.

The Chair noted the absence of Senator Rob Godby and that in his absence there would be no report from the Future of Marketing & Communications at UW Working Group.

The Chair opened the floor for general announcements.

Seeing none the Chair yielded the floor to Dr. Janel Seeley Director, Ellbogen Center for Teaching and Learning (ECTL) to speak to the Senate. Dr. Seeley informed the Senate of the presence of ECTL on the Universities campus and distributed a pamphlet to the Senators present, and directing those present on Zoom to their website. Dr. Seeley informed the Senate the ECTL was able and willing to help faculty members with their classes and would provide a review of faculty teaching methods and would provide feedback. Dr. Seeley noted that the ECTL offered a variety of programs and workshops to support faculty members. Dr. Seeley noted that the ECTL would be hosting Peter Felten and Leo Lambert, authors of *Relationship Rich Education* for several events on campus, including a keynote lunch of 100 attendees.

Dr. Seeley discussed the effect of Chat GPT on campus and that the ECTL provided guidance around the use and effects of Chat GPT. Dr. Seeley noted that University Regulations provided that attending professional trainings could be utilized for performance evaluations before yielding the floor for questions.

The Chair yielded the floor to Dr. Nellie Haddad, University of Wyoming Ombuds, to speak on the activities of the office of the Ombuds. Dr. Haddad explained the history of the office and that the office was meant to serve all personnel on campus. Dr. Haddad offered the Senate information on her background before entering the field of conflict resolution and emphasized that her office was independent from other offices on campus and would insure both impartiality and anonymity so long as there was no indication that a person would be harmed. Dr. Haddad also noted that her office was able to help with conflict resolution training. Dr. Haddad yielded the floor to questions. The Senate discussed.

The Chair yielded the floor to Josh Holland, Chief of the University of Wyoming Police to speak on campus security and safety. Chief Holland provided background on himself and noted that the department had 15 officers and was available at any time necessary via either their non-emergency number, 911 via any campus landline, anonymous text, or at their station on campus. Chief Holland yielded the floor to questions. The Senate discussed.

Senators asked Chief Holland to elaborate on the relationship between UWPD and city, county, and state law enforcement. Chief Holland explained that the UWPD was authorized to arrest when necessary and was in close contact with other local law enforcement agencies. Chief Holland offered that UWPD was able to offer guidance in response to any potential events that may take place on campus. The Senate discussed.

Chair Sprague asked Chief Holland what plans were in place regarding potential protests in response to events that would be taking place in the near future. Chief Holland responded that with any large event UWPD increased their presence and that they would coordinate with other local agencies if personnel or resources were needed. Chair Sprague noted that the construction along 9th street was still ongoing and that there was no clear crosswalk to allow passage to and from the University, and asked if Chief Holland could provide increased presence on that route. Chief Holland responded in the affirmative and noted the difficulty caused by construction campus wide. The Senate discussed.

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:22, made, seconded, and carried.