

University of Wyoming at Laramie

FACULTY SENATE

MINUTES

August 28, 2023

A regular meeting of the University of Wyoming Faculty Senate (FS) was called to order by Chair Robert Sprague at 3:12 pm on August 28th, 2023, in the Family Room, University of Wyoming Union. Additional FS members and guests were able to join via Zoom.

The Secretary Treva Sprout Ahrenholtz called the role and the following Senators were not in attendance or represented by a proxy: Senators Alvarado, Cain, Cook, Coupal, Godby, Harris, Lake, McCoy, Merkle, Mocsary, Ricupero, Shannon, Sims, Slater, Taheri, Urynowicz, and Willhaus

The Chair called for a motion to approve the August 28 Agenda; made, seconded, and carried.

The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes of May 8, 2013; made, seconded, and carried.

The Chair reported that several changes had been made to the Faculty Senate website due to the migration from Cascade to Omni and that there were several points on the website that could serve as guidance to new and current Senators. The Chair also displayed the new email address for Faculty Senate (faculty.senate@uwyo.edu). The Chair asked that members of the Senate email either him personally or the faculty senate email address about what they think the top three things about the University of Wyoming that need to be fixed and what they could do to fix them, and to solicit items from their constituents.

The Chair asked that Senators without an alternate ask their department to elect an alternate to their Senator. The chair noted that the Faculty Senate Speakers Series for fall of 2023 had been reopened as there had been only a single nomination during the previous period and that some of the requirements had been loosened to help encourage more nominations. The Chair asked who present had received a pay increase and who had received notice of their pay increase. The majority had received both. The Chair reported that he was working with Senior Vice Provost Tami Benham-Deal to review those raises and how that had compared to other wage raises on campus and if issues of compression had been considered during their distribution.

The Chair reported that the University had instituted a Strategic Enrollment Plan with the aim of increasing enrollment, and that the plan would be managed by Vice Provost for Enrollment Management Kyle Moore. The Chair broke down the working groups that would be formed as a part of this and noted that administration had been seeking faculty participation but they would require substantial time commitment and offered to inform faculty on further details if they were interested.

The Chair noted that he was initially going to call for a volunteer to replace him on the SI2025 Committee, but he has since confirmed there is adequate faculty representation on the Committee. The Chair yielded the floor to Past-Chair Laegreid, who spoke of her concern on the number of faculty members, specifically mid-level faculty members, who were leaving the University, going back to 2012, with the aim of surveying faculty members who had departed to learn their reasons for doing so.

The Chair yielded the floor for reports from ASUW and Staff Senate, who were not present.

The Chair noted that Science Initiative Executive Committee would no longer be reporting to the Senate as they had completed their charge.

The Chair yielded to the Secretary Sprout-Ahrenholtz to report that 2-13 SAPP Committee had submitted its comments and suggested changes to Academic Affairs and were expecting to hear back from Academic Affairs this week.

The Chair yielded to Sen. Fisher who reported that the GenEd Committee would be making its draft public and that he would be meeting with the Provost's Chief of Staff Mandy Jane Gifford and Provost Carmen to help garner feedback on their draft with a potential final release in spring. The Senate discussed.

The Chair opened the floor to general announcements.

The Chair introduced University of Wyoming President Ed Seidel for remarks and questions from the Senate. President Seidel stated that he had spoken to students about Saddle Up during their convocation and their comments had been largely positive. The President spoke on the new Strategic Enrollment Plan and encouraged the senate to provide feedback on the new plans and that many of the goals of the plan had been given to him by the Board of Trustees as part of requirements for his position during their July meeting.

The President then spoke briefly on the Freedom of Expression Committee, noting the importance of the topic and reviewing the ideals laid out by the Committee in the report they had released in July. The President spoke on his plan to utilize a new Faculty sounding group. The President spoke on the Provost's recent evaluation and that the process would be closing. The president noted that faculty fellows would be continued this academic year and would allow for faculty to get to know administration and work with them on multiple projects. The President noted that thanks to the effort of past-Chair Laegreid and other members of Faculty Senate, Chair Sprague and all Faculty Senate Chairs going forward would be a member of the President's cabinet.

The president laid out his new budget priorities as approved by the Board of Trustees during their July meeting and those ten top priorities had been debated and approved, with number one being salary increase for faculty and staff and that these priorities would be taken forward to Governor Gordon and that the Governor's previous support had been helpful in garnering support from the state legislature. The President reviewed several of the priorities that he considered important. The President then opened the floor for questions and comments. The Chair thanked the President and Chief of Staff Kelsey Kyne for their time.

The Chair introduced the Chair of the Committee on Committees David Bagley to speak on vacancies on Faculty Senate Standing Committees. Chair Bagley distributed a list of vacancies

on Faculty Senate Standing Committees to the Senate and elaborated that some only required a faculty member to volunteer and some had to be confirmed by their college, either elected or selected, before they could serve on that committee and spoke on the reasons for low participation on these committees. Chair Bagley encouraged the Senate to speak to their constituents and encourage them to participate on these committees. Chair Bagley opened the floor for questions.

Chair Sprague noted the importance of these committees and reiterated that Faculty Senate could not function without the work of these committees and encouraged the Senate to reach out to their constituents to encourage participation.

Chair Sprague then introduced past-Chair Laegreid, Chair-Elect Ray Fertig, Secretary Sprout-Ahreholtz, Office Associate Noah Engel-Cartie, and Members at Large Cawley and Robison to the Senate while noting Members at Large Godby and Alvarado in abstentia.

The Chair then called for a motion to adjourn the meeting and move into executive session at 4:36 PM. Made, seconded, and carried.