

University of Wyoming at Laramie

FACULTY SENATE

MINUTES

February 19, 2024

A regular meeting of the University of Wyoming Faculty Senate (FS) was called to order by Chair Robert Sprague at 3:11 pm on February 19, 2024, 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 a quorum was not met.

The Chair reported that despite the lack of a quorum he would be adhering to the agenda and apologized for holding Senate on a class holiday.

The Chair reported that the President's Faculty Town Hall meeting would be held on Wednesday, February 28 at noon in the Union Family Room and on Wyocast and noted that the deadline to submit a question had passed. The Chair encouraged the Senate to attend and for Senators to encourage their constituents to attend as well.

The Chair reported that Professor Brad Rettler would present his Faculty Senate Speaker Series presentation, "Money for the Marginalized" at 4:10 p.m. Tuesday, March 26, 2024, in the Union Family Room and on Wyocast.

The Chair reported that Staff Recognition Day would be held on April 16, 2024, from 11am - 1pm on the concourse of the Arena Auditorium and that the Staff Senate was requesting faculty to volunteer to serve pre-made food. The Chair reported that he had distributed a sign-up sheet via the Faculty listserv.

The Chair reported that the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion would be hosting gatherings for faculty to discuss equitable faculty workloads with fellow colleagues led by Vice President for the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Zebadiah Hall. The Chair reported that he had been contacted by the Provost's Office to arrange a session exclusive to Faculty Senate.

The Chair reported that the Faculty Senate would be hosting "Take a Trustee to Class" on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, and that nine classes that start at 11:00 a.m. had been identified for the Trustees to visit.

The Chair reported that the deadline to complete Internal Audit's Risk Assessment Survey had been extended to Friday, February 23, 2024, and asked the Senators to encourage their constituents to take the survey. The Chair reported that the survey was an excellent chance to report on their work environment.

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

The Chair called for Staff Senate reports. Staff Senate Vice-President Tori Henderson reported that Staff Senate was in discussion with administration regarding University Regulation 1-3 and reminded the Senate that Staff Senate would be hosting its Staff Appreciation Day on April 16. The Chair asked what University Regulation 1-3 referred to. Vice President Henderson reported that the regulation regarded Staff Senate President compensation. The Chair reported that Regulation 1-3 provided for 50% release time to the Staff Senate President and administration was in favor of lowering the amount. The Chair reported that he was against the change and that if it went through, he would be introducing legislation against it in the Senate. The Senate discussed.

Secretary Sprout-Ahrenholtz reported that the Gen-Ed (NGGE; now to be abbreviated NGUSP) Committee had met the previous week and was revising the Gen-Ed mission statement. Secretary Sprout-Ahrenholtz reported that she was in favor of the changes and that it would be more focused on service to the state and to university students. Secretary Ahrenholtz reported that sub-committee assignments had also been finalized by the committee.

The Chair called for general announcements. No general announcements were made.

The Chair opened the floor for nominations of members to the 2024-2025 Executive Committee. The Chair reported that he had distributed a list of the current nominees as part of the meeting materials and that there were positions open at Chair-elect, Secretary, and two spots as Member-at-Large. The Chair opened the floor for nominations of members to the 2024-2025 Executive Committee. No nominations were made and the Chair closed the floor to nominations.

The Chair then opened the floor to the current Executive Committee nominees to make a short statement as to their interest in serving on the Executive Committee. Each nominee made a short statement.

The Chair reported that the vote to confirm the nominees would take place at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

The Chair Introduced Resolution 453 in Support of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Policy SAP. The Chair asked the Senators to collect feedback from their constituents before discussion and vote at the next Senate meeting.

The Chair introduced Director Dan McCoy of the Wyoming Outdoor Recreation, Tourism, and Hospitality (WORTH) Initiative. Director McCoy then made a presentation explaining the various aspects of the Worth Initiative.

The Chair introduced Associate Vice President for Economic Development and Director for Strategic Partnerships Curtis Biggs to discuss the Technology Business Center. Associate Vice President Biggs gave a brief report of the various operations and initiatives of the Technology Business Center.

The Chair introduced Coordinator Riley Brooke Skorcz of the Disability Support Services Office to discuss Access UW Day. Coordinator Riley Brooke Skorcz reported that Disability Support Services would be holding Access UW day on Friday, April 5, 2024, with the aim of increasing awareness around access and disability related topics. Coordinator Skorcz reported that the day was an excellent opportunity to highlight the work already ongoing around the university and to hold sessions aimed at improving involvement across the University. Coordinator Skorcz reported that the Disability Support Services website provided resources for holding a session and that she was more than willing to discuss ideas around the creation of a session, or that faculty could submit nomination forms to recommend someone to work with Disability Support Services. Coordinator Skorcz opened the floor to questions. No questions were asked.

The Chair introduced Director of the University Store Misty Eaton to discuss the new Equitable access program, now branded as StartRight+. Associate Vice President for Business Enterprises Erik Webb reported that the project had been in the work for three years and that the Board of Trustees had given approval to go forward at their January meeting. Director Eaton reported that the program would be focused on undergraduate students and would be aimed to provide all materials at one source. Director Eaton reported that when students were guaranteed access to textbooks they performed better academically. At the heart of the program is a Student Fee of \$299 charged each fall and spring semester that covers the entire cost of each student's course-required-materials, unless the student opts-out.

The Senate discussed and posed a number of questions regarding the StartRight+ program.

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:14 PM; made, seconded, and carried.