

**Faculty Senate
University of Wyoming**

Laramie, Wyoming

Minutes of the Meeting of
20 February 2023

A regular meeting of the University of Wyoming Faculty Senate (FS) was called to order by Chair Renee Laegreid at 3:15 p.m., on February 20, 2023, in the Senate Chambers, University of Wyoming Union. Additional FS members and guests were able to join via Zoom.

The roll was called by Secretary Treva Sprout Ahrenholtz, with the following senators not in attendance and not represented by official alternate or by proxy; Caulton, Coupal, Di Russo Case, Hoberg, Lake, Merkle, Miller—S., Paige, and Urynowicz.

Chair Laegreid called for a motion to approve the agenda for February 20, 2023; a motion was made, seconded and carried. Chair Laegreid called for a motion to approve the minutes of February 06, 2023; motion made, seconded, and carried.

Chair Laegreid started her Chair's report with a discussion of the AI Chatbots (aka Chat GTP) working group. Corresponding recommendations for syllabus templates, UW Regulation 2-114, advisors, Saddle Up, RTP, transfer students, and how the Ellbogen Center can be involved will be forthcoming.

The chair continued with information on the upcoming performance evaluation of Provost Carman, with the strong recommendation that the evaluation be available in a timely manner for faculty input. Additionally, Chair Laegreid urged faculty to complete the 2023 Risk Assessment Survey from the Office of Institutional Analysis.

Next, she provided clarification that proposals for academic minors must go through the Academic Planning Committee for approval, and is seeking a clearer process from Academic Affairs so that everyone is properly informed and that confusion is resolved.

Finally, Chair Laegreid acknowledged that she intends to follow up on Senator Godby's email request about where the UW Bookstore is with inclusive access and equitable access for textbooks. She recommended that we have a representative from the UW Bookstore provide an update and clarification.

Chair Laegreid called for the report from ASUW. ASUW Chief of Staff, Riley Skorcz, reported that ASUW's accessibility committee will be sponsoring Access UW Day, Friday April 4. She asked for representation from faculty on the Access UW planning board, as there is an opportunity for faculty involvement. Faculty members can reach out to Riley to be a part of this planning board.

There was no Staff Senate report.

The Chair next called for committee reports.

Regarding the Higher Learning Commission Report committee, Senator Nathan Clements indicated that they have met to collect evidence needed for the 2024 report and that there are changes in the HLC Criteria.

Senator Steve Bialostok from the Parking Committee did not have much more to report since the most recent meeting, but did provide a response to a recent editorial in the Branding Iron concerning student parking.

RTP Committee member Senator Thomas Grant indicated that there was nothing further to report on the RTP Committee, whose full report is available online, and that this charge is officially completed for now.

Senator Vladimir Alvarado reported that the Carnegie Task Force committee is working on finishing the report for President Seidel.

There was not a report from the Science Initiative Executive committee.

Past Chair Adrienne Freng informed the senate that the Salary and Compensation committee have not yet met and details are still in process.

Secretary Sprout Ahrenholtz said that the 2-13 SAPP Committee had provided their final set of recommendations to Academic Affairs and are awaiting AA response on those recommendations.

Senator Vladimir Alvarado reported that the Freedom of Expression committee has established a deadline of the end of May to turn in their report to President Seidel. He expressed that this large committee has established a good internal process for formulating the report and gathering necessary information.

Senator Ashley Hope Carlisle, Statewide Engagement Committee, indicated that the first committee meeting would be held on February 23.

Finally, Senator Rick Fisher, reported that the eight Next Generation General Education (NGGE) sub-committees had formed, and were now meeting. A follow-up meeting of each groups' chairs was scheduled for February 27.

There was one general announcement from Senator Carolyn Anderson, with a plea to improve accessibility and ice management at Hoyt Hall and to correct the UW website inaccuracies about accessibility entrances at Hoyt Hall. She further voiced concern about Master's programs in language and education being on the program list of poorly enrolled programs, given their importance for society.

Zebadiah Hall, Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion was introduced to the Faculty Senate. VP Hall was most recently the Director of Student Disability Services at Cornell University and began at UW in December of 2022. He indicated that they were in the process of hiring an Associate Vice President for the DEI division.

Following reports and introductions, Chair Elect Bob Sprague introduced the Slate of Nominees for next year's Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Senators running for office include: Ray Fertig—Chair Elect; Treva Sprout Ahrenholtz—Secretary; Steve Bialostok—Member at Large—1 yr term; and Vladimir Alvarado and Tiger Robison—Member at Large—2 yr terms. Each nominee gave a brief stump speech when introduced. Chair Elect Sprague called for any other nominations from the

floor. Receiving none, nominations were closed and the slate will be voted on during the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Chair Laegreid once again discussed the opportunity to provide faculty feedback on UW Regulation 8-1, Proper Use of Computing and Data Communications Operated by Division of Information Technology, which may be modified to limit incidental crypto-mining by students. Faculty discussion followed, much of which centered on definitions of research and education in relation to the regulation, and the process for exception to the rule.

Chair Laegreid brought Resolution 428: Resolution Regarding Honors Interdisciplinary Arts & Science Bachelor's Degree to the floor for discussion and vote. Honors College Dean, Peter Parolin, again provided a rationale for the new interdisciplinary bachelor's degree, with a brief question and answer period. Motion to pass resolution was made and seconded; resolution passed unanimously.

Chair Laegreid brought Resolution 429: Resolution Regarding Minor in English as a Second Language Education to the floor for discussion and vote. Jenna Shim, College of Education Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, offered a brief statement of support of this new minor before voting. Motion to pass resolution was made and seconded; resolution passed unanimously.

Following the vote on resolutions, Chair Laegreid introduced Bob Link, AVP Human Resources, who provided an update on improvements in the Human Resources office. Some of the topics of discussion included updated Quick Reference Guides, changes to simplify and streamline the hiring and onboarding process, better collaboration with Academic Affairs for hiring temporary lecturers, and improved functionality within the Oracle platform. Discussion followed.

Kelsey Kyne, President's Chief of Staff, provided faculty with further information of the Wyoming Innovation Partnership (WIP) Initiative, created by Governor Mark Gordon to enhance workforce and economic development. The University of Wyoming and Community Colleges around the state are important partners in this initiative, and Chief of Staff Kyne discussed the next phase of grants and opportunities available to faculty. Joining Kyne was Curtis Biggs, Director of Strategic Partnerships, UW Office of Research and Economic Development, who provided further information on Phase II proposals and grant opportunities. In addition to focus areas of energy, entrepreneurship, digital, hospitality/tourism, and healthcare, Phase II added nuclear energy, agriculture, and advanced manufacturing options as well. Biggs stated that there are around \$27.5 million in grant funding available statewide in this current phase. The deadline for phase II proposals is February 28th, and faculty are encouraged to provide proposals in any of the phase I or II areas. Discussion followed. Finally, Chief of Staff Kyne announced that President Seidel will have Presidential Fellowships including tracks for WIP and Artificial Intelligence.

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 pm and due to the late hour, did not go into Executive Session.



Treva E Sprout Ahrenholtz, Secretary

Dated: February 24, 2023