

University of Wyoming at Laramie

FACULTY SENATE

MINUTES

October 9, 2023

A regular meeting of the University of Wyoming Faculty Senate (FS) was called to order by Chair Robert Sprague at 3:11 pm on October 9, 2023, in the Family Room, University of Wyoming Union. Additional Faculty Senate members and guests were able to join via Zoom.

The Chair-Elect Fertig called the roll, and the following Senators were not in attendance or represented by a proxy; Senators Anderson, Caulton, Di Russo Case, Lake, Meuli, Mocsary, Myers, Seiger, and Todd. Secretary Sprout-Ahrenholtz was excused.

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

The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 25; made, seconded, and carried.

The Chair reminded the Senate that the President's Faculty Forum would be held at noon the next day in Coe Library room 506, and encouraged any members of the faculty to attend and discuss any concerns that they might have.

The Chair informed the Senate that the Fall Faculty Senate Speaker Series had been booked in their present location on Tuesday November 7 at 4:10 PM and that Dr. Markley would be discussing the life of jazz musician Cedar Walton and performing live music as part of his presentation. The Chair also offered that the presentation would be on Wyocast as well.

The Chair encouraged the Senate to complete the Conflict-of-Interest Online Questionnaire if they hadn't already, and that they could expect a reminder from their department chair if they did not. The Chair informed the Senate that they would be contacted by the Office of Research and Economic Development if they had still not completed it. The Chair further informed the Senate that they would receive a reminder even if they had completed the questionnaire and that even though the email would come from a non-university email address, it was a legitimate notice.

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

The Chair called for Staff Senate reports. No Staff Senate Representatives were present.

The Chair called for a report from the Office of the President. No Representatives from the Office of the President were present.

The Chair noted that there was no update from the 2-13 SAPP Committee.

The Chair noted that the Gen-Ed Revisions Committee had no report.

The Chair yielded the floor to M-A-L Godby to provide the report for the Future of Marketing at UW Committee. M-A-L Godby provided background on the Committee and noted that the Committee was struggling to meet its January 13 deadline due to apparent merging with another Committee and the ongoing enrollment issues. M-A-L Godby reported that President Seidel felt that the Committee's report was needed for implementation as part of the University's strategic plan, and that the Committee would continue its work.

The Chair opened the floor to general announcements. No general announcements were made.

The Chair yielded the floor to Co-Chairs of the Freedom of Expression, Intellectual Freedom, and Constructive Dialog Working Group, Dr. Martha McCaughey and Professor Nevin Aiken. The Chair provided background on the Working Group, noting that the University was now looking at implementing the principles outlined in the Working Group's final report.

Professor Aiken thanked the Faculty Senate for allowing him to speak before explaining that he felt that the issue touched every department on campus and that the Working Group had included representatives from every part of campus and had conducted outreach throughout the state of Wyoming and throughout the University campus, including an online survey before releasing their Report. Professor Aiken emphasized that going forward Dr. McCaughey would be taking the lead with the Working Group but that he had agreed to serve as an advisor to President Seidel.

Dr. McCaughey then provided her professional background before noting that President Seidel had adopted the Working Group's Statements of Principles. The Senate Chair then stated that President Seidel had adopted them for himself. Dr. McCaughey then noted that the implementation of the Principles would not be a top-down movement, and noted that this issue and the beliefs around them are not unique to Wyoming, noting that the University of Chicago, Princeton, and MIT had adopted similar principles.

Dr. McCaughey then emphasized that robust faculty involvement would be needed for the implementation of these Principles but that implementing some recommendations, such as specifically the creation of a library guide around freedom of expression and communication of these principles via the University's marketing division, would not require intense faculty involvement.

Dr. McCaughey then offered that the faculty would have opportunities to object to some of the changes that may occur during the implementation process. Dr. McCaughey emphasized that she would be serving as a liaison with President Seidel and campus interest groups during the implementation. Dr. McCaughey then advised the Senate that they would be able to track changes made to campus as part of the implementation of their recommendations via their newly created website.

Dr. McCaughey then distributed informational pamphlets to the Senate noting she had highlighted areas that would require faculty participation, namely operationalization of the Principles, emphasizing the creation of protocols regarding student complaints.

Dr. McCaughey then noted potential changes to standard syllabus language to include academic freedom, explaining that the Working Group had heard stories regarding student confusion around what conduct to expect in classrooms. Implementation could also include the adoption of a gifts acceptance policy that protects academic freedom.

Dr. McCaughey then explained the Working Group's recommendation to clarify University policy around outside speakers coming to the University and that there may be a need to review the University's Title IX policies, as well as hiring policy and academic personnel dismissal policy.

Dr. McCaughey then stated that part of the implementation would involve the potential creation of a Center for Free Expression and Respectful Dialogue at the University, noting that this had received some negative reviews from the public and that the University might not have the resources for the creation of such a Center. The Faculty Senate Chair then noted that the University had not formally adopted these principles, but that Faculty Senate should be involved in the implementation process, and that this could be an opportunity for further faculty input regarding the Report and then opened the floor to questions and comments. The Senate discussed.

The Chair then opened Resolution 444: Changes to Naming Opportunities and Suggested Minimum Funding Requirements SAPP for discussion and vote. The Chair noted that the changes to the SAPP would create suggested minimum amounts for naming rights and created several new naming opportunities. The Chair called for a motion to approve the Resolution. Made, seconded, and carried.

The Chair then introduced Resolution 445: Criteria and Sources of Information for Reappointment, Tenure and Promotion SAPP, yielding the floor to Senior Vice Provost Benham-Deal to explain the SAPP. Senior Vice Provost Benham-Deal noted that the SAPP was created to include information that had been removed as part of changes made to Regulation 2-7 in 2019. SVP Benham-Deal then explained that there were two SAPP's regarding Tenure and Promotion, and that the current Resolution was meant to include provisions for Entrepreneurship and Community Outreach within the current SAPP before yielding the floor for questions.

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:18 PM, made, seconded, and carried.