



Faculty Senate
323 Merica Hall Dept. 3961
1000 E. University Avenue Laramie, WY 82071
(307) 766-5438 | faculty.senate@uwyo.edu
www.uwyo.edu/facultysenate

Faculty Senate - Executive Committee

Minutes

Monday, January 26, 2026

Attendance: Rob Godby (*Chair*), Ray Fertig (*Chair-Emeritus*), Tiger Robison (*Member-at-Large*), Ashley Hope-Carlisle (*Member-at-Large*), Vladimir Alvarado (*Secretary*), Gregg Cawley (*Member-At-Large*).

Members Absent: Brad Rettler (*Member-At-Large*),

Guests Present: David Bagley (*Vice Provost, Faculty Affairs*), Carolyn

Meeting was called to order at 12:30pm.

A motion was called to approve the agenda; seconded and carried.

A motion was called to approve the minutes of the sessions on 12/1 and 12/8; seconded and carried.

Chair's Report

Chair provided an update on the work and activities of the JAC (Joint Appropriations Committee) of the Wyoming Legislature, to the Executive Committee. The JAC in the state legislature has flagged the University for several budget cuts, totaling some 40 million dollars, over the course of the biennium, which is not broadly targeted at the University at large, but deliberately omits certain schools from the budget cuts. Chair provided some background information on the basics of how the committee works, who it is chaired by, and the proposed changes that the JAC is putting forward. The concern of the JAC seems to be oriented politically or ideological rather than due to concerns related to the state's overall fiscal health. Chair noted that the overall fiscal health of the University is already running at a structural deficit, combined with a major cut by the state legislature, that the overall effect will be incredible, and that the University cannot truly absorb the cuts without serious harm to the institution.

Chair noted that the Trustees are moving forward on the demolition of certain parts of campus and is receiving negative feedback about the transformation of the Union parking lot into greenspace.

Chair provided an update on the OCR investigation, noting that many of the organizations have adjusted internal policies to remain compliant with federal directives.

The Trustees began a conversation about advisory boards, and Chair Godby spoke on the roles campus and the interaction they have with different accreditation processes, and the intersection with the Deans. Proposed changes, currently being discussed, include best practices from other advisory boards, but it was noted that advisory boards serve with the permission/permittance of the Office of the University President. Chair noted that he believes the intent behind any potential changes is to make the lines clearer.

Chair requested a member of Executive Committee serve to introduce the Faculty Senate Speaker. Ray Fertig agreed to introduce the speaker.

Chair informed the committee that the Shared Governance Working Group has finally released and presented its final report to the Trustees and that further information will be presented for the consideration of Faculty Senate in the coming weeks.

Chair then spoke about the on-going presidential search, noting that candidates are being selected for interviews with the Trustees in March, before coming to campus in April.

Chair noted that the Trump Administration has decided to defund the NCAR (National Center for Atmospheric Research) Supercomputing center here in Wyoming, which works on climatology. Chair noted that there is a footnote that if/when the center stopped being operated by the federal government, it would revert to full ownership by the University of Wyoming.

Chair reminded the Committee about the annual work of the United Way campaign that is beginning this semester.

Chair reported that Information Technology is working on changing the way it is billing the various departments, moving away from a subscription-oriented model, and working into a one-time annual cost. Chair noted some of the reasons for this change being adjusted.

Chair reported that Human Resources is running a survey on job descriptions and working on adjusting to define what kind of work is being done on campus.

Chair reported that the Faculty Conciliator has finally be appointed officially.

Chair then asked for commentary and feedback about the Chair and Chair-Elect positions which have remained unfilled thus far. Chair provided some potential ideas for filling these positions in the coming academic semester. The chair discussed the overall structure of the executive committee moving forward, noting the potential changes that the Executive Committee is considering to both the structure of the committee's themselves and their overall function.

Other Business

Chair and the committee spent considerable time discussing the role of the Faculty Senate, especially as it relates to the function of Shared Governance and the overall impact that Faculty Senate has and could have. Chair called for more involvement from both the Executive Committee and the rest of the Faculty Senate.

Chair and the committee then discussed the proposed changes to the Bylaws which are being considered for amendment. Chair provided a recap of the proposed changes: eliminating the Faculty Recognition Committee, the Library Committee, the Budget Committee, and the Committee-on-Committees. The remaining committees are having their membership adjusted, giving the larger colleges required memberships on the committees, and making other memberships optional. The intended result is to approximately halve the faculty requirements for committees, hoping to improve both the effectiveness of the committees and their utility. David Bagley then spoke on the duplication of efforts between Academic Planning Committee and the Graduate Committee. Chair noted that the committee charges have not yet been reviewed or rewritten.



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Committee then turned its attention to several regulations that represent housekeeping items, which include changes to titles, or persons filling new roles. Chair Godby indicated that these changes could have been passed by the Trustees, but that they are waiting for Faculty Senate, and that there is nothing substantive in any of the proposed regulations.

Chair and the Committee then briefly discussed Resolution 504 and its role in research, with it being introduced tonight during the full session.

Chair and the Committee then discussed then forthcoming PhD proposal from the College of Heath Sciences.

Chair and the Committee then turned to the consideration of the petition of the LeaRN for faculty representation. The petition was approved.

Chair provided an update for the full Senate's agenda for this evening's session, noting several important items for tonight's meeting.