Faculty Senate
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UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Faculty Senate - Executive Committee
Minutes
Monday, February 9th, 2026

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

Members Absent: Tiger Robison (*Member-at-Large*)

Guests Present: Ben Wilkowski, Ken Sims, Jenna Martin, Paula Whaley (*Institutional A.D.A. Coordinator*), Mandy Gifford (*Provost's Chief of Staff*).

Meeting was called to order at 12:31pm.
A motion was called to amend the agenda; seconded and carried.
A motion was called to approve the amended agenda; seconded and carried.
A motion was called to approve the minutes of the session on 2/02/26; seconded and carried.

Chair's Report

Chair provided an update on the Faculty Dispute Resolution Panel, noting that we are prepared to move forward with general elections.

Chair provided an update on the nominations for faculty and graduate student awards.

Chair reminded the Executive Committee that there will not be a meeting of the Executive Committee next Monday (February 16th).

Chair reported that a process for Academic Freedom has been proposed, but it lacks certain connecting points with other policies and processes.

Chair reported that he has no further updates on the work of the Joint Appropriations Committee.

Chair reported that the Academic Planning Committee has rejected the BS in Data Science, and further considerations are being made. The College of Health Sciences Ph.D. is being postponed pending concerns that were raised previously.

Other Business

Paula Whaley was present to answer questions regarding the Website Accessibility SAP which is coming before Faculty Senate. Paula noted that the compliance deadline for accessibility is in April, but acknowledges that the new compliance directives are likely to be an ongoing process and subject to periodic revision and further federal guidance. Paula noted that the importance of this policy is because the preceding version is extremely old and it needs to be updated. One of the key motivators behind the policy-changes is based on a model of "same-time". One of the key aspects is digital media (pictures, PowerPoint slides, pdf's, etc.), and its accessibility to those with or without a disability that need to be accommodated. Paula highlighted the importance of faculty

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efforts in ensuring compliance within the content being generated by faculty. Paula highlighted the role of a newly acquired tool called "Panorama", which is one of the tools being made available to faculty to ensure compliance. Paula was asked several questions tied to specificities in the policy, such as target numbers and categorical groupings of violations based on severity. Paula stated that the policy-development team is open to hearing feedback from stakeholders across campus. Several questions were asked of Paula about the burden of making course content conform to standards, and who will bear ultimate responsibility and potential sanctions, for ensuring compliance. Chair Godby informed Paula that the likely outcome of the consideration of this SAP will see the Resolution postponed pending further changes to address concerns.

Ken Sims and Ben Wilkowski addressed the Executive Committee regarding the Research Misconduct SAP. Chair Godby noted several concerns with the SAP as is and brought these concerns to the committee to be addressed. Some of the concerns include matters of responsibility and accusations and the processes used to adjudicate during a misconduct proceeding. Another concern is the potential for retaliation from involved parties which may be primary, secondary, or tertiary to the actual complainant.

The committee discussed Resolution 507 and the subsequent changes that occurred after a previous approval.

The committee then discussed the agenda for this evening's full faculty session, noting the postponement of consideration of a resolution. Further changes to the agenda concern the upcoming elections for executive committee for the next year (2026-2027). The committee also discussed potential changes to the Faculty Senate Bylaws that govern the Standing Committees, noting that, as it relates to the Faculty Recognition Committee, in keeping that committee active instead of slating it for decommission. Chair noted that the Library Council Committee Chair is pushing back against the elimination of the Library Council.

Motion to adjourn at 2:25pm.