

Faculty Senate - Executive Committee Minutes

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

Members Absent:

Guests Present: David Bagley (*Vice Provost – Academic Affairs*), Michelle Hilaire (*Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education*).

Meeting was called to order at 12:36pm.

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

A motion was called to approve the minutes of March 2nd, 2026; seconded and carried.

Chair's Report

Chair provided a brief update regarding the legislative session which was recently concluded in the state legislature. Budget that was passed includes a 27.7-million-dollar pool for salary increases for UW Employee's. Chair noted that there is not likely to be an override for the governor's line-item vetoes. Chair noted that the proposed budget cuts by the Wyoming Freedom Caucus have been restored.

Chair provided an update on the Presidential Search Committee, noting that there were 104 applicants for the position of UW President, and further commented that the Committee will begin interviewing 10 candidates beginning tomorrow and finishing Wednesday. By the end of the week, the Trustee's will have their finalist candidates selected and begin interviews the week after next.

Chair provided an update on the release of two surveys that went to all campus employee's, including staff and faculty. The first survey is the Great Colleges survey which asks for feedback on experiences at UW. The second has to do with subject matter questions for the Presidential Search Candidates coming to campus in April.

Chair provided an update on the Executive Committee election, noting the names of candidates for Member-at-Large (Trevor Sorenson, Jordan Hemmingway, Casey Frome, Jonathan Carrier; Secretary (Clifford Marks).

Chair requested an explanation on the Academic Freedom Complaint process for Faculty members, and David Bagley noted that a 'button' (clickable) on a website will be linked to EthicsPoint, a third-party software that is being set-up for the Academic Freedom Complaint process. David Bagley noted that the current process feeds complaints to the certain key individuals across campus in charge of various reporting branches of the UW Community. David Bagley noted that the process is still being finalized, and will utilize different resources and administrators, including the body of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

Chair provided an update on the meeting regarding the BS in Data Science, that occurred through the auspices of the Academic Planning Committee. Chair noted he provided a suggestion for a joint degree with Statistics, rather than the current degree plan which is primarily centered in Statistics courses until Senior year.

Chair informed the Committee on Operations removing access to the Psychological/Wellness Clinic, noting that a solution is being sought somewhat aggressively to bring not only further Shared Governance here at the University of Wyoming, but also transparency.

The committee discussed the Research Office, related to the institutional deadlines for grant applications, which are processed through the Research Office. Chair noted that the receipt of materials is only “on time” in about 50% of the cases.

Chair noted that there is an on-going issue with Donal O’Toole who seems to be launching and orchestrating his own investigations on Campus.

Other Business

The Committee turned to discussion of the idea of extending Thanksgiving break for a week instead of the present three-day model. Chair noted that overall, there seems to be a general position in-favor of leaving things “as is”, rather than adopting the week-long model. Chair and the committee discussed both the pros and the cons of adopting the policy. Chair noted that it will be discussed at the full session of the Senate this evening. Michelle Hilaire addressed the committee about how the specific process will work with the proposed changes to the calendar.

Committee considered the AI specific dishonesty policy that is being forward and its links to the Academic Dishonest policy and process. The committee discussed several potential issues, related not only to specific language within the proposed policy, but also the blanket statements within the proposal as it relates to AI utilization. Ultimately, the Committee decided to bring Brandon before the Executive Committee to provide direct feedback.

Chair provided an update on the proposed changes to the standing Committees of the Faculty Senate, which was paused in its consideration until later, and the updated language that were suggested by Brandon McElroy. Committee discussed some of the further language that has been updated, including a change and making explicit what constitutes a ‘quorum’ within the work of the committees.

The Committee discussed some of the business that will be brought before the full Faculty Senate body this evening.

Motion to adjourn at 2:05pm.