

## Faculty Senate - Executive Committee

### Minutes

Monday, August 31, 2026

**Attendance:** Rob Godby (*Chair*), Tiger Robison (*Member-at-Large*), Clifford Marks (*Secretary*), Jordan Hemmingway (*Member-at-Large*), Brandon McElroy (*Chair-Elect, 2026 - 2027*), Jonathan Carrier (*Member-at-Large*)

### Members Absent:

**Guests Present:** Nathan Coorley (ASUW), Adrienne Freng (Vice-Provost – Academic Affairs)

The meeting was called to order at 12:35pm.

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

A motion was called to approve the minutes of May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026; seconded and carried.

### Chair's Report

Chair requested an update from Adrienne Freng about the Academic Freedom Process that was in development last year and Adrienne provided a brief update about the transition from David Bagley retiring. Final updates are TBD (To Be Decided).

Chair provided an update about the new president and the new executive vice president. September 8<sup>th</sup> there will be the State of the University of Wyoming address. Chair noted that there has yet to be an extended cabinet meeting of the executive leadership pool across campus, and chair further noted that he has not yet had a one-on-one meeting with President Reeves. Chair noted that Reeves has been busy ever since arriving on campus in July. Chair further noted that one of the things that President Reeves is interested in is developing trust and transparency. Chair noted that President Reeves has one primary institutional issue he wishes to address: enrollment. Chair further noted that over the last several years, UW has lost several thousand students to a variety of competitors, in and out of state.

Chair provided an update about the budget shortfall in university operations. At this point, approximately half of the shortfall is being taken by reducing funding to individual departments by about 2% in general funding. The trustees have since done an about-face and have decided to take the shortfall out of the college budgets, targeting 'carry-over funds'.

Chair provided an update about the "Footnote 9" committee, which met throughout the summer. Footnote 9 is a directive from the legislature to reduce university expenditures. Footnote 9 committee work will be presented by President Reeves to the Trustees in the coming months. Chair further noted that there are areas for 'efficiencies' and areas for 'opportunities' that are being developed. Chair noted that some of the areas may draw fear or concern.

Chair provided an update about the recent results of Wyoming's general election. Chair noted that the university and the state perhaps received an early Christmas gift based on the results of that general election.

Chair noted that most of the summer amongst the university's leadership team was consumed with several different transitions and hopefully things that were delayed and pending resolution may begin moving forward in the post-transition space. Chair noted that an incident that arose over the summer regarding chemical storage. Chair provided an update on "Digital Access" pages are ADA compliant in accordance with federal law. This is to include canvas and digital course materials. Adrienne Freng noted that Theses and Dissertations also fall under the ADA compliance laws. Training period for compliance is the fall, with a full compliance goal set for April.

Chair provided an update on the role of community colleges beginning to advance their implementation of "applied" 4-year degrees. Chair noted that the University of Wyoming has a 30-day window to comment on these 4-year plans, and there is very little that University of Wyoming can do to 'object' to these proposals. Chair noted that one of the likely roles of the University of Wyoming Faculty Senate is to help amplify the voices of individual departments. Chair noted that one of President Reeves plans is to emphasize and focus on Division 1 athletics as a primary methodology for driving awareness and advertising.

### **Other Business**

Chair noted upcoming business for the Faculty Senate. Included in that particular passage is the failure on the part of the previous secretary to provide the necessary documentation for several resolutions and the amendments that were being offered.

Chair noted the forthcoming Faculty Senate agenda will hopefully be reviewed and voted on via email next week.

Chair noted that executive committee was expanded by two additional members-at-large. Chair would like to revisit this and hopefully get to be approved.

Chair noted that several SAPs are being advanced this year as a part of annual review process.

Chair discussed the roles of future Executive Committee positions. Jonathan Carrier accepted the assignment from the Chair as "Committee Wrangler for the Executive."

Chair reviewed the results of the "Great Colleges" survey, noting that there was a marked up-tick in approval of immediate supervisors, and further noted that a great portion of the faculty believe that their senators do represent them.

Chair noted that President Reeves has been featured in articles from the New York Times and Washington Post, regarding academic freedom and freedom of expression. Chair encouraged the executive committee to read the articles and noted that the President of the University is not allowed to comment on the litigation. Chair communicated that President Reeves is firmly dedicated to the idea of academic freedom.

Motion to adjourn at 2:00pm.