



**Faculty Senate**  
Minutes  
Monday, September 8, 2025

A regular meeting of the University of Wyoming Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:16pm on Monday, September 8, 2025, in the Senate Chambers of the University of Wyoming Union. Some Faculty Senate members and guests appeared via Zoom.

Secretary Alvarado called the role and a quorum was present.

Members Absent: **Joe Biasi, Hugo de Costa Santos, Dana Dittoe, Todd Guth, Brandon McElroy, Fabian Nippgen, Crystal Sieger, Taylor Stuemky, Jason Toohey.**

Guests Present: Institutional Marketing Website Team (Chad Baldwin, *AVP*)

Chair called for a motion to amend the agenda; seconded, carried.

Chair called for a motion to approve the agenda as amended; seconded, carried.

A motion was called to approve the minutes of the last session (5/5/2025); seconded, carried.

No member from Staff Senate was present to provide a report.

No member from ASUW was present to provide a report.

## **Chair's Report**

Chair Godby reported on the fall-out from the Vote of No Confidence that came about last spring, notably including the Shared Governance Working Group's efforts. He related the behavior of the Trustees and University Administration to incorporate Shared Governance. Chair Godby then spoke about the FIRST committee (Foreign Influence, Risk, Security and Travel) which has been tasked to ensure compliance with changing federal guidelines specifically as they relate to foreign adversaries, and availability of federally restricted or secured technology. Among those that cannot be benefitted are unlawful residents of the country as well as citizens of foreign adversaries. Chair Godby noted that some of these changes will be challenging and then touched on the changes that went into effect July 1, 2025 regarding speech, gender, bathrooms, and campus open carry.

Chair Godby then brought up the departure of Evan Johnson in his role of *Chair-Elect* and solicited recommendations and nominations for potential candidates. Evan Johnson then addressed the Senate briefly about his reasons for leaving the University of Wyoming.

Further announcements: 9/16 is the State of the University address by President Seidel, which is technically a meeting of the Faculty of the University, a body higher than Faculty Senate. On 10/7 there will be a joint meeting of Staff and Faculty Senate, which is envisioned as an informal meeting rather than a formal setting. The purpose of this 'mixer' is to try and bring both Senates together, promote further shared governance, and open doors among individuals to build networks, discuss problems and find joint solutions. On 10/8 there is a Faculty Town Hall, 4 -5pm, in COE 506, where individuals can speak directly with President Seidel.



Chair Godby plans to inform General Counsel about Faculty Senate intending to revisit and propose changes to UW regulations. Of particular concern are regulations 2-2, 2-301, and 2-300.

## **Committee Head Reports**

Brad Rettler addressed the Senate about the charge delivered to the Shared Governance Working Group, as well as their work to this date. MAL Rettler then disclosed the membership of the committee. He noted that there is potential for another member of Faculty Senate to join the Shared Governance. He detailed further meetings of the working group, and some of the content material that the working group was covering. The list of topics where 'shared governance failed' was extensive and encompassed many changes over the last 5-6 years. MAL Rettler discussed the staff reorganization as an example of multiple things going wrong, and a few things going right. He further detailed that most of the problem with shared governance is not in knowing how it is supposed to work, but rather how to make sure it is implemented at the University of Wyoming. The working group, moving forward, is looking at new budget models. Chair Godby then discussed the incremental budget model that is currently used by the University, and some of the options being explored for replacement. Considering shared governance concerns, this is being used not only as a tool to test those principles, but also as a test case for successful integration of shared governance principles. MAL Rettler then took several questions regarding the records of the Working Group's minutes. *Chair-Elect* Johnson then posed a question to MAL Rettler, about the members of the UW Administration who are leaving the University within the next year, and that it is possible that with the 'at-fault' members no longer attached to the University the problem will be resolved by their departure rather than being addressed as a manner of policy that applies moving forward. Chair Godby, then pointed out that this Shared Governance Working Group can be a re-evaluation of the principle of shared governance that is mandated within the regulations adopted in pursuit of shared governance. Chair Godby highlighted that the Working Group shares a spirit of reconciliation. Senator Laegreid brought up the fact that this Shared Governance process needs to be a continued process rather than being addressed and then forgotten. Her concern seeming to be that she wants to make sure there is a permanent means to ensure shared governance relationships with the Trustees. Senator Okpodu then offered some words regarding the lack of administration following its own regulations when she arrived on campus believing that she was going to be the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, only to arrive and find the college was being restructured.

A member of the Access and Engagement Committee was present and offered to provide future reports to the Senate.

## **Other Business**

Chair Godby discussed the positions of Faculty Conciliator and members for the Faculty Dispute Resolution Panel. Nominees and solicitations for these positions were made to the body of the Faculty Senate. Senator Marks provided some information about how the panel works after Senator Laegreid asked a question about time commitments. Several other questions were asked and answered about time commitments, and the workload for the panel. Senator Johnson provided some additional information in context regarding the 2-2 process.

Institutional Marketing was invited to attend and address the Senate. Chad Baldwin, AVP addressed the Senate, provided a presentation for Faculty Senators about the changes to the

website template. Mindy, a member of Chad's Institutional Marketing team spoke about the changes made to the website templates, the CMS system, and some of the results of the new templates going live after the end of July. She also highlighted some the effects of the new changes, including the 'cost-of-attending' calculators which are drawing considerable amount of internet traffic. Mindy took several questions from various Senators and provided simple and direct answers to those questions.

Resolution 495 & Resolution 496 were introduced to the Senate, to be considered at a future date, regarding the Graduate Council and SAP regarding the act of Demonstrations and the like on University of Wyoming campus and using University of Wyoming assets and resources.

Chair Godby then asked a question regarding Prohibited Activities, and the issues surrounding Resolution 491/494, on whether there were specific concerns that needed to be addressed regarding the SAP. Considerable discussion ensued surrounding faculty concerns, and the strictest interpretations provided by General Counsel may be less flexible than intended by the law (Wyoming HB 147) itself. Further discussion amongst the senators detailed potential examples of the flexibility and other matters concerned with adherence to the law in a variety of formal and informal settings.

Motion to adjourn 5:27pm at seconded, carried.