Faculty Senate
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Faculty Senate
Minutes
Monday, September 22, 2025

A regular meeting of the University of Wyoming Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:15pm on Monday, September 22, 2025, in the Senate Chambers of the Wyoming Union. Some Faculty Senate members and guests appeared via Zoom.

Members Absent: Gabriel Barrile, Steve Bialostok, Joe Biasi, Roger Coupal, Shawn Griffiths, John Hoberg, Renee Laegreid, Lydiah Nganga, Fabian Nippgen, Mark Perkins, Jon Pikal, Dan Radosevich, Stefan Rahimi, Bradley Rettler, Samantha Vandermeade

Guests Present: Tara Evans, David Bagley, Carolyn Pepper, Temple Stoellinger

Chair Godby called the meeting to order at 3:15pm.

Secretary Alvardo called the roll and a quorum was present.

A motion was called to approve the agenda; seconded, carried.
A motion was called to approve the minutes of the last session; seconded, carried.

There was no representative from ASUW to provide a report.

There was no representative from Staff Senate to provide a report.

Chair's Report

Several problems were reported regarding sitting senators obtaining the agenda and other related materials, despite individuals that are also on the list-serv having received the same materials at the time of sending. Chair Godby addressed this issue and provided some simple solutions that may or may not be effective.

The State of the University Address, by President Seidel, was then discussed by Chair Godby, who noted that the address was not without issues courtesy of a thunderstorm. Chair Godby further noted that there was a sense of community that came about once the power had gone out, instead of people leaving they drew out their cellphones and proceeded with the address and the panel which continued its discussion. Chair further noted that the political climate of the state, and across the country, has made positive news difficult to come by.

Chair Godby then brought up the program for the Occupational Therapy Ph.D. program being transferred to the University of Wyoming from its current home at the University of North Dakota. Chair provided some background information and assured the Senate that they would have the option to review the information in the coming weeks before final approvals. Chair-Elect noted concerns about the NDA that bound the proceedings behind a non-disclosure and the departure of several figures from the University of Wyoming. Carolyn Pepper addressed the Senate about some further specifics regarding the situation with this program. General Counsel Evans then addressed the Senate regarding the NDA and some of the specifics regarding bringing the program into the

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University of Wyoming. Several questions were asked and answered. Assertions were made about the financial stability of the program, based on obtaining more participants in the program such that the program would be self-funding only after a couple of years and the initial outlay. Tara Evans further spoke to the rush of the timelines and the urgency of the situation. She indicated that the Board of Trustee's would voting on this measure on Friday, perhaps with the addendum of the "board action pending Faculty Senate's approval." Chair of the Grad Council then spoke to the Senate regarding the viability of this program and further noted that the Grad Council voted unanimously in support of adopting the Occupational Therapy PhD proposal. Several questions were asked and answered by various senators.

Chair announced the on-going need for members to sit on the Faculty Dispute Resolution Panel and for the Faculty Conciliator positions that are currently unfilled.

Chair also announced that the October 6th meeting has been cancelled. Chair Godby further announced the President's Town Hall to take place on October 7th. *Chair-Elect* posed a question about the need for this kind of mixer, noting that what is needed is ethical leadership, not further shared governance working groups.

A request by Senator Tabler was made, regarding the death of faculty and other academic personnel, that Faculty Senate should request some clarification about the policies. Tara Evans was able to immediately provide clarification regarding the policy and the guidelines that the institution works under before releasing notice of the death of students, or academic personnel.

Committee Head Reports

Acting Committee-Chair Okpodu then provided a report to the Senate regarding the work of the Academic Planning Committee and highlighted the difficulties she is experiencing regarding the work of the Academic Planning Committee. She further commented that the Committee is very understaffed.

Chair noted the ongoing efforts of staffing the committees, and the difficulties involved. Chair Godby further noted that the Deans of the respective colleges have been contacted and are being given the option of declining participation in the committees, due to lack of resources or time.

Other Business

General Counsel then addressed the Senate regarding the "Campus Carry" regulation that went into effect on July 1st. Further information was given about the policy and the law. Tara Evans further noted that since its implementation there has been one person which has been cited for a weapons violation. She was asked several questions and provided answers to them. It was noted that there might be a need for UWPD to provide their number more broadly around Campus (307.766.5179). It was emphasized that when in doubt it is easier and best to contact Campus PD.

General Counsel then provided an update regarding access and engagement and the monetary and operational issues tied to the House Bill that went into law, specifically programs or other expense categories that are exclusionary in nature based on race or sex, including cautions for any sort of preferential treatment even in something like the name of the group. It was emphasized that there cannot be state or foundation dollars for events or groups that are

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exclusionary in nature. The line between academic/non-academic groups is further confused by the lack of clear guidance.

Resolution 495 was then brought to the floor, a SAP which governs how Graduate and PhD committees operate. A vote was held to accept the SAP as altered by the Graduate Council and the vote was carried. Temple Stoellinger then addressed the senate highlighting the changes the Graduate Council has made. Discussion ensued as the Senators considered various issues, weighing in with their opinions and providing distinctions. A motion was called to open editing to Faculty Senate and passed. Faculty Senators then proposed language changes to the SAP. A voice vote was held to make proposed changes, and the changes were accepted by the Senate. A voice vote was then held to approve the Resolution as amended. Unanimous approval of Resolution 495. Resolution 495 was duly approved by the Faculty Senate.

Chair Godby then brought up Resolution 496, and a motion was made to suspend consideration of the Resolution for a later date. Motion was seconded and carried.

Motion to adjourn at 5:28pm; seconded, carried.