

Faculty Senate
Minutes
Monday, December 1, 2025

A regular meeting of the University of Wyoming Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:15pm on Monday, December 1st, 2025 in the Senate Chambers of the University of Wyoming Union. Some Faculty Senate members and guests appeared via Zoom.

Members Absent: Joe Biasi, Roger Coupal, Tony Denzer, Shawn Griffiths, Renee Laegreid, George Mocsary, Lydia Nganga, Camelia Okpodu, Stefan Rahimi, Bradley Rettler, Shannon Schneider, Todd Schoborg, Crystal Sieger, Trevor Sorenson, William Todd.

Guests Present: Tara Evans (*General Counsel's Office*), Temple Stoellinger (*Chair, Graduate Council*)

Secretary Alvarado called the roll and a quorum was present.

A motion was called to amend the agenda; seconded, carried.

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

A motion was called to approve the minutes of the November 17th session; seconded, carried.

Chair's Report

Chair provided an update on the report of the Shared Governance Working Group, which has delayed its initial report to address the structural elements of how the report was composed. There were several objections to its structure and is being adjusted before it is delivered to the Board. The report will be released early in the Spring.

Chair provided an update on the Faculty Senate Speaker Series, occurring December 10th in the Central Yellowstone Ballroom.

The annual holiday open house is next Monday, beginning at 4:30pm.

Chair provided an update on the Governors proposed budget, noting that the reported information of an 80-million-dollar budget cut is not entirely accurate, based on several one-time expenditures granted by the legislature. However, the Chair noted that the Salary adjustments are possible, given that the governor has slotted 27 million dollars for salary adjustments for all state employees, which include UW employees. Chair noted that operational expenditures are anticipating a budget cut, there is the potential for a salary adjustment.

Chair requested a final nominee for the Faculty Conciliator and the Faculty Dispute Resolution Panel.

Other Reports

A member of ASUW was on hand to provide a report. ASUW has passed resolutions supporting the certificates being considered by the Faculty Senate tonight and is considering

further legislation related to graduate assistant stipends, and a resolution to expand parking north of the new South dormitory.

Molly Hand, from Staff Senate, was present to provide a report to Faculty Senate. A new president has been elected who is serving the rest of this term and through the next academic year. Staff Senate has expressed concern over not being included on the Presidential Search Committee, and Molly emphasized the role of the staff in making sure that the University is meeting its institutional goals. She spoke about the annual holiday market, noting some of the events related to the market. The Holiday Market is December 12th, beginning at 10am.

Other Business

General Counsel's Tara Evans addressed the Senate about federal directive changes and noted that the University of Wyoming has been party to a complaint through former President Biden's Office of Civil Rights noting several violations related to preferences on sex or race when it comes to scholarships. General Counsel Evans gave a brief, but thorough accounting of the history of the investigations and their relationship to the university. Evans provided further information about the way the federal directives work related to race-specific or gender specific organizations. One of the emphases is on the difference between scholarly-directed organizations and exclusive programs that have a component directed at a specific person of a specific race or national origins. General Counsel Evans took several questions from senators and from the public. General Counsel Evans expressed some frustration regarding the lack of available guidance in her attempts to provide guidance to leadership on campus.

A motion was made to suspend the normal operating rules to introduce Resolution 501 and Resolution 502. By voice vote normal operating rules were suspended. Temple Stoellinger then addressed the Senate to provide background information on the Global Environmental Futures certificates. Various senators posed several questions of Temple from various senators and were answered. By voice vote, Resolution 501 and Resolution 502 were passed unanimously.

Chair Godby then brought up and discussed the work of the Executive Committee regarding the Faculty Senate committees that are currently operating at the University of Wyoming. He highlighted the work of the committee, the logic behind the decisions, and the reasoning in updating the by-laws and work of the committees. Three committees are being targeted for disbanding, in addition to the Committee-on-Committees. Chair Godby took several questions from various senators.

Chair Godby spoke on the still open position of *Chair-Elect* and solicited further participation.

Motion to adjourn at 5:16pm; seconded, carried.