

Faculty Senate
Minutes
Monday, January 26, 2026

A regular meeting of the University of Wyoming Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:15pm on Monday, January 26, 2026, in the Senate Chambers of the University of Wyoming Union. Some Faculty Senate members and guests appeared via Zoom.

Members Absent: Joe Biasi, Thomas Grant, Renee Laegreid, Becky Linn, George Mocsary, Amy Peterson, Bradley Rettler, Crystal Sieger, Trevor Sorenson, Jason Toohey.

Guests Present: Jeff Hammerlink, Nycole Courtney (*VP Student Affairs*)

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

A motion was called to approve the minutes of December 1, 2025; seconded and carried.

Chair's Report

Chair provided an update to the Faculty Senate regarding the actions of the Joint Appropriations Committee (JAC) in the up-coming Budget session for the state's biennium. Chair noted that the total cuts being proposed by the JAC amount to approximately 61-million dollars, from both the block grant and from other places. Chair noted that the budget process will begin around next week in February and finalize in March. Chair reminded the Faculty Senators that they are free to exercise their first amendment rights, but to observe policy and regulation and represent yourself as a citizen rather than speaking on behalf of the University.

Chair then addressed the financial situation of the University, noting that while enrollment remains relatively flat, revenues from tuition is falling off. Combined with other factors such as investment earnings falling off because of declining interest rates, even without the state legislative budget session, there is a structural deficit that the University is facing.

Chair then reported about the demolition of one of the sorority/fraternity locations, and that the Trustees are receiving feedback opposing the demolition, and other supporters to maintain Greek life.

Chair reported that ASUW is trying to remove the requirement to turn the Union parking lot into greenspace, but that the greenspace is required by an act of the state Legislature.

Chair reported that the Shared Governance Working Group has presented its final report to the Trustees and will be received by Faculty Senators in the next few days. The report consists of several portions, including a history of how it has been implemented at UW. Chair hopes that the report will provoke considerable public commentary and the report will now be open to public commentary.

Chair reported that there has been no information forthcoming from the Office of Civil Rights regarding the investigation launched by the Biden Administration, including such things as



long-standing minority scholarships. The groups identified and assessed by General Counsel Evans, have since adjusted their internal policies to be more compliant with federal directives.

Chair reminded the Senate about the forthcoming Faculty Senate Speaker Series occurring on February 4th, 2026, at 3:30pm.

Chair provided an update on the Presidential search, noting that it is on-going, receiving applications, and that the committee will not see the applications until February 23rd, 2026. Interviews will be conducted the first week of March, after which they will present their short-list to the Trustees thereafter. Finalist candidates will be on campus in April.

Chair reported that the federal government has determined to shut down the supercomputer center, NCAR, located outside of Cheyenne, WY. The University has an ownership stake, and based on language in the contract, perhaps even ownership over the entirety of the supercomputing center. There may be a partnership with the US Department of Energy, and other partnerships with other universities and companies. There may be the potential for it to be repurposed for the development for AI related technologies.

Chair reported that the annual United Way campaign has begun again.

Chair reported that IT is looking at new budget-models which are tied to annual charges, instead of a subscription-based model that is currently being used on campus. The annual model is budget neutral, and is not generating new revenue for Information Technology, but will help streamline budgeting processes on both sides of the budget process.

Chair reported that Human Resources is conducting a position-survey, and this is not a job audit or a reconsideration of position information, looking for job descriptions that may or may not exist for a given position.

Chair was pleased to announce that Roger Coupal has been appointed as the Faculty Conciliator. Chair also called for further volunteers for the Faculty Dispute Resolution Panel.

Other Reports

There was no one from ASUW to provide a report.

Gwen Dailey from Staff Senate was on hand to provide a report to Faculty Senate. Staff Senate is eager and excited to get the Shared Governance Working Group's final report distributed to Staff on campus. Staff Senate is concerned over the impact of the JAC's budget proposals. Gwen offered support and to work with Faculty Senate regarding any potential resolutions.

There was no one from the standing committees present to provide a report.

Other Business

Chair noted that Resolutions 496 and 499 are both held suspended for the time being, awaiting final drafts from the Office of General Counsel.



Jeff Hammerlinck, part of the President's commission on Artificial Intelligence, addressed the Faculty Senate to detail some of the work of the Commission, and its effects on Campus and the broader campus community. Jeff noted that the duration of the commission is rather flexible, trying to ensure continuity for the future as the technology and its impact continues to expand and be felt. Jeff spoke about the mission and the charge given to the commission by the president of the University, including its impact on the broader community and creation of best practices to help guide the utilization of the tool throughout campus. Jeff provided some information about both federal and state level institutions and AI policies both internally and externally. AI is a multi-spectrum tool that has several different applications including in research, development, economic platforms and tools, and how to put AI to work for the university, the local community, and the state. Jeff provided some information of the various subcommittees that are issue-specific and are tackling their specific issues to make some policy recommendations for the university moving forward. Jeff took several questions from various senators, providing answers where possible, and taking suggestions from various Senators as well.

Nycole Rae Courtney addressed the Faculty Senate providing an update regarding the enrollment and retention numbers. Nycole noted some of the difficulties in obtaining the information on why a student might be leaving, and has begun to evaluate data, but notes the need for further information. Nycole reported that enrollment and retention numbers have remained relatively stable over the last several years. Nycole took several questions from various senators, related to the ideas of retaining students and improving outreach to students who may or may not be thinking of leaving the University.

The Faculty Senate then turned its collective attention to the Executive Committee's introduction of the changes to the Bylaws and the Committees. Chair Godby spoke about the necessary work of some of these committees and that the committees not only represent the eyes and ears of the Faculty Senate, but also an important investment into the processes of shared governance. Chair Godby broadly detailed some of the proposed changes, highlighting the committees that are being proposed for elimination, and those that are being retained as-is by the proposed changes. He further highlighted that there are likely to be changes that are required to UniRegs after these changes are approved of by the Senate. Chair Godby took several questions related to the proposed changes from various senators.

Chair Godby brought Resolution 503 to the floor to be introduced by successful voice vote. Chair Godby then asked for a motion to suspend normal rules to consider and vote on the resolution. By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. A motion was made to pass Resolution 503, which modifies titles within regulations; the motion passed unanimously. Resolution 503 was duly passed by the Faculty Senate.

Chair Godby then introduced Resolution 504, Research Misconduct SAP.

Chair Godby then introduced Resolution 505, Website Accessibility Standard Administrative Policy and Procedure (SAP).

Chair Godby then introduced Resolution 506, College of Health Sciences Proposed PhD Program in Health Sciences.



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Motion to adjourn at 5:32pm; seconded, carried.