



Faculty Senate
Minutes
Monday, February 9, 2026

A regular meeting of the University of Wyoming Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:16pm on Monday, February 9, 2026 in the Senate Chambers of the University of Wyoming Union. Some Faculty Senate members and guests appeared via Zoom.

Members Absent: Hazim Abass, Ahmed Abdelaty, Steve Bialostok, Mary Beth Brown, JJ Chen, Mark Perkins, Stefan Rahimi, Tiger Robison, Crystal Sieger.

Guests Present:

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

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

A motion was called to approve the minutes of January 26th, 2026; seconded and carried.

Chair's Report

Chair Godby provided an update on the faculty dispute resolution panel, noting that we have enough candidates to move forward with a faculty election for the Panel. He noted that we're continuing to look for nominees from any department.

Chair noted that the Faculty Senate Speaker Series was excellent this semester. Chair Godby thanked Senator Fertig for taking over introductory responsibilities at the presentation.

Chair noted that the AI workshop is taking place next Monday (February 16th, 2026), and that it is a day without classes, which gives some extra freedom to faculty to attend the workshop. He encouraged Senators to attend if able.

Chair provided an update on the Faculty Academic Freedom Complaint process, noting the FASRR standing committee has moved forward with a draft that is almost ready to be introduced to broader faculty audience.

Chair Godby provided Faculty Senators with the gentle advice to 'look away' from the Joint Appropriations Committee's activities as the budget session officially begun today. He noted political unrest in the House's work as the budget session commences. Chair highlighted that until the process is complete, we really don't know what we're looking at, and that this session might move into 'overtime'.

Chair Godby provided an update on forthcoming academic programs being proposed. The School of Computing BS in Data Science had its proposal rejected by the Academic Planning Committee and is pending further consideration based on addressing concerns raised by the Academic Planning Committee.

Other Reports



Logan Heard, Director of Internal Public Affairs, was present from ASUW. He provided an update on four Resolutions that were recently passed by the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming. The first resolution is a protest to the JAC's proposed budget cuts. The ASUW also passed a resolution in protest to the JAC proposal to defund the Wyoming Public Media. The next Resolution was passed in opposition to the JAC's proposal to cut 6 million dollars for athletics. The final resolution passed encouraged the legislature to expand the Hathaway Scholarship in the state of Wyoming. Logan also noted that ASUW is sending a member to the Capital daily to lobby for UW's interests during the duration of the budget session. ASUW is also considering options for furthering parking on campus and only matters related to student's interests.

Gwen Dailey, president of UW Staff Senate, provided an update wherein they are drafting a letter of support of ASUW's Resolutions defending the University.

There were no members of the standing committees to provide a report.

Other Business

Chair Godby issued an informal call for nominations for people willing to serve on the Executive Committee. He noted that there are two members-at-large positions, as well as the Secretary and Chair-Elect, and Chair for the coming academic year (2026-2027) that are open for elections. Chair noted that the quality of our shared governance on campus will reflect how serious Faculty Senate is willing to take itself. Chair Godby highlighted the importance of effective leadership during what is going to be a difficult but rewarding semester.

Chair introduced Resolution 507: Amendments to Previously Passed Graduate Committee Formation SAP 2-122.3 to Faculty Senate. Chair noted that this resolution is a minor edit to correct a few instances of poor language. The Resolution was brought to the floor for discussion via successful voice vote. A voice vote was called to accept the amendments made by the Graduate Committee. By unanimous voice vote, the Resolution was passed.

Chair introduced Resolution 508: Revision of Faculty Senate Bylaws related to Standing Committees to the Faculty Senate. Chair provided information about how additional meetings with Committee Chairs has resulted in some additional changes to the proposed committee structures, which are now being offered as amendments. Chair explained that the changes recommend the elimination of 4 different committees, including: the Committee-on-Committee's, The Budget Committee, Faculty Recognition Committee, and the Library Council. The Committee-on-Committee would potentially become a subcommittee of Executive Committee, or the Executive Committee could expand to include one or two new people to serve as Liaisons to the standing committees. The Budget committee would likely be reformed, on occasion and as necessary, as a subcommittee of the Executive Committee or possibly the Academic Planning Committee. Several proposals have been made for the Course Review Committee and the USP Committee. A final version of the bill will be introduced on February 23rd, 2026. Chair Godby took several questions and comments related to the role of this resolution in the proposed changes, potential impacts, and the efforts required to run the various parts of the Faculty Senate Standing Committees.

The interim report of the Shared Governance Working Group is now available, and Chair Godby requested and solicited responses, reactions and input regarding the report. Chair Godby detailed



some of the highlights from the report, including the overall efforts of Shared Governance and means for generating better processes to ensure that Shared Governance is taking place at the University of Wyoming. Chair Godby opened the floor to questions and comments regarding the interim report.

The Faculty Senate then considered Resolution 504. Chair Godby provided some information about the resolution, background behind the changes that have been written into the Research Misconduct SAP, as well as other concerns related to the deployment and utilization of the SAP throughout campus. Chair Godby pointed out that the Research Committee has yet to review the proposed SAP. Chair Godby explained that the Executive Committee is recommending this resolution be postponed for the time being, to allow for further review, evaluation and potential changes. Chair Godby then requested commentary and feedback from Faculty Senator's. A motion was made to postpone Resolution 504 for further consideration; seconded and carried.

The Faculty Senate then considered Resolution 505: SAP 4.5.1: Website Accessibility Standard Administrative Policy and Procedure (SAP). Chair Godby explained that one of the principal changes in the forthcoming administrative policy is the shift towards faculty responsibility for all digital content in their course content when it comes to accessibility and accessibility standards, which are currently being dictated by federal law (American's with Disabilities Act). The Faculty Senate considered some of the pitfalls of the SAP as currently constructed, with questions and comments from various senators. Chair Godby recommended, on behalf of the Executive Committee, to postpone consideration of this Resolution until such time as the potential challenges are resolved and the questions have been answered. A motion was made to postpone further consideration of Resolution 505; seconded and carried.

Chair Godby then requested for other parties under the agenda item of "Item's Not Yet Known". Senator Laegreid introduced the Faculty Association, a chapter of AAUP, has officially reopened its doors and exists as an advocate for academic freedom and shared governance. The chapter will meet the first Thursday of every month at the Cooper House from 4:30pm to 5:30pm. Senator Laegreid also noted that while it is open to all faculty, except for the more "administrative" academic personnel. Senator Michalak provided a warning about the role of "Space Committee's" on campus, which determine space allocation for various units on campus. Senator Hawes provided an update on the Drone Policy SAP, which still has a singular issue that requires being addressed namely a faculty member who is drone-certified on the committee. Nominations are being accepted by Senator Hawes for this faculty member to be appointed.

Motion to adjourn at 5:45pm; seconded, carried.