



Faculty Senate

Minutes

Monday, March 9th, 2026

A regular meeting of the University of Wyoming Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:19pm on Monday, March 9, 2026, 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, George Mocsary, Lydia Nganga, Camelia Okpodu, Mark Perkins, Stefan Rahimi, Crystal Sieger, Taylor Stuemky, Samantha Vandermeade.

Guests Present: David Bagley (*Vice Provost – Faculty Affairs*), Carolyn Pepper

Secretary Alvarado called the roll and a quorum was present.

A motion was made to approve the agenda; seconded & carried.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of February 23rd, 2026; seconded & carried.

Chair's Report

Chair Godby provided a final update on the work of the state legislature's budget session, noting that VP Smith was grateful for the way campus kept its collective cool, which allowed for the successful passing of the budget for the coming biennium. Chair noted that it is unlikely the governor's line-item vetoes will be overridden by the state legislature. The budget shortfall presented initially has been made up, and the proposed cuts have been removed, restoring the full budget for the University. There have been a few directives related to efficiency that have been presented, but it is expected that by the middle of the week, the budget will be finalized. Included in the budget a request for 27.7 million dollars for salary increases (CoLA) has been approved, said salary increases targeted to Faculty and Staff.

Chair Godby provided an update on the work of the Presidential Search Committee, who have selected their initial 10 candidates. These candidates will be interviewed this week by the committee before the final six are presented to the trustees to be interviewed. This list of candidates will be narrowed down to three candidates who will then be brought to campus for a final interview and combined sessions with Faculty Senate and Staff Senate to serve as a general Q&A. Chair noted that there is a survey that was released today in order to get questions from staff and faculty that will then be posed to the candidates while they're on campus. Chair noted the caliber of candidates requires a lack of release of the names until it is determined whether they're finalists. Chair Godby took a few questions related to the Presidential Search.

Chair Godby provided information about the work of the Faculty Academic Standards, Rights and Responsibilities committee has developed a process for Academic Freedom Complaints for faculty members, stating that the process hasn't been approved yet, but it's being vetted and implemented.

Chair Godby provided notice that Great Colleges will be releasing a new survey in the coming weeks to gauge University progress and trying to assess 'where the campus is'. Chair Godby



affirmed that the survey is anonymous, requesting only information based on role on campus (administrator, staff, faculty). Chair Godby took several questions about the survey from various senators.

Other Reports

There was no one from ASUW present to provide a report.

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

Jared Studyvin provided a brief report on the work of the Academic Planning Committee, stating that several bachelor's degree programs, as well as several certificates, are currently being reviewed by the committee.

No other standing committee was present to provide a report.

Other Business

Chair reminded the Senate about the open positions on the Faculty Dispute Resolution Panel.

The Faculty Senate then took up consideration of Resolution 506, which had been postponed for a vote based on concerns raised by the Executive Committee. Those concerns, having been addressed and resolved, a fresh proposal was delivered to the Executive Committee which brings the matter back to the Faculty Senate. A motion was called to approve Resolution 506, which approves the program being proposed by the College of Health Sciences. Volunteers from CHS were on hand to answer questions from Senators; seconded and carried. By voice vote, resolution 506 was passed unanimously.

The Faculty Senate then took up consideration of Resolution 508, which had been postponed based on concerns raised by several senators regarding the composition of committees. These concern including a mandatory membership component and the need to be representative of smaller units on campus, having been addressed by the Executive Committee. A motion was made to un-table the resolution. Senate then discussed the addition of language, which targets Section 3, part b (Composition of the Committees). Senator Fertig offered an amendment. Senator Sprout-Ahrenholtz offered an amendment. By voice vote, the amendments were accepted unanimously. Senate then considered the material in the Proposed Changes to Committee Bylaws, about Quorum in the committees. Senator Fertig offered an amendment, that proposed a middle ground between previous comments and the original material. By voice vote, the amendment was accepted unanimously. Questions were asked and answered regarding the *ex-officio* membership of the various committees. A further amendment was offered by Senator Hawes, to allow the Executive Committee to make further editorial changes necessary, including referencing now dissolved committees and to maintain the content and meaning of the Bylaws as approved. Senator Marks offered a further amendment, replacing 'content and meaning' with 'spirit'. By voice vote, the amendment was approved and accepted unanimously. Faculty Senate then took a vote on passing the Resolution, which confirms the Bylaws as amended; by voice vote, the resolution was passed unanimously.



The Faculty Senate then heard the stump speeches of next year's candidates for the Executive Committee. Senator Jordan Hemmingway addressed the Senate first and is standing as a candidate for Member-at-Large. Senator Casey Frome, standing for Member-at-Large, then addressed the Senate. Senator Trevor Sorenson, standing for Member-at-Large, then addressed the Senate. Jonathan Carrier, standing for Member-at-Large, was unable to be present but sent a video to be played on his behalf. Chair noted that there is the potential for all four candidates to serve, depending on whether UniReg 2-301 is updated to expand the membership of Executive Committee. Senator Sprout-Ahrenholtz posed a question about the suitability of alternates serving as members of the Executive Committee. Senator Marks, standing for Secretary, then addressed the Senate. Senator McElroy, standing for Chair-Elect, then addressed the Senate. Chair Godby then addressed the Senate regarding his potential second term as Chair of Faculty Senate. Chair Godby spoke about the responsibilities of Faculty Senate and his vision of the role.

Chair Godby then spoke about the up-coming survey which is soliciting subject matter for the Presidential candidates. Chair Godby requested some feedback on what sorts of questions should be asked of the potential candidates. Various senators suggested some topics for questions.

The Faculty Senate then turned to consideration of the Academic Program Review SAP, with Chair Godby noting that it has been changed via direct feedback from multiple different sources. Chair recommended to the Senate that low producing programs should not be included in the SAP, as there is already a process that deals with such programs. Senate discussed some of the advantages and disadvantages behind the changes, and the SAP in general, as well as philosophies for moving forward.

The Faculty Senate then turned to consideration of the Retention, Tenure, and Promotion SAP, which had several changes which were done without review from the Faculty Senate. A motion was made to table consideration the RTP SAP until the next meeting; seconded and carried.

The Faculty Senate then discussed the possibility of extending the Thanksgiving Break to a week-long instead of a two-day break. Chair Godby provided some necessary context and the propositions history and future as it moves to being considered by the Trustee's. Faculty Senate discussed and an informal straw poll recorded that only one person remaining in the room was supportive of the idea.

Motion to adjourn at 6:00pm; seconded, carried.