



Faculty Senate
Minutes
Monday, April 20, 2026

A regular meeting of the University of Wyoming Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:16pm on Monday, April 20th, 2026, in the Senate Chambers of the University of Wyoming Union. Some Faculty Senate members and guests appeared via Zoom.

Members Absent: Carolyn Anderson, Gabriel Barille, Joe Biasi, Nathan Clements, Roger Coupal, Hugo De Costa Santos, Jake Hawes, John Hoberg, George Mocsary, Fabian Nippgen, Todd Schoborg, Crystal Sieger, Jared Studyvin, Taylor Stuemky, Samantha Vandermeade, Aaron Wood.

Guests Present: Michelle Hillaire (*Vice President of Undergraduate Education*), Tara Evans (*General Counsel*)

Secretary Alvarado called the roll and a quorum was present.

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

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

A motion was made to approve the minutes of April 6th, 2026; seconded & carried.

Chair's Report

The Chair noted that that Spring Convocation occurred last week, and the Chair kept his remarks limited to thanking President Seidel for his service to the University.

The Chair provided an update to the Faculty Senate about the Dearly Departed survey, including its structural nature and trying to embed the survey in the separation process.

The Chair noted that the Drone SAP has been returned to the office of General Counsel.

The Chair addressed the appointment of Executive Vice President Sheetz to the position, stressing the fact that this position has been empty on campus for several years, and that shared governance processes were followed to a certain extent regarding the appointment. The heads of the Senate were informed about the potential hire in advance.

The Chair addressed the appointment of Carolyn Pepper as Dean of the Graduate School.

The Chair addressed a memo regarding low-producing programs, including philosophy and religious studies.

The Chair repeated a call for Faculty to serve on the Faculty Dispute Resolution Panel.

The Chair notified the Senate that the School of Computing has changed the name of its certificate from "Unmanned Aerial Systems" to "Uncrewed Aerial Systems".

Other Reports

No one from ASUW was present to provide a report.

No one from Staff Senate was present to provide a report.

Casey Frome, of the Faculty Academic Standards, Rights and Responsibilities Committee, provided a report about *Process B* components of the Title IX violations. The Committee has been working with General Counsel about the Title IX investigations. The idea behind the change is looking to make things more accurate, and specifically oriented to the process. Casey also noted that the Academic Freedom policy is still in development in the form of a SAP, which will be introduced in the Fall. Casey requested comments to come rapidly.

Senator Sprout-Ahrenholtz provided an update about the next-gen University Studies Program, noting that previous concerns raised by Faculty Senate have been addressed, and specific language regarding emergent technologies (such as A.I.), digital literacy language were refined. VP Michelle Hilaire noted that the actual implementation of the USP has yet to be determined

Other Business

The Senate then acknowledged that Resolution 504: Research Misconduct SAP remains postponed and is currently assigned to the Research Committee for comment. Chair Godby noted that the SAP will be resubmitted to Faculty Senate at a future date for further consideration by the Senate.

The Senate then acknowledged that Resolution 505: SAP 4.5.1: Website Accessibility Standard Administrative Policy and Procedure (SAP) remains postponed and is currently assigned to the Student Interaction Committee for comment. Chair Godby noted that the SAP will be resubmitted to Faculty Senate at a future date for further consideration by the Senate.

The Senate then acknowledged that Resolution 499: Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drone) Policy remains postponed, to clarify further issues and questions around the formation of the SAP. Chair Godby acknowledged that it may appear in a finalized form at the next meeting of the Faculty Senate.

The Senate then considered Resolution 513: College of Arts and Sciences Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership. Professor Gabbel Taggart addressed the Senate about transforming the concentration in the Master of Public Administration program into a graduate certificate. By voice vote, the resolution passes, unanimously.

The Senate then considered Resolution 514: College of Agriculture, Life Sciences and Natural Resources Certificate in Ranch Management & Agricultural Leadership Proposal to be discussed and voted on. By voice vote the resolution supporting the creation of the certificate passes unanimously.

The Senate then considered Resolution 516: Faculty Senate Bylaw Changes to Accommodate Committee Bylaw changes. Chair described the changes that are being developed and offered to the Senate for consideration. Senator Laegreid offered an amendment adding the language “shall be informed immediately and kept apprised of a search to replace the officer in order to expedite”



in the section of “Officers Terms and Duties”. Senator Sprout-Ahrenholtz offered an amendment targeting specific parts of the description of the Executive Committee and what it is for. By voice vote, the amendments were accepted unanimously. The Resolution was then brought to a voice vote, and by that vote, the resolution was passed unanimously.

The Senate then considered Resolution 515: Request of Review for UniReg 2-301 to accommodate Committee Bylaw changes in the University Regulations and to reconsider the position of the Faculty Senate Coordinator. The Resolution requests that the different layers of the University come together to clarify the position of the Faculty Senate Coordinator in section 7. The motion, by voice vote, passes unanimously.

The Chair reintroduced Resolution 496: UW Regulation 6-4 and SAP: Demonstrations on University Grounds, which has been substantially reworked following periods of feedback. This policy is intended to be public-facing and represents a university standard administrative policy. General Counsel Evans spoke about the general purpose of the SAP, its origins, and reiterated that the SAP is supposed to be a strongly supportive SAP with regards to free speech and the university cast in a supportive place.

The Chair introduced Resolution 517: College of Arts and Sciences: Graduate Certificate in Criminal Justice.

The Chair introduced Resolution 518: Sponsored Projects Receivables Collection and Write-Off Policy SAP, proposal to be discussed and voted on next meeting.

The Faculty Senate then discussed the appointment of Carolyn Pepper as Dean of the Graduate School. The Chair noted that there is not a consistent practice for the appointment of internal candidates, noting discrepancies between how Dean Pepper and David Bagley’s positions were arranged to be replaced. The Executive Committee was directed, by motion, to request a formal and transparent process, for internal appointments. By voice vote, the motion passes, and the Executive Committee is so directed.

The Faculty Senate then discussed the pool of money created by the Legislature to be used for salary adjustments aligned with market-level compensation and inflation. The Chair provided a report on the nature of the pool, and the current work of the administrative ad-hoc Budget Committee in assigning that pool. The Chair requested the Faculty Senate provide a directive to the administration about how to allocate the pool. A motion was made by Senator Hewlett to direct Chair Godby to create a resolution that discusses principles and conveys a suggested allocation of the raise pool. The motion was brought to a vote, and passed.

A motion to adjourn at 5:27pm; seconded and carried.