

Faculty Senate (FS) Minutes Monday, September 14, 2026

Chair Godby calls the meeting to order.

Chair Godby reports that

- guidance will be forthcoming about UW's AI platform, Boodlebox. Trainings will ensue thereafter.
- UW has purchased a campus license for Adobe. Commencing now, no support will be given for individual licenses purchased earlier. Like Office, access to Adobe will be through IT. Any questions about our new license should be directed to IT.

Following Chair Godby's report, Nathan Corley, the new ASUW liaison, reported on ASUW:

- they will sponsor a meeting with Wyoming's candidates for governor on Friday, 9/18 from 12-2 in the Union Family Room;
- ASUW has many events scheduled for Homecoming. Director Corley reminds us that Homecoming events are scheduled for the entirety of next week leading up to the football game that starts at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, 9/26/26.

In lieu of a Staff Senate report, Chair Godby advised FS that Staff senate is in the midst of a leadership transition.

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate on Monday, 9/28 will occur in the College of Business Auditorium because of a scheduling snafu.

Professor Jacqueline Bridgeman of the UW College of Law reported out that she has formed a committee to work on a non-partisan program to encourage citizens to vote. The program will happen in the Union Breezeway during the first week of October. She requested Faculty Senate sponsorship.

There was no old business

New Business:

Executive Vice President Kraig Sheets introduced himself to the Senate. He gave a brief biography, and he said that he wants to get to know us to better serve President Reeves and UW. While he stated that the President's priorities could be discerned by watching the President's State of the University address, he did emphasize that the President's top priorities were one, to enhance and improve a vibrant campus culture to two, "grow the brand" to increase enrollment. Their third priority would be to leverage our R1 status to partner with a more diverse set of industries. Sheets concluded by saying that he (the EVP) had an open-door policy and welcomed anyone to reach out to him if they wanted to share ideas over coffee, which apparently he has 18 cups of a day.

Thereafter, Chair Godby reminded the FS that we will revisit our side of shared governance. He reminded faculty senators that it is their responsibility to share discussions in faculty senate with constituents so that they are aware of them and can offer input or ask questions through their senators or directly.

He then clarified the current three levels of faculty input: 1) We have the final say on (we “establish” in the language of University regulation 2-301) academic matters of curriculum, degree requirements, matriculation, etc.; 2) we participate in matters of policy as it relates to campus planning and, if necessary, campus crisis management (e.g. financial exigency). In this role we are more of a partner to the administration; and 3) We may be consulted or asked for input when it comes to high-level hiring, like President and Provost. The full responsibilities of faculty Senate are described in regulation as follows:

Faculty Responsibilities and Authority outlined in UW Regulation 2-301:

- Establish and review curriculum
- Establish general requirements for conferring degrees and certificates;
- Establish standards for admission, retention, dismissal and education of students;
- Participation in formulating and implementing policies governing standards and procedures for faculty appointments, promotion and tenure, post tenure review, dismissal, academic freedom, sabbatical leave, employment benefits, and conduct and discipline;
- Participation in planning and decisions regarding physical and human resources, space allocation, and budgetary priorities of the University;
- Participation on any Financial Exigency Advisory Committee;
- Provide input on the selection of a new President and a Provost of the University;
- Propose amendments or additions to, provide recommendations on, and be substantially involved in establishing UW Regulations and Standard Administrative Policies and Procedures that have an impact on the academic mission, including but not limited to curriculum, degrees and certificates, and admission, retention, dismissal and education of students;
- Provide a means for which any matter pertaining to the academic mission may be brought to the Faculty Senate or the University Faculty for discussion and appropriate action;
- Establish and maintain the Faculty Senate Bylaws.
- NOTE: the full UW Regulation can be found http://www.uwyo.edu/regs-policies/_files/docs/regulations-2021/uw_reg_2-301_approved_6-16-21.pdf

Chair Godby then reported out that he has met with Reeves and Sheets and he characterized the new administration as “big picture” leaders as opposed to micromanagers. They both want to reinforce and magnify UW’s thriving campus culture and use that culture to grow the campus.

The Chair then went on to advise FS about what would be forthcoming. Specifically, he told FS that we will have to revisit a few bills from last year, the most prominently bills regarding the Faculty Senate Bylaws and reshaping the faculty committee structures, memberships, and administration. These will be revisited to formalize the final language as that agreed to in discussions last year was lost by our Senate Secretary and therefore to uphold the integrity of senate decisions, instead of transcribing that language from memory, we will approve the final language in future votes in the near future.

Subsequently, Chair Godby previewed the forthcoming challenges involving Wyoming Community Colleges’ (CCs) new ability to create applied four-year bachelor’s degrees. UW’s role in this is purely advisory, we are allowed comment with respect to duplication and workforce need as such proposals are forwarded to the Wyoming Community College Commission, however, that input is purely advisory. UW has absolutely no veto power over the CCs establishing degrees that mirror ones already long established at UW. It was noted that as programs are established at community colleges they may have enrollment consequences, especially on similar programs at UW.

Agenda items regarding new Standard Administrative Policies and Procedures, and the general discussion and description of the Great Colleges Survey outcomes were postponed to the next meeting due to the Zoom issues we were experiencing in the Senate Chambers.

General Business: A Senator informed the room about how a unilateral decision was made to change how the chemical stockroom functioned, and that the Senate should address this issue in future meetings. Chair Godby noted that Faculty senate has been in communication with UW administration regarding the need for a more open and transparent space allocation process that allows greater campus input, particularly on decisions that affect research programs or faculty activity in research and teaching or student well-being on campus.

Thereafter, Chair Godby reminded FS that **the September 28th meeting, will occur in the College of Business Auditorium in the basement of the College of Business building.**

At 5:03 pm, Secretary Marks moved and Senator Michalak seconded that we adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The FS then went into executive session. Senators on Zoom were unable to participate in this session due to technical difficulties in

the senate Chambers in keeping the Zoom session open. These same difficulties marred the general meeting. We will do our best to address those in coming meetings and apologize to anyone who had difficulty hearing discussions in the general meeting.