

Faculty Senate – Executive Committee

Minutes

Monday, March 31, 2025

Attendance: Ray Stuart Fertig III (*Chair*), Ashley Hope Carlisle (*Member-at-Large*), Treva Sprout-Ahrenholtz (*Secretary*), Vladimir Alvarado (*Member-at-Large*), Tiger Robison (*Member-at-Large*), Rob Godby (*Chair-Elect*), Greg Cawley (*Member-at-Large*).

Absent:

Guest(s): Mandy Gifford (*Chief-of-Staff to the Provost*), Evan Johnson (*Chair-Elect AY 2025-2026*), Brad Rettler (*Member-at-Large, Elect*), Scott Turpen (*Interim Provost*), Kyle Moore (*Vice Provost, Enrollment Management*), Tara Evans (*UW General Counsel*), Jim Ahern (*Vice Provost, Graduate Education*), Kelsey Kyne (*Chief of Staff to the President*)

Meeting called to order at 12:16 pm.

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

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the last session; seconded, carried.

Chair's Remarks*Cabinet updates:*

Administrators have a bit of concern over the Charlie Kirk event scheduled for later in April.

U.S Department of Education OCR, UW is not defending its position, and the PhD project has been discontinued.

Board of Trustees Updates:

A potential new fee/fine for late submissions to ROAMWyo has been walked back for consideration for the time being, as the Chair tries to find a less putative approach to ensuring on-time submissions. Overall enrollment indicates that enrollment is up by 1.4% over last spring at this time; it remains unclear if this is noise or actual change.

Tier-1 engineering report: Comprehensive report in the board materials that is worth reading in the context of what's happening on campus today. The board had little questions of substance but repeatedly attacked Dean Wright about questions that were answered in the report. It was clear that the board was looking to find a reason to attack his leadership.

Other Business

Test-Optional Admittance Policies: Kyle Moore then addressed the committee about “test-optional” admittance policies. Chair highlighted some of the reasons for the changes during the last several years, including the role of COVID in driving enrollment during the COVID pandemic. Kyle advocates for this policy to be reinstated in perpetuity. Kyle then turned to data over the last five years, citing increased numbers of applications and increased retention-rates in extant students. Another interesting highlight, implied to be data-driven, is the denial rate of applicants. Kyle highlights differences in nation trends and UW overall. Discussion of the changing dynamics of higher

education, and trends in the consumer side of higher education. Kyle did not come to the committee to advocate for test-optional being adopted permanently citing that evidence review and data-driven indicates it has not had a negative impact on the quality of students for incoming classes. Change is being driven by the fact that changing markets indicate that students will prefer to take the easy way and choose competitors over the University of Wyoming. Some discussion of alternatives and the differing messages that the test-optional admittance policies may or may not encourage. Some additional discussion of current policies and different measures of data, different signifiers and the changes in the enrollment patterns at UW. Kyle took several questions from the various committee members, answered them where possible, and took several notes about requests for information that may help adjust the decision-making process. The suggestion was made by members of the committee, and by VP Moore, to “punt” this issue down the line for several more years, subject to revisiting if it proves necessary.

Tara Evans then began a discussion of the *Equal Opportunity, Prohibited Efforts and Functions, and Institutional Discrimination SAP* which was in line with both Board Directives and changes in state statutes. Tara highlighted some of the shifts and changes that were made and then took questions from the committee. Tara pointed out that sections 3, 4, 6 are open to being modified and are policy calls; sections 1, 2, 5 are codified legally by state law and are not subject to change.

Discussion of questions on proposed Anti-Human Trafficking and Forced Labor SAPP. Several questions were raised for the Anti-Human Trafficking and Forced Labor SAP, regarding “offered” return-home trips for graduate student personnel who lose their positions. Tara answered questions regarding the SAPP and promised to investigate some of the issues raised by the committee. Several committee members voiced concerns with specific parts of the SAPP, and Tara Evans addressed those concerns where possible.

The Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drone) SAPP was then discussed and the reasoning for it being adopted is because of state law being passed, there are potential complications and contradictions inherent to the SAP, and the contrast between state and federal law.

Motion to amend the agenda for the next full Senate meeting was made; seconded, carried.

Motion to adjourn at 1:46pm; seconded, motion carried.