

FACULTY SENATE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES

26 August 2024

IN ATTENDANCE:

OFFICERS: Ray Fertig, *Chair*; Rob Godby, *Chair-elect*; Treva Sprout Ahrenholtz, *Secretary*; Vladimir Alvarado, Gregg Cawley, and Ashely Hope Carlisle, *Members-at-Large*.

Guest: Jim Ahern, *Vice Provost and Dean of the school of Graduate Education*; Mandy Jane Gifford, *Chief of Staff to the Provost*.

Chair Ray Fertig called the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSE) meeting to order at 12:17 pm.

The Chair called for a motion to approve the agenda; motion made, seconded, and carried.

The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes of May 6, 2024; motion made, seconded, and carried.

The Chair reported that enrollment growth would be one of the main priorities of the administration going forward and that he had spoken with administrators on how this would create changes among faculty, and that he had not received an answer. The Chair noted that this had been a discussion during the summer's meetings of the Board of Trustees and the President's Cabinet.

The Chair reported that during his May report to the Board of Trustees he had called for a pause or cessation to the Staff reorganization, which Staff Senate had reiterated, and that the administration had acted on this and accordingly reporting lines would not be changing during the current phase and that the focus would remain on standardizing job descriptions.

The Chair reported that the University was looking into changing its budget model and that he was serving on a working group that was considering proposals for this change. The Chair noted that he wished to see the Senate have regular representation during this process and that he had charged Professor Nicole Choi and the Budget Planning Committee to work closely with Vice President for Budget and Finance Alex Kean. The Chair informed the Committee that he had expressed concerns about the suggested changes to the President, and then explained the lead up to the proposed changes.

The Chair reported that as part of the strategic enrollment plan, changes would be made to academic planning. The Chair noted that he had not received any specifics to what changes would be made. The Chair expressed concern that members of the consulting team had not fully understood faculty processes during their time at the University.

The Chair reported that the President was seeking to provide a paid internship to every undergraduate student on campus going forward as a means to integrate experiential learning to university degree programs, but that the logistics had not been discussed. The Chair expressed concern at how this would, if it were possible, be implemented in his department and throughout campus. The Chair noted that he had invited Professor Nevan Aiken to speak on the issue and on how experiential learning would be defined. Chief of Staff Gifford reported that the Next-Gen USP Committee would be discussing this issue and advised the Chair to invite Professor Aiken to meet with the Executive Committee as soon as possible. The Committee discussed.

The Chair reported that the Board of Trustees was working to implement the legislature's elimination of the Department of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The Chair noted that General Counsel Tara Evans had proposed creating two types of SAPP's, one that would be directly responding to action by the legislature or the governor, and the other would compose the normal operations of the University of Wyoming to handle similar legislative changes going forward.

The Chair informed the Committee that the 2-13 request to review the move of the School of Computing had been submitted to the provost, and that there would be a name change to the School of Culture, Gender, and Social Justice, a SAPP regarding allowable expenses, and the creation of two Nuclear Energy certificate programs.

The Chair reported that the administration had sent a concealed carry survey to campus to garner public opinion as well as noting that the results of an ongoing NCAA lawsuits would potentially have a drastic effect on the university budget going forward. The Committee discussed.

The Chair opened the floor to discussion of the Graduate Council's agenda, and then reviewed the Graduate Council agenda item-by-item with Vice Provost Ahern. The Committee discussed.

The Chair opened the floor for discussion of enrollment efforts. The Committee discussed and noted many of the issues with the move from faculty advising to centralized advising. The Committee discussed and expressed concern with the current model of centralized advising.

The Chair called for a motion to approve the Faculty Senate agenda for September 9, 2024. Member-at-Large moved to amend the agenda to replace AY 2024-2025 goals with discuss enrollment efforts and introduce Brandon McElroy as agenda items III and IV. The committee noted that it might be wise to invite Vice Provost Kyle Moore and Nicole Courtney to the full Senate.

The Chair called for a motion to approve the amended Faculty Senate agenda. Motion made, seconded, and carried.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded, and carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:49 pm.