

**Faculty Senate  
University of Wyoming**

Laramie, Wyoming

Minutes of the Meeting of  
18 November, 2024

A regular meeting of the University of Wyoming Faculty Senate (FS) was called to order by Chair Ray Fertig at 3:13 p.m., on November 18, 2024, in the Family Room, University of Wyoming Union. Additional FS members and guests were able to join via Zoom.

The roll was called by Secretary Treva Sprout Ahrenholtz, with the following senators not in attendance and not represented by official alternate or by proxy; Alvarado, Bialostok, Denzer, Dillon, Griffiths, Laegreid, Myers, Nganga, Okpodu, Sieger, Stuemky, and Taheri.

Chair Fertig called for a motion to approve the agenda for November 18, 2024; motion made, seconded, and carried. Chair Fertig called for a motion to approve the minutes of November 4, 2024; motion made, seconded, and carried.

Chair Fertig started his chair's report with an announcement of the Faculty Senate Speaker Series. This fall, Bryan Shuman from Geology and Geophysics will deliver the presentation, "Wildfire and Snow: Their Interconnected Past and Future in Wyoming's Rocky Mountains". In Spring of 2025, Jennifer Stephens from the School of Nursing will bring to campus, "The Amazing and Colorful History of Nursing in Wyoming."

He continued with a reminder that the Next Gen USP working group will join the full Senate on December 2<sup>nd</sup> for further feedback on the Next Gen USP proposal. The Executive Committee met with the Next Gen USP Chair earlier in the afternoon to discuss concerns and questions.

Next, Chair Fertig reminded the senate that FS Exec has tasked committees to look into handling complaints about academic freedom and creating recommended procedures to handle such complaints, and that we are looking into necessary guardrails to protect faculty from having recruiting as part of job descriptions.

He has tasked the FS Budget Planning committee with looking at schools that have implemented an RCM budget model, with particular emphasis on how faculty have been impacted by such models.

Finally, Chair Fertig reminded faculty that the Board of Trustees would be meeting this week to discuss and potentially take action on an updated draft rule for permitted concealed carry in campus facilities. The public comment period for the board will be Thursday, November 21 at 11:15.

Discussion of chairs report followed.

There were no ASUW or Staff Senate reports.

Tiger Robison, Member at Large, gave a committee report update on the Access and Engagement group. He stated that two subcommittees were formed, one in charge of compliance and the other in charge of communications and messaging. Discussion followed.

Chair Fertig brought to the floor Resolution 477: Resolution in Support of Changes to University Regulation 11-8 Incoming Student Live-In Requirement. Motion made and seconded, no discussion. Chair Fertig called for a vote on the resolution, and it passed unanimously.

Next, Chair Fertig brought to the floor 478: Resolution in Support of Changes to the Honorary Degrees Nomination, Review, and Award Process SAPP. Motion made and seconded, no discussion. Chair Fertig called for a vote on the resolution, and it also passed unanimously.

After resolutions were voted on or introduced, Mike Smith, Vice President of Governmental Affairs and Community Engagement, gave a quick update on the post-election legislature. The organization of the next Legislature, including leadership and committee assignments, will take place on November 23. He gave a friendly reminder that any faculty member that speaks to the media as a subject matter expert, will need to do so in accordance with UW Regulation 12-4. UW budget supplemental budget requests were fairly limited and further narrowed by Governor Gordon. One of the supplemental requests was to settle Name, Image, and Likeness funds from the recent NCAA lawsuit, the other was for expanded funding (\$500,000) for WICHE and WAMI. Discussion followed this report.

Next on the agenda, a question and answer period on the draft permitted concealed carry proposal was fielded by Mike Smith, Professor George Mocsary representing the Firearms Research Center (FRC), General Counsel Tara Evans, and Josh Holland, representing the UW Police Department. The committee explained that the draft rule was created in response to a directive from Governor Gordon that all institutions discuss and implement rules for safe carry of firearms. The Board of Trustees may take action on the proposed rule later this week during their November meeting. GC Evans reminded campus of the current policy, which allows for concealed carry on UW grounds, but not in any UW facility. The rule would allow for permitted concealed carry in certain UW facilities, but not all, as outlined in the proposal. Evans also reminded senators that handguns were the only weapons approved for concealed carry.

Holland reported on the process for obtaining a 5 year concealed carry permit in the state of Wyoming. One must be at least 21, cannot be a convicted felon, cannot have a history of certain mental illness, physical violence, or drug abuse, and must demonstrate competent use and training of the firearm in question.

Mocsary shared a substantial amount of data from the Firearms Research Center, mainly comparing institutions that allow permitted concealed carry, with those that do not. In summary, he shared that the data shows consistently that CC permit holders are law abiding and careful. Substantially lower injury rates occur if an armed citizen can intervene in the case of an active shooter situation, as timeliness is of the essence and it's difficult for police to locate and immobilize an assailant. Mocsary further emphasized that the data show no change in student enrollment across campuses that do allow permitted concealed carry, nor is there a change in liability insurance policy premiums when it is allowed. In the data collected by the FRC, there were seven accidental discharges of a weapon, none fatal, and no known suicides were associated with the ability to conceal carry on campus.

As anticipated, there was robust discussion from senators with a number of questions on the specifics of the draft rule, or clarification of (or challenges to) the data presented from the FRC.

After discussion of the draft concealed carry policy, the senate engaged in a continued discussion of the Next Gen USP.

Following the discussion, Chair Fertig called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made, seconded and carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm and went into Executive Session.