

Faculty Senate
Minutes
Monday, February 10, 2025

A regular meeting of the University of Wyoming Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:15pm on February 10th, 2025, in the Family Room of the University of Wyoming Union. Some Faculty Senate members and guests appeared via Zoom.

Secretary Treva Sprout Ahrenholtz called the roll and a quorum was present.

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

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

Chairs Report

1. Reminders:
 - a. Next faculty senate meeting 2/24/25
 - b. Faculty Town Hall with President Seidel, February 26th in the Union Family Room from 4-5pm.
 - c. Parking committee membership declined for the future
 - d. Faculty Senate Speaker Event – March 11th, 2025, in the Union Family Room 2-3pm
2. Board of Trustee Report
 - a. 2-13 request out of CEPS and into its own school. The request has been made. Deadline for the provost report is 2/28 and will be discussed by the full senate by 3/10 and voted on 3/24.
3. Academic Forum Report – tying goals to strategic plan and student empowerment has been approved and will go forward for staff but not faculty. Phishing attacks on UW personnel, and interim VP of IT will be addressing the senate about AI and cyberattacks.
4. Cabinet discussion of university priorities with VPs, and most VPs are focused on the needs of their individual units. Chair discussed options for creating a more comprehensive plan for salary/pay increases and advocated for the creation of a comprehensive plan that encompasses COLA adjustments. Several questions were voiced about the chair's suggestions.

No representative from ASUW was present to make any reports.

No representative was present from Staff Senate to make a report.

Committee Reports

1. No reports were made

Other Business

1. Chair-Elect Godby called for volunteers for serving on Faculty Senate Executive Committee, mentioned that there were several candidates for the next Faculty Senate term, and requested more volunteers.



2. Tara Evans, General Counsel for the University of Wyoming, addressed the senate about current situation facing the university with regards to federal and state issues arising from recent administrative changes. Tara spoke about funding concerns currently facing the University. The bulk of her remarks were focused on the actions of the state legislature and recent bills. Several different types of bills including DEI & Gender Identity; cannot use state funds already and restricts even private funding for these events. Further, students cannot be required to take “certain” types of course content. If the law passes and becomes law, it takes effect immediately and takes effect going forward. Courses must be ‘adjusted’ in the catalog to reflect the (prohibited) content. Discussion of the effects of the bill were had. Discussion of gender laws and the effects, gendered bathrooms being mandated. Biological males are not allowed to take place in women’s sports. Concealed carry laws are discussed and the limits of the university to regulate the extent of concealed and open carry. No sexually explicit events (drag shows). Evans discussed the rescinding of Biden executive orders by Trump, including the new rules for federal dollars (grants and general funding). Affirmative action plan rescinded by Trump, although this does not apply to veterans. Immigration was discussed, as well as the impact of Immigration orders. Chair thanked Tara for her attendance.
 - a. Tara Evans answered several questions posed by the faculty regarding general education, USP requirements, and related matters. Further questions were asked regarding gender identity and the nature of that identity. Additional questions about concealed weapons and open carry were asked by various senators. Further questions were voiced and answered about grant funding and the applications of changes via executive order.
3. Misty Eaton, Director of the University Bookstore, then addressed the senate to discuss the StartRight+ (formerly Inclusive Access) program. Misty explained how the content works, the selection process, and the digital management tools for the program; program was created to provide cheaper options to students for textbooks and other applications required for different courses. The idea is to provide students with digital content for a single flat-rate fee that enables better cost controlling for both students and the University itself. Misty discussed some of the issues related to print-materials, and there is a growing difficulty obtaining print copies of textbooks and other materials.
 - a. Misty and Eric Webb answered questions from the senate regarding materials access and listened to issues raised by various senators.
 - b. Chair proposed a few suggestions to make the general process a little bit easier, more transparent, and to help facilitate the access/withdrawal from the program as applicable. Further suggestions were made by various Senators to encourage more positive reactions.
4. Resolution 480 – Motor vehicle and tribal license plate programs. Chair has received no emails about requisite changes to the program. There was no further discussion on any changes. There were no opposed votes; resolution was adopted.
5. Resolution 481 – Allowable Expenses SAPP. Several amendments were made in the SAPP by Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Senators were advised to check in with their constituencies regarding this SAPP. To be voted on 2/24.
6. Resolution 482 – In support of hiring international personnel. For further discussion prior to being voted on. Senators encouraged to discuss the resolution with their constituencies.



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Motion to adjourn at 4:44pm; seconded and carried.