

University of Wyoming at Laramie

FACULTY SENATE

MINUTES

September 9, 2024

A regular meeting of the University of Wyoming Faculty Senate (FS) was called to order by Chair Ray Fertig at 3:16 pm on September 9, 2024, in the Family Room, University of Wyoming Union. Additional Faculty Senate members and guests were able to join via Zoom.

The Secretary Treva Sprout-Ahrenholtz called the roll and a quorum was met.

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

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

The Chair reported that the Faculty Senate speaker series nominations would be extended until September 20th. The Chair reported that the President would be holding the State of the University address on September 17th in the Union Ballroom.

The Chair reported that he was soliciting advice on how to create university websites. The Chair reported that a campus concealed carry survey had been sent out to campus and that the results would be made public on September 18th. The Chair reported that the Senate had requested that the administration halt the Staff reorganization during the prior academic year, and that administration had heeded the Senates' advice and would not be changing staff reporting lines.

The Chair reported that the administration was focused on enrollment growth. The Chair reported that he was uncertain of faculty involvement. The Chair reported that the University was exploring changing its budget reporting model and had formed a working group to explore options, the Chair noted that he was a member of this working group and that the Budget Planning Committee would be heavily involved.

The Chair called for ASUW Reports. No ASUW Representative was present.

The Chair called for Staff Senate Reports. Staff Senate Vice President Joe Baker reported that he had been recently elected and that the Staff Senate had proposed a resolution opposed to allowing concealed carry-on campus.

The Chair noted that the Budget Planning Committee would have frequent reports going forward on the new proposed budget models.

The Chair introduced Vice Provost for Access and Engagement Brandon McElroy. Vice Provost McElroy reported that his role was to support the faculty in both their professional and academic endeavors, and that accordingly he was responsible for advising the president and the provost on the transition from a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion institution to an institution that would comply with current Equal Opportunity regulations. Vice Provost McElroy then stated that he would be open to meeting with any of the Senates constituents to provide clear and concise

communication going forward. Vice Provost McElroy then opened the floor to questions. The Senate discussed.

The Chair introduced Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Nycole Courtney and Vice Provost for Enrollment Management Kyle Moore to discuss the Strategic Enrollment Plan (SEP). Vice Provost Moore thanked the Senate before summarizing the Universities recruitment and enrollment activities over the previous year. Vice Provost Moore reported that the University had formed seven committees to focus on individual issues regarding recruitment and retention that were composed of subject matter experts from across campus.

Vice Provost Moore reported that the administration had formed a Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) working group to retain the work of the previous committees. Vice Provost Moore then presented projected numbers for if the status quo were maintained, if all the suggestions were adopted, and if the university successfully moved into untapped recruitment markets.

Vice Provost Moore noted that more students were becoming comfortable with online education, both before and after Covid-19. Vice Provost Moore then emphasized that online students were one of these untapped recruitment markets and cited that 5,000 students in Wyoming alone were enrolled in four-year online programs. Vice Provost Moore then reviewed similar projections amongst Graduate students and suggested that additional online programs would help alleviate enrollment concerns.

Vice Provost Moore then recapped the strategies proposed by the Strategic Enrollment Management working group, to Strengthen and Align Recruitment to Market Expectations, emphasize Re-Enrollment and Recruit Back, allow for Academic Recovery, improve Graduate Student Success, enhance the Online Learner Experience, and expand the Casper and Online Program Development. Vice Provost Moore reviewed the details of each of these strategies, and then provided the financial details for each scenario. Vice Provost Moore then opened the floor to questions. The Senate discussed.

The Chair asked Vice Provost Moore how faculty would be involved in these proposed changes. Vice Provost Moore responded that faculty could be involved in recruitment efforts across the state and that faculty could consider how to counter the perceived loss in value of a college education. Vice Provost Moore then recounted his recent experiences with students and provided their positive feedback regarding the University. Vice Provost Moore then reported that the best way for faculty to improve recruitment and enrollment was to continue their excellence at teaching and consider ways to communicate that excellence. Vice Provost Moore then opened the floor to questions. The Senate discussed.

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:48 PM; made, seconded, and carried.