

University of Wyoming at Laramie

FACULTY SENATE

MINUTES

September 23, 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 23, 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 September 9, 2024. Made, seconded, and carried.

The Chair reported that the Board of Trustees would be meeting on Wednesday through Friday and that their Budget Committee would be discussing Phased Retirement plans for Faculty. The Chair reported that the Faculty Townhall with President Seidel had been moved from October 1 to October 10 in the Union Family Room.

The Chair reported that the results of the gun control survey had been published and that 87.5% of Faculty had advocated maintaining the status quo. He also reminded faculty members of the public comment section of the Board of Trustee meeting on this topic.

The Chair reported that he had requested clarity regarding faculty research websites and that he would be continuing to pursue this request.

The Chair then reported on his goals for the remainder of the year and reiterated the goals that he stated in his State of the University address.

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

The Chair called for Staff Senate reports. No Staff Representative was present.

Secretary Sprout Ahrenholtz reported that the executive Next Generation USP committee had their final meeting with the Provost and that the proposed USP will be disseminated to campus for faculty input and comment. Notable proposed changes include a digital literacy and experiential learning component, which will be explained in upcoming faculty senate meetings.

The Chair yielded the floor to President Seidel. President Seidel thanked the Senate and noted that student retention had increased over the past academic year. President Seidel reported that he appreciated the conversations that had been held during his time at the University.

President Seidel reported that there was a decline in overall number of students nation wide and that the University should temper its expectations in regards for increases in the number of students. President Seidel noted that this was a conversation that had taken place with the Governor and that the Governor had expressed concern.

President Seidel noted that there was a projected 11% decline in the overall number of students in the western region and that accordingly, enrollment in community colleges was down by 38%. President Seidel noted that along with these factors, fewer Americans held faith in higher education compared to polling numbers from the last decade. President Seidel attributed this to large amounts of debt accumulated and found work that did not require a college degree regardless.

President Seidel noted that the University mainly did not produce graduates with large amounts of debt. President Seidel reported that he wished to improve the University's marketing efforts, but that these did not substantially increase the number of enrolled students. President Seidel reported that the University needed to improve its appeal to potential students, and proposed accomplishing this by a program of "hands-on-learning." President Seidel also proposed working on increasing the number of internships and digital literacy amongst students. President Seidel then pledged that he would try and accomplish guaranteeing a paid internship to each undergraduate student, noting that these frequently improved the outcome of college graduates in the workforce.

President Seidel then reiterated his goals around freedom of expression and that he was committed to the ideal.

The President then informed the Senate of his Distinguished Scholars program and his plans for the Faculty Fellows program. The President then yielded the floor to questions. The Senate discussed.

The Chair then introduced Resolution 467, Resolution in Support of the proposed Dignitary Visits to Campus Standard SAP.

The Chair then introduced Resolution 468, Resolution in Support of the Political Campaigns and Electioneering Activities on Campus SAP.

The Chair then introduced Resolution 469 Resolution in Support of the Official University Communications SAP.

The Chair then introduced Resolution 470, Resolution in Support of the Marketing Brand Standards and Printed Publications SAP.

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:24 PM; made, seconded, and carried.