

University of Wyoming  
President's Cabinet Meeting

May 1, 2025

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. · Coe 506 and via Zoom

Attendees: Chad Baldwin, Jennifer Chavez, Parag Chitnis, Adam Comeau, Nycole Courtney, Tara Evans, Rob Godby, Alex Kean, Kelsey Kyne, Bob Link, Bill Mai, Kyle Moore, Ed Seidel, Mike Smith, John Stark, Scott Turpen

Agenda and Summary of Discussion

- President Seidel Opening Remarks
  - President Seidel discussed potential changes to the cabinet venue and will follow-up in the summer.
  - President Seidel expressed appreciation for the cabinet's work during the end of the semester.
  - President Seidel explained that the bolo tie and belt buckle he was wearing were a gift from Zedora Teton Enos. President has been meeting with Native American Students and Interim Vice President Nycole Courtney on how UW we might be more supportive of Native American students. President Seidel summarized his incredible experience attending a sweat lodge in Lander the weekend before.
  - President Seidel shared that he will be out of town next week and will miss two days of the Board of Trustee's budget committee budget hearings. He will return on Wednesday morning and will attend the full Trustees meeting on Thursday and Friday.
- Enrollment Update
  - Vice Provost Kyle Moore gave an update on current enrollment numbers, New Student Days, activities to bring in this class, and signing days.
  - Vice Provost Moore relayed that today is confirmation day nationwide which means students go through admissions and then confirm by putting a deposit down to hold their place. UW is up 35 confirmed students over last year. However, last year was challenging because of the FAFSA issues and confirmation was extended to June 1. Will need to wait and see if this lead holds in June.

- Moore noted that two out of state areas that are down are Nebraska and California. Nebraska is now incentivizing their students to stay in state with more funding. Often students coming from California are coming from areas that look like Wyoming. The out migration of families from areas in California that had once been strong for us is hurting our numbers here. We are gearing up for a good neighbor scholarship for Nebraska and Colorado.
- Moore commented that UW is doing a much better job in helping students through application and housing processes. The new student days are well received by students and families and students walk away with a full schedule of classes for the fall. Over the summer they will meet virtually with an advisor. Multiple touch points are helping to stave off summer melt.
- Interim Provost Scott Turpen added that faculty involvement in enrollment has been strong this year and that calling campaigns are more strategic. Turpen discussed his experience at the WICHE Conference and noted that the two states that showed largest decline in high school graduation rates are Wyoming and California.
  - Moore noted that UW is on track for the largest incoming class of Wyoming residents that UW has ever seen.
- Interim Vice President Nycole Courtney described the work Student Affairs has been doing on behalf of the current student body to move them through their degree programs in a timely manner. She mentioned the readiness rally happening today that ensures students are registered and do not have any holds on their accounts.
  - Vice President and General Counsel Tara Evans stated that declining enrollments are an issue at most institutions. UW also needs to prioritize getting current students through their programs efficiently and with high quality education.
- President Seidel mentioned he would be making comments on UW's enrollment at the upcoming board of Trustees meeting.
- Staff Impacted by Federal Stop Work Orders
  - Vice Presidents Alex Kean and Parag Chitnis provided an update on staff who have been impacted by federal stop work orders and UW's stop work process.
  - Kean shared that in the last week UW was made aware of cuts to AmeriCorps grants which impact multiple units. Primary units impacted are the Wyoming Conservation Corps (WYCC) and UW extension.

- Vice President John Stark shared that the UW Foundation is going to help with and crowd funding effort for the WYCC. The legislature has also historically provided support for WYCC.
  - Staff Senate President Adam Comeau has not been able to have a discussion on the draft stop work process with the full Staff Senate yet. Next Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> is next staff senate meeting. VPs Evans and Kean will attend this meeting to present the draft stop work process to Staff Senate and solicit feedback. Cabinet also agreed that group meetings with the supervisors of individuals on these grants would be a good way to solicit feedback.
  - Kean will also send the draft stop work process to Faculty Senate Chair Rob Godby for discussion at Faculty Senate.
  - Once guidance is finalized President Seidel will distribute a memo to campus leadership groups.
- Gov. Affairs, Federal Budget/Funding Issues, and REDD (Smith/Chitnis)
    - Vice Presidents Mike Smith and Parag Chitnis discussed Governmental Affairs efforts related to federal budget/funding issues and UW's plan for how to organize and ensure campus compliance with UW Regulation 12-4
    - Smith communicated the plan for how individuals should proceed if they are contacted by a national group with a call to contact their representatives about funding cuts. If/when agencies reach out to faculty and staff, they should notify VP Smith, VP Chitnis and Mike Hill immediately. All concerns will be gathered by this team and submitted to the Wyoming federal delegation in a document. A coordinated message on this process will be needed for campus.
      - Cabinet discussed how internal communication on this topic and others could be improved.
      - Faculty Senate Chair Godby stated that it will be important for the administration to share the document that is sent to the federal delegation with campus, so they know what is happening. Godby also suggested shifting the 12-4 reminder language to be more positive. He shared that more communication on this topic over the summer would be essential to keep people informed and aware that admin is actively working on addressing concerns related to federal funding.