

University of Wyoming  
UW Leadership Team Meeting  
February 3, 2026  
8:30-10: 00 a.m. · Coe 506

**Attendees:**

Ed Seidel, President  
Anne Alexander, Interim Provost, Office of Academic Affairs  
Tom Burman, Director of Athletics  
Scott Beaulier, Dean, College of Business  
Parag Chitnis, Vice President, Research and Economic Development Division  
Nycole Courtney, Vice President, Student Affairs  
Kelly Crane, Dean, College of Agriculture, Life Sciences, and Natural Resources  
Gwen Dailey, Staff Senate President  
Danny Dale, Interim Dean, College of Engineering and Physical Sciences  
Amanda DeDeigo, Interim Dean, UW-Casper  
Tara Evans, Vice President and General Counsel  
Rob Godby, Faculty Senate Chair  
Patrick Hardigan, Dean, College of Health Sciences  
Julie Hill, Dean, College of Law  
Alex Kean, Vice President, Budget and Finance  
John Koprowski, Dean, Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources  
Cass Kvenild, Dean, UW Libraries  
RoseMarie London, Executive Director and Deputy Secretary, UW Trustees  
Bill Mai, Vice President, Campus Operations  
Amy McLaughlin, Vice President, Information Technology  
Beth McMillan, Interim Director, School of Computing  
Carolyn Pepper, Interim Dean, School of Graduate Education  
Peter Parolin, Dean, Honors College  
Scott Quillinan, Acting Executive Director, School of Energy Resources  
Jenna Shim, Dean, College of Education  
Mike Smith, Vice President, Governmental Affairs and Community Engagement  
Jack Tennant, Executive Director, UW Alumni Association  
Scott Turpen, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

## **Opening Remarks**

President Seidel provided an overview of recent international engagements, emphasizing strategic partnerships in Europe. Highlights included collaboration with Freie Universität Berlin, engagement with the Helmholtz Association on critical minerals research, and the acquisition of a 55-tesla pulsed magnet from Goethe-Universität Frankfurt. He also described discussions in Paris with IMT around entrepreneurship and innovation.

Seidel further reported on participation in a Stanford-hosted meeting organized by Stanford's president and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Undersecretary, focused on the DOE "Genesis Misson." A central theme of that meeting was the federal government's growing emphasis on artificial intelligence across research, education, and workforce development. DOE is thinking through new guidelines for undergraduate and graduate education, including required AI coursework across majors and potentially shorter PhD timelines. The department is seeking to form a national consortium of universities to help shape these changes.

Interim Provost Anne Alexander noted renewed conversations with Faculty Senate leadership about reactivating the USP process in light of the Genesis Misson objectives and potentially highlighting AI use in annual faculty reviews. Vice President for Research and Economic Development Parag Chitnis added that a core component of the Genesis mission includes integrating AI certificates into graduate education.

Faculty Senate Chair Rob Godby expressed interest in Genesis Misson but also caution, particularly regarding proposals to shorten PhD programs. There was consensus that faculty governance will play a critical role in shaping any such changes.

Seidel noted that the upcoming UW Foundation Board meeting may be among the final meetings before launching a comprehensive campaign, underscoring the importance of alignment and readiness across the institution.

## **FY27 Budget Preparation**

Interim Provost Anne Alexander and Vice President for Budget and Finance Alex Kean provided an update on FY27 budget planning. While legislative outcomes remain uncertain, guidance is to continue standard budget preparation without attempting to pre-emptively account for potential cuts.

Kean emphasized several structural concerns:

- Anticipated reductions in investment income
- Ongoing pressure on incoming revenues

- The need for heightened spending caution across units. While reserves provide some short-term flexibility, leadership stressed that they are not a long-term solution. Funding per student headcount continues to rise, but revenue growth remains constrained.

Discussion followed regarding the perception that budget reductions disproportionately affect academic units. Leadership emphasized the need to better align expenditures with revenue sources and to clearly distinguish between essential operational costs and discretionary spending.

Concerns were raised about growth in benefited positions during a period of low enrollment. It was noted that hiring growth varies by unit. Several leaders emphasized the importance of demonstrating administrative restraint and active position review when engaging with state policymakers.

Examples of efficiency efforts were shared, including ongoing reorganizations within Student Affairs, Research and Economic Development, and Information Technology. IT leadership noted that while staff levels have remained flat, demand for services continues to increase.

Alexander highlighted opportunities for cost rationalization through better coordination of software licenses and tools (e.g., Salesforce, Adobe) and encouraged use of analytics and benchmarking tools to assess program health. Deans were asked to continue these discussions through Deans Council.

There was broad agreement that program review must be ongoing and substantive. While faculty-driven program development has responded to student and workforce needs, leadership underscored the importance of transparency regarding resource requirements for new programs.

### **University-Wide Compliance Council**

General Counsel Tara Evans proposed the creation of a university-wide compliance council, consolidating coordination among more than 40 compliance professionals across campus. The council would sit under the Office of General Counsel and would not require additional staffing.

The rationale includes reducing silos, improving education and communication, and ensuring compliance responsibilities—currently, often secondary roles—are addressed more systematically. Risk management would remain under General Counsel, with discussion of potentially integrating risk and compliance leadership roles.

The proposal received broad support, including from academic leadership, with emphasis on ensuring the council's work supports research and academic programs and reduces unnecessary bureaucracy.