STAFF SENATE BILL #53

Title: Eligibility for Serving on Staff Senate
Date: April 6, 2022
Author: Senator Kennedy
Sponsors: Senators Nelson and Gomez

WHEREAS, the mission statement of the University of Wyoming Staff Senate states “The Staff Senate will fulfill its advisory capacity while upholding the core values of unity, pride, professionalism, and integrity and with a dedication to honest and open communication, by providing a forum to foster and support a positive and meaningful dialogue among staff, faculty, students, and the administration,” and;

WHEREAS, the composition of the Staff Senate is defined as “no more than forty (40) members, or three (3) percent of the total number of benefitted staff at the time of reapportionment, whichever is less.” (Rules and Procedures Article I, Section 1), and;

WHEREAS, benefitted staff exceeded 1,300 individuals, requiring 40 seats to be allocated among the University’s eight divisions, and;

WHEREAS, the Credentials and Elections committee is tasked with both running elections and filling vacancies in Staff Senate as outlined in Rules and Procedures Article V, Section 1.C, and;

WHEREAS, despite constant work from this committee there have been vacancies in Staff Senate in each month of the 2022 fiscal year, and;

WHEREAS, the total of willing and eligible staff as a whole is sufficient to fill vacancies in Staff Senate, and;

WHEREAS, Rules and Procedures outlines a senator must vacate their position if they “transfer within the University from one division to another,” (Article III, Section 4.B), and;
WHEREAS, Rules and Procedures of the Staff Senate provide for Senator-At-Large seats “used
to fill seats that have been vacant for three or more months in a division that has no other
representation. The Senate-At-Large, though not from that division, will represent the staff of
that division.” (Article VII, Section 3.C), and;

WHEREAS, the term of these senators is defined as “A Senator-At-Large term will be one year,
unless there are no nominees for that seat in the next election. If there proceeds to be no
nominees for the seat, the Senator-At-Large term will follow membership term limits as outline
in this document.” (Article VII, Section 3.C.b), and;

WHEREAS, there are currently multiple vacancies in divisions with at least one other senator,
removing the possibility of Senators-At-Large filling these vacancies, and;

WHEREAS, the Credentials and Elections committee has interpreted Article III Section 4.B and
Article VII, Section 3.C to indicate senators must be employed in the division they serve, and;

WHEREAS, without clear indications, this committee has not allowed senators to serve outside
of their division without serving in a Senator-At-Large capacity, and;

WHEREAS, the Credentials and Election committee strives for transparency in elections while
fulfilling their function in Staff Senate;

THEREFORE, be it enacted that Article III, section 4.B be removed from the Staff Senate Rules
and Procedures, and;

THEREFORE, be it further resolved that any eligible staff member can participate in elections
for any division of the University of Wyoming, and;

THEREFORE, be it further resolved that any eligible staff member can be nominated and
confirmed to interim vacancies on Staff Senate, and;
THEREFORE, be it further resolved that Article VII, section 3.C.b be removed from the Staff Senate Rules and Procedures to avoid redundancy.

Date of Passage: __04/06/2022__________________________

“Being enacted on 04/06/2022. I do hereby sign my name hereto and approve this Senate action.” ___________ ________________________

Staff Senate President, Chris Maki