

UW Staff Senate Full Meeting

Agenda

December 2, 2020 1:15 p.m.

Zoom



- I) Roll Call
- II) Approve November minutes
 - A) Minutes stand approved as circulated.
- III) Approve December agenda
 - A) Agenda stands approved as circulated.
- IV) Special Business
- V) Administration reports
 - A) Division of Administration – Senior Vice President Neil Theobald
 - i) Budget
 - (1) Supplemental budget cuts announced last week by President Seidel
 - (2) Program review decisions will be made in the Spring
 - (3) Governor proposed an additional \$22 million cut to the University of Wyoming but must go through the legislature first
 - (a) President Seidel speaking at the Joint Appropriations Committee next week
 - (4) Governor proposed \$25 million for a new pool in Corbett
 - ii) Questions
 - (1) Senator Traver – How much is the cost of the pool?
 - (a) There is no final design, but he guesses that \$25 million will not be enough. Perhaps \$30 million.
 - (2) Senator Traver – Why do we need a new pool when our budget is getting cut?
 - (a) The request was made prior to these cuts. Our athletic teams cannot use our current pool because of competition regulations. The operating budget is being cut, but the other budget is where the pool money will come from.
 - B) Human Resources - Associate Vice President Tom Koczara
 - i) COVID Surveillance Testing
 - (1) Program up and running at Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory
 - (2) Currently using HCM to track testing population
 - (a) Human Resources sent request to all of campus to verify their on-campus status through the end of the semester/year
 - (b) They assume you are on campus and part of the weekly testing pool unless they are told otherwise
 - (i) If you are not on campus or can completely isolate, contact your decentralized Human Resources representative to have your status changed
 - (ii) Whenever your status changes, you need to update that in HCM.
 - ii) COVID Policy
 - (1) Spring semester plan presented to President and Board of Trustees
 - (a) Human Resources will be pushing out mandatory “training” for all employees by early January
 - (i) Review COVID policy and agree to abide by it
 - iii) Questions

- (1) Senator Stratton – The COVID testing times have changed, cutting off at 2:50PM, which is causing problems with night shift employees. Can this be fixed?
 - (a) He will check with the testing team.
 - (2) Senator Sullivan – Will emails be sent out for testing reminders? Some people are getting them, but some are not.
 - (a) He understands that the emails will continue to be sent out, but he will confirm. As for employees who are not receiving emails, there are a few possible causes. They may have been removed from the testing populations.
 - (3) Senator Casey - I have had some constituents very concerned about the changes to health insurance. I realize that our health insurance is determined by the state, but is there anyone advocating for UW employees about health insurance in the legislature?
 - (a) We are subject to the state’s decisions about health insurance coverage.
 - (b) Senior Vice President Theobald – He always attends any relevant meetings of the legislature. There wasn’t anything that was open for discussion this year, but they certainly “lobby” when necessary.
 - (4) Senator Norris – Are employees being tested once or twice a week?
 - (a) Once a week.
- C) Academic Affairs - Associate Vice Provost Kyle Moore
- i) Spring 2021
 - (1) President Seidel asked several members of Academic Affairs and other areas to put together suggestions regarding course delivery and related issues. There are three main committees addressing the following questions.
 - (a) What would UW need to do for fully online instruction?
 - (b) What would a phased in approach look like (like fall 2020)?
 - (c) What if we need to change to a 16-week semester?
 - (2) Incoming transfer and first-time students for spring semester are in line with previous years.
 - (3) Nationally, there is a 13.7% decrease in higher education applications. UW is doing much better – we are only down 2.3% compared to last year (78 students).
 - ii) Questions
 - (1) Senator Casey – Is there any update on the plan for not having students submit ACT or SAT scores for admission? Are there other things being added to applications? And is that in effect for the spring or fall?
 - (a) University of Wyoming requested the Board of Trustees to consider a test-optional admissions policy starting in fall 2021. We aren’t replacing it with another standardized test. Wyoming students need standardized test scores for various other scholarships or funding sources. Testing sites and options are plentiful enough in Wyoming for anyone who would like to take the ACT.

VI) Old Business

VII) Liaison Reports

- A) ASUW
 - i) No representative present.
- B) Faculty Senate
 - i) No representative present.
- C) Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (Melanie Vigil)
 - i) Senator Vigil not present.
- D) Athletics Planning Committee (Cathy Moen)
 - i) Meeting is Monday and she will update SharePoint afterwards.

- E) Food Security Taskforce (Chris Stratton)
 - i) Next meeting is Friday.
- F) No More Committee (Senator needed)
- G) President's Engagement Council (David Keto)
 - i) There is no plan to continue this committee right now and can be removed from the agenda.
- H) Public Art Committee (Melanie Vigil)
 - i) No representative present.
- I) Student Media Board (Emily Edgar)
 - i) They were approached by a representative from 7220 Entertainment and are trying to increase internship opportunities. Online presence has improved, while print has not. Social media and website engagement are up. Renovation of their space in the Union is finally underway.
- J) USP Update Working Group (Richard Raridon)
 - i) No representative present.
- K) UW International Advisory Council (Senator needed)
 - i) Senator Traver contacted members of the committee and it is not meeting currently. It can be removed from the agenda.

VIII) Officer Updates

- A) President, Chris Stratton
 - i) Staff Support working group – discussed staff membership programs, routes to better paying positions, starting a staff emergency relief fund, and alternatives to free classes. Also discussed LinkedIn Learning class credit with Human Resources.
 - ii) Met with AA/SA committee – working on a new strategic improvement plan. Staff Senate will run staff information/feedback sessions.
- B) Vice President, Elizabeth Traver
 - i) Food drive moved to next semester; will ask for more help after spring semester starts.

IX) New Business

X) Committee Reports

- A) Communications Committee – Senator Moen
 - i) Meeting – December 3, 9:00am, Zoom
- B) Credentials and Elections Committee – Senator Vigil
 - i) Meeting – TBA
 - ii) Working on constituent lists – should be sent out soon
- C) Finance Committee – Senator Gonzales
 - i) Meeting – January 20, 8:30am, Zoom
 - ii) Will be announcing spring scholarship information next week
- D) Recognition Committee – Senators Vick and Kuster
 - i) Meeting – December 17, 9:00am, Zoom
- E) Staff Relations Committee – Senator Czech
 - i) Meeting - TBA

XI) Open forum

Meeting concluded at 2:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer McKenna

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Staff Senate Secretary