University of Wyoming Staff Senate Staff Senate Meeting February 7, 2024

EN 1062, Zoom 1:15 pm

https://uwyo.zoom.us/j/99207016223



- I) Call to Order 1:15 PM
- II) Roll Call
- III) Approval of January Meeting Minutes
  - a. Resubmitting Minutes as corrected. [Approved]
- IV) Approval of February Agenda
  - a. Motion to swap items X and XI. [Approved]
- V) Elections
  - a. Senator Hand:
  - b. Nomination forms are available and will be sent out 2/7/2024
  - c. Member-at-large Nelson: The elections in March are for Officers and Staff seats?
    - i. Senator Hand: Both
      - 1. The form coming out is for officers. However, there will be recruiting efforts to fill vacant seats.
  - d. Member-at-Large Nelson: When will elections for full senate go out to campus?
    - i. May 1<sup>st voting</sup> will go out to all of campus.
    - ii. April 1<sup>st</sup> will be staff nominations.
    - iii. March 1<sup>st</sup> will be officer nominations.
    - iv. Start date for all new senators will be July 1<sup>st.</sup>
- VI) Confirmations
  - a. Skylar Thimens District 26
    - i. Confirmed
- VII) External Liaison Reports
  - a. ASUW (Associated Students of the University of Wyoming) Chief of Staff, Jerry Henderson (Needs to leave at 1:35)
    - i. New admin starting this semester following the resignation of the president.
      - 1. Kameron Murfitt as president.
      - 2. Cord Anderson Vice president.
    - ii. Working with campus partners to spending down reserves to help students.
    - iii. Awarding \$70,000 in scholarships this (Spring 2024) semester.
    - iv. Drafting budget FY25.
    - v. Lowered ASUW fee for FY25 from \$55 to \$45.50
    - vi. Finish search for ASUW advisor.
    - vii. President Murfitt created an ad hock committee for parking fees. Members will be assigned soon.
  - b. Faculty Senate Chairperson Sprague
    - i. I am working to wrangle faculty to serve food April 16<sup>th at</sup> staff appreciation day.
    - ii. The executive committee feels it would be beneficial to have a freedom expression group built from the president's office.
    - iii. Notification of progress on HS issues; Reg 2-2, has some shortcomings regarding resolving the issues with faculty and staff leaving.
      - 1. Seeking exploration of resolving avenues available to staff in similar situations.
- VIII) Administration Reports
  - a. President's Office President Seidel

- i. Legislator priority's
  - 1. Raises for Faculty, staff, and Graduate students.
    - a. Asking for 6 million dollars for the biannual request, 2%/year.
    - b. Govenor was supportive of the proposal and took that into his enterprise-wide request.
    - c. Number one priority and the governor has taken that statewide so it may not show up in our reports.
  - 2. Mental health initiative
    - a. The Govenor did not recommend this.
    - b. 1.8 million requested.
    - c. Well, received by JAC and included it in their recommendations.
- ii. Presidential leadership institute.
  - 1. Launching soon and more info will be provided.
  - 2. Staff section ready to launch and communication will be distributed this week
  - 3. Topics will start with a cohort of about 20
  - 4. Monthly meetings with a final meeting at the president's home.
    - a. Starting May through September
    - b. Conflict Managment.
    - c. Clear communication.
    - d. Diversity issues.
  - 5. Bob Link will help this become part of the Carrer ladder sys and how this will impact that as well.
  - 6. Member-at-Large Nelson;
    - a. Can you repeat the dates for the PLI (Presidential Leadership Institute)?
    - b. President Seidel;
    - c. May through September but i do not have exact dates. Those will be included in the communication.
- iii. New presidential excellence award.
  - 1. Supporting the UWvo strategic plan.
    - a. Student Sucess
    - b. Faculty excellence
    - c. Financial stability
    - d. Community
  - 2. \$1,000 award associated with this award as well.
- iv. February 29th will have a staff town Hall
  - 1. Everyone is welcome
- v. Key initiatives
  - 1. Student success;
    - a. We need to have an event where we brainstorm how staff impact their success.
    - b. How do we get everyone involved with the student success
    - c. Empowering Staff.
  - 2. AI (Artificial Intelligence) initiatives are being built and established.
    - a. Looking at other Universities
    - b. Enabling staff
    - c. Please provide input on how staff can use AI
  - 3. Freedom of expression as mentioned by Faculty senate.
    - a. Great Idea to have a group establish
    - b. As mentioned in cabinet there are still issues with reprisal fear and that is unacceptable.
      - i. We discussed the questions of What is wrong and what can we do.
      - ii. We want to cultivate a culture where people are respectful and can express their opinions.

- iii. I would love to hear from this group on that topic.
- vi. Ombuds;
  - 1. Does your Coffee hour with staff include release time?
  - 2. President Seidel;
  - 3. If there is an issue with release time he would like to know why.
- vii. Bob Link:
  - 1. Human Resources does not deal directly with release time. That comes from the president's office.
  - 2. With that said, this is a culture change we need to work on where we do not need release time to attend university business.
- viii. Member-at-Large Nelson:
  - 1. There is a common concern on campus about timing and when the staff are available to attend those events.
- ix. President Seidel
  - 1. We can address this through working on timing and making it clear that the time is part of your functioning at Uwyo
- x. Senator Monahan:
  - 1. Some constituents are told that there are too many people leaving the area.
- xi. President Seidel
  - a. We will address with Bob Link Later
- xii. Senator Lafleiche;
  - 1. In reference to Grad student Stipend, Will that bring their stipend up "Market" value?
  - 2. President Seidel;
    - a. I am not sure it quite does. But it is a step in the right direction
    - b. We want to make sure we are competitive with other universities in the region.
    - c. I know for sure that the salary increase will not be equivalent to NSF (National Science Foundation) or DOE (Department of Energy) recommendations. They tend to be generous.
    - d. We are taking the first steps to moving in that direction.
- xiii. Senator Krassin
  - 1. What was Metal health money intended for what?
  - 2. President Siedel;
    - a. For everyone and allowing the university to address many concerns
      - i. Hiring additional personnel
    - b. Help with Student Sucess, helping those students under a lot of stress.
- b. Academic Affairs Dean Courtney
  - i. Phase 3 of the next generation of USP (University Studies Program) is in development.
    - 1. Co-Chaired by Mandy Gibbson, Provost, and others
    - 2. Sub committees are being formed this week (2/7/2024) with meeting set for 2/12/2024
      - a. Charges;
        - i. Developing definitions of all components.
          - 1. Student learning outcomes.
          - 2. Policy recommendations.
      - b. Campus involvement and feedback sections will occur this spring and we look forward to hearing your feedback on that.
    - 3. The new USP will be active AY26-27.
    - 4. Feedback is particularly important.
  - ii. Vice Provost Matt Grizwald
    - 1. Online bachelor's degrees available now
      - a. Accounting
      - b. Criminal Justice
      - c. Human resources; Concentration in Managment

- d. Managment
- e. Marketing
- f. Organizational Leadership
- g. Sociology
- h. General Studies
- 2. More coming in the future
- c. Ombudsperson Nellie Haddad
  - i. Staff supervisor relationship
    - 1. Offering workshops to help departments collaborate better. It is called Rules of Engagement.
      - a. This will be a place where the department will get together and decide what types of parameters will make their department work a lot better.
      - b. If you are interested, please reach out to the ombuds office.
    - 2. More effective supervisor training is being developed.
    - 3. Workshops in March maybe;
      - a. Conflict management workshop
      - b. How to get along with anyone.
  - ii. Senator Krassin
    - 1. Are there any staff looking for any workshop? Are you the person to talk to?
      - a. Some but not all
    - 2. If there are staff any crisis, are you the one to talk to?
      - a. Resources are available
      - b. Anything serious will be forwarded to the appropriate persons
    - 3. Is there a list for staff to access for help?
      - a. Let us meet after to work out details on where to find resources.
- d. Office of Research and Economic Development
  - i. Shelly Snyder
    - 1. Update on the 1<sup>st</sup> annual research and innovations dinner. Held in January 2024
      - a. 4 awards being given annually
        - i. Distinguished researcher
        - ii. Distinguished Innovation
        - iii. Exemplary Culture (Department)
        - iv. Research service
          - 1. Open to faculty and staff.
        - v. Nominations will be requested in the fall
    - 2. Please let us know what research your area is doing research wise.
- e. Division of Budget and Finance Vice President Budget & Finance, Alex Kean
  - i. FY25 budget timeline
    - 1. March 1<sup>st</sup> budgets due to the budget office
    - 2. March 11<sup>th</sup> April 5<sup>th</sup>
      - a. President's office review
    - 3. April 15<sup>th</sup> presenting budget to the board of Trusties; Reg 7-1
    - 4. May 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> College and Division hearings.
    - 5. June 12th Trusties' approval deadline and when they act.
    - 6. 4% tuition increase
    - 7. Fringe rates have been submitted
      - a. Decease to Fac and Staff
      - b. Increase on Student/Non-benefited
  - ii. Senator Vogt
    - 1. Can you provide those fringe rate percentages?
      - a. Faulty 38.7%
      - b. Staff 43.7%

- c. Non benefited 3.3%
- iii. Senator Roberson
  - 1. Is there any way to speed up the timeline for working with our county Partners?
    - a. We will do our best to address the concurs and reach out as quickly as possible to those partners. However, the June 12<sup>th</sup> deadline is fixed
    - b. May  $\hat{6}^{th}$  -7<sup>th</sup> may be an appropriate time to bring that up as well.
- f. Human Resources Associate Vice President Bob Link
  - i. Online orientation will be distributed for EAP (Employee Assistance Program)
    - 1. Resources are also available on the HR website.
  - ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday every month except January
    - 1. Thrive Professional Development Serries
    - 2. Done through our training area in HR
  - iii. Year-end documents have been distributed.
- g. Senator Monahan
  - i. With the Deloit Study, there have not been deep dives, will there be any more of those
    - 1. Deep Dive next Thursday (2/15/24)
    - 2. Orical will be available in person next week as well.
- h. Division of Operations Vice President Campus Operations, Bill Mai
  - i. January Trustees meeting
    - 1. Final disposition of the Uwyo Aquatics Center.
      - a. Final design changes have been approved as well as budgeting items
      - b. Groundbreaking sometime mid to late summer 2024
    - 2. 15<sup>th</sup> street and the new housing program being constructed.
      - a. Continuing work.
      - b. March trustee meeting should have more approvals on this.
      - c. Trustees' area on Uwyo website has rendering of 15<sup>th</sup> street proposals.
        - i. January meeting minutes,
        - ii. Materials section.
        - iii. These would be two rounds of about to help with traffic control.
        - iv. The city has been cooperative in these changes.
  - ii. Senator Czech
    - 1. What will happen to the parking area where the aquatic center is being built?
      - a. The plan is to section off parking for football games.
      - b. Equipment storage in the Sumit view parking will be utilized as well.
      - c. Two other lots will also be available for games as well.
    - 2. When the design moved, are there plans for the area they moved it from?
      - a. There is an agreement for the area's use under land and water conservation fund.
      - b. This tide the use to recreation used as well as serving as storm water run off
      - c. As the area is under the national parks they would be involved in approvals and would be delayed enough to prevent using the original spot.
      - d. No change of use.
  - iii. Senator Swierczek
    - 1. Is the new Aquatic Center available to staff? Would that be part of half acre membership?
      - a. Yes, that is the plan.
      - b. Most days will have hours for open swimming to help cover the missing pool space.
  - iv. Senator Tai
    - 1. 15<sup>th</sup> street, Parental concerns for student pickup and drop off for lab school? What is communication with the school district?
      - a. Access will continue to be a problem as the project continues. The hope is to have the 15th reopen early in the school year to prevent as negligible impact as possible.

- b. Communication has been ongoing with the school district on solutions.
- c. When we have solutions, we will communicate that to the parents.
- v. Senator LaFleiche
  - 1. What other routes do emergency personnel have when 15<sup>th</sup> is closed?
    - a. Same as last summer and fall and every time it is closed.
    - b. Mostly through 22<sup>nd</sup> and even 9<sup>th</sup>
- i. Government Affairs Vice President of Government Affairs, Mike Smith
  - i. President Seidel covered a lot
  - ii. Monday marks the start of legislature session, through March 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - iii. Any questions can be routed to Mike Smith
  - iv. If you do reach out to legislature, be sure to address anything as an individual and not as a representative of Uwyo
  - v. If Legislature reaches out, please email Government Affair if it concerning UWyo so the best answer can be given.
- j. Student Affairs Student Affairs Rep needs to leave by 1:50pm
  - i. Accepting nomination for awards for Toben reports.
    - 1. Due Friday 2/9/2024
    - 2. For seniors that were outstanding.
  - ii. Black history month ongoing
    - 1. Multiple events in the union
    - 2. Follow-up information will be sent out
  - iii. Save the date for Saddle up
    - Move-in is on August 16<sup>th</sup>
    - 2. Seeking vaulters to help as well as show that staff are here to help.
    - 3. We would like to see more engagement from the campus as well.
  - iv. Commencement
    - 1. Nominations for student speakers are active.
    - 2. May 11<sup>th</sup>
    - 3. Please visit the online resource to find the changes associated with the re organization
  - v. We will follow up with links and information
  - vi. Member-at-Large Nelson
    - 1. For anyone interested in joining you at commencement, will regalia be needed? Will they need to purchase their own?
      - a. Actively building a closet.
      - b. Some are available but please do purchase regalia through the bookstore.
      - c. Academic affairs will be available to assist with financial assistance.
  - vii. Senator Monahan
    - 1. Can a staff member walk even if they graduated years before but never walked?
      - a. Yes, there is a \$50 fee, but they are welcome to participate.
  - viii. Senator Tai;
    - 1. If there are Staff hat sign up, I would encourage to think about how the area is labeled to be inclusive.
      - a. Absolutely; We are currently working on that.
- k. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Zebadiah Hall
  - i. No one present
- IX) Guest Speaker: UW (University of Wyoming) Risk Assessment Danika Salman's
  - a. Risk assessment Survey- anonyms
    - i. Assessment of our strategic plan
    - ii. Identifying each risk that will impact the Stategic plan
      - 1. These are present to help
    - iii. Survey will be sent out to evaluate;
      - 1. Departmental

- 2. Culture and governance
- iv. Please participate in our survey being sent out this (2/7/24) week.
- v. March will be when the results will be compiled and presented
  - 1. The report will be available to the public
- vi. WyoWeb
  - 1. On WyoWeb page you can find the link "Report a concern"
    - a. Anonymous report system
    - b. These will be included in the report presenting in March
    - c. This is also handled by a third party and not run through any institutional systems.
- b. Senator Baker Tai
  - i. Are they still submitting their contact information?
    - 1. There is not an option in the survey
    - 2. But they can also enter their information in reporting a concern or emailing the group.
  - ii. Is there protection with reporting concerns?
    - 1. There is no identifying information provided through the report a concern system.
    - 2. The systems allow the risk assessment team to communicate anonymously with those individuals without any individual's information being compromised.
- c. Member-at-Large Nelson
  - i. This (2/7/2024) week before Friday?
    - 1. Yes
  - ii. When does it close?
    - 1. 1 Week, sometimes we have extended the survey to get more responses.
  - iii. Best completed before February 16<sup>th</sup>?
    - 1. Yes
- X) New Business
  - a. Legislation
    - i. Bylaws
      - 1. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading; See attached documents. 20 Min
        - a. Senator Hand
          - i. Propose to send any minor changes to the governance committee to be submitted as amendments in March.
      - 2. Discussion opened for major changes and amendments.
        - a. Wording on XVI.E was discussed and amended to the following;
          - i. "The proposed amendments to our revisions of the bylaws will be provided to the University President"
        - b. Any edits and remarks. Send to Senator Hand
- XI) Old Business
  - a. Legislation
    - i. Third Reading Bill 60
    - ii. Voting Bill 60
      - 1. motion to move its discussion to after we vote on Bylaws
- XII) Executive Reports
  - a. President
    - i. Course Release Resolution 250 update
    - ii. Website update
      - 1. If you need a headshot picture, please reach out to Christina
    - iii. Please ask your constituents to vote for Employee of the 1st Quarter. Deadline is March 1st
    - iv. Let your supervisors know in advance of your committee engagements so they can plan for your absence.
  - b. Vice President

- i. Alumni association is accepting distinguished alumni award
  - 1. Contact Jack ternate for more information.
- c. Treasurer Frankie will be online to present at 2:30. May need to circle back to this item
  - i. FY25 Budget Vote
  - ii. Presentation
  - iii. Voting was postponed due to lack of Quorum.
- d. Motion to adjourn

Due to the extended time the meeting was adjourned. Senators were asked to submit their reports to be included with the minutes.

- e. Secretary
- f. Member-at-Large
- g. Director of Outreach and Engagement update
- h. Legislative Affairs update

## XIII) Liaison Reports

- a. Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (Senator Teng)
  - i. Christina has informed them that I am the liaison, but I have not received any information regarding upcoming meetings. So, no updates.
- b. Athletics Planning Committee (Senator Teng)
  - i. The first meeting for this semester is scheduled for the end of Feb. I will have a report at our March Meeting.
- c. Campus Safety Working Group (Senator Moede)
  - i. No meeting scheduled yet.
- d. Classification/Compensation (vacant)
- e. Enterprise Risk Management Advisory Committee (Senator Teng)
  - i. The first meeting for this semester is on Wednesday. However, I have a pre-arranged commitment at UW-Casper. I will not be able to attend, but I will request meeting minutes to share at our March meeting.
- f. External Relation Connections & Communications Working Group (Senator Tai Baker)
- g. Food Security Taskforce (Senator Monahan)
- h. Fraternity and Sorority Life Task Force (Senator Monahan)
- i. Green Dot Committee (Senator Hand)
  - i. Tabling will take place next week during Love Month festivities at the Union Breezeway.
  - ii. Staff Booster is being planned where departments will be pitted against each other in a Green Dot Family Feud game. More details to follow.
  - iii. Green Dot Student Trainings: Feb. 24 1-4:30, March 22 4 7:30, April 27 1-4:30
  - iv. Next staff overview training will be April 9 at 3:30, place TBD
  - v. Denim Day is set for April 24th
- j. No More Committee (vacant)
- a. Public Art Committee (Senator Grosinger)
- b. Parking Committee (Senator Van Cleave)

## XIV) Committee Reports

- a. Recognition Committee Senator Moede
- b. Staff Relations Committee Senator Czech
- c. Governance Committee Senator Hand
  - i. Send any Bylaws minor corrections to Senator McGinley or Senator Hand
  - ii. Correction from Elections Q/A at start of meeting:
    - 1. Nominations for Officers will go out soon to Senators
    - 2. Election of Officers will be held at the May meeting after election of Senators
    - 3. Senators with Term 1 Seats expiring will be included in the election for Term 2 unless they send a notification of resignation to President Comeau and Ms. McDonald

- a. Senator Swierczek, Seat 2
- b. Senator Paintin, Seat 3
- c. Senator Roberson, Seat 14
- d. Senator Wolfinbarger, Seat 20
- e. Senator Van Cleave, Seat 21
- f. Senator Jackson, Seat 30
- iii. Hoping to recruit new senators for these 14 vacant or soon vacant seats spread the word:
  - 1. Academic Affairs Division: District 11 and 12 (term ending June 30, 2024)
  - 2. Administration Division: District 19 and 35 (term ending June 30, 2024)
  - 3. IT (Information Technology) Division: District 29 (term ending June 30, 2024)
  - 4. Student Affairs Division: District 38 (term ending June 30, 2024)
  - 5. Academic Affairs Division Mid-term Vacancies: District 8
  - 6. Administration Division Mid-term Vacancies: District 22, 23, 39, 40
  - 7. IT Division Mid-term Vacancies: District 27
  - 8. Government, Communications/Marketing, DEI & Legal Affairs Midterm Vacancy: District 33
  - 9. Research and Economic Development District 32
- XV) Public Comment
- XVI) Adjournment 3:48 PM
- XVII) Public Forum

Respectfully Submitted,

Secretary Jesse Grosinger