



University of Wyoming

Staff Senate -- Meeting

Date: October 1st, 2025

Location: Wyoming Union – Senate Chambers; Teams 1:15 pm

I. Call to Order

1:15 PM

II. Roll Call

Four absences and five proxies were recorded. With 33 accounted for, a quorum was called.

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Sen. Hand moved, Sen. Roberson seconded. Approval was unanimous.

IV. Approval of Current Agenda:

Pres. Grosinger moved to amend the agenda to include a presentation by Martha McCoughey on updates concerning Freedom of Expression and a time for Chad Baldwin to discuss how he will represent staff on the search committee for the new University president. Amended agenda approved unanimously.

V. Disposition of the President

Pres. Grosinger submitted his resignation due to leaving UW for Riverton. Sen. Lupien expressed gratitude from the body for Pres. Grosinger's service. VP Marquez stepped into the chair seat to run the remainder of the meeting. He will be unable to fill out the term due to his current work situation.

VI. Call for election voting to be held at November meeting.

Sen. Baker shared the procedure of electing a replacement president with nominations open now and election taking place November 5. She reminded senators of the terms and eligibility requirements.

Sen. Chancellor expressed concern with the terms and ineligibility of senators who started this fiscal year.

Sen. Thimens inquired about whether the longer term might limit the number of candidates we can get. What options exist in case we do not get enough candidates. He also inquired about how many senators are eligible.

Sen. Hand moved to amend the current election process to allow for all current senators to be eligible to be elected to serve as resident. Sen. Lupien seconded.

The amended changes to the November election process were approved unanimously. The election is now opening it up to those that may have been ineligible due to the unique circumstances of the timing.

External Liaison Reports:

a. ASUW

Policy Director Logan Robinson introduced himself but had nothing to report.

b. Faculty Senate

No Faculty Senate representation

VIII. Administration Reports:

a. President's Office

President Seidel provided the report. He wished Pres. Grosinger well and announced that he will still be around after his term ends, so he is not stepping down inasmuch as he is stepping aside.

Search Committee for the next president was announced Friday. It's chaired by Trustee Carol Linton and includes 17 members. Listening sessions will take place October 6 and 7. Please attend and share your needs and concerns. There's also a form on this website: <https://www.uwyo.edu/presidential-search/index.html>

Dates and links for Listening Sessions:

Monday, Oct. 6, from 5-6 p.m., in person at the Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center and online at <https://uwyo.zoom.us/j/98211573472>.

Tuesday, Oct. 7, online-only sessions are scheduled:

- 1-2 p.m. for UW staff members (<https://uwyo.zoom.us/j/97172882587>)
- 3-4 p.m. for UW faculty members (<https://uwyo.zoom.us/j/98577859672>)
- 4-5 p.m. for UW students (<https://uwyo.zoom.us/j/97596828171>)
- 5-6 p.m. for members of the public (<https://uwyo.zoom.us/j/94651072568>)

Finalists are expected to visit campus by March.

Retention up to 79.4% that is five percent higher than five years ago.

Pres. Seidel emphasized his four focal points for his final year: 1. get things set in the best shape for his predecessor; 2. Campus culture; 3. Campaign – working with Foundation “be ambitious;” and 4. Community engagement.

Sen. Weber asked if Seidel would ask for an increase in budget from Wyoming. Seidel said he will make the best case possible.

Sen. Briones asked about adding a representative from Staff Senate to the Search Committee. Seidel reiterated that he is not organizing the Search Committee, it is the Trustees. VP Marquez said that Chad Baldwin will be on the committee and will represent staff.

Events:

Oct 7, Union Family Room: Shared Governance Retreat

Oct. 8: Coffee and Conversation with the President, Bucking Horse Café

Oct. 30: Town Hall

Nov. 7: Coffee and Conversation with the President, Bucking Horse Café

Dec. 8: Holiday Celebration

b. Academic Affairs

Michelle Hilaire shared best wishes to outgoing Pres. Grosinger. She wished everyone Happy Homecoming Week.

Students with questions on HB1 should reach out to International Students and Scholars; staff should reach out to HR.

Tenure & Promotion reception was well attended.

Amanda DeDiego was named interim dean of UW Casper.

i. **Presentation**

(This portion of the agenda was skipped but included within the Human Resources report.)

c. **General Counsel**

Offering trainings for compliance with new legislation. Slide deck available for anyone who wants more information.

H1B guidance available on Zoom and in-person.

d. **Research and Economic Development Division**

Grants from FY23: \$120 million; FY24: \$150 million, and FY25: \$183 million!

Shutdown of government began today. Guidance is available on this site:

[Federal Funding Updates](#)

There being proactive to keep critical services available.

e. **Operations**

VP Mai took questions about if South Hall would be ready for January move-in (yes), if Washakie would remain name of new Dining Hall (still in discussion – next Board of Trustees meeting); timeline for new aquatic center (set to open in April).

Move to South Hall will be taken care of by a moving company who will move all of the residents items at once.

f. **Government Affairs**

No report

g. **Student Affairs**

VP Courtney discussed the retention is higher than in past years. Of those participating in Saddle Up, the retention is 80.4%

ASUW is conducting data collection about internships available to students.

Accessibility Committee discussing ADA compliance

Mental Health – update in concerns, but less stigma. Student Affairs has three welfare coordinators in addition to the counselors in the UCC.

Phase 2 of the Wellness in the West campaign to train staff on wellness issues to receive a discounted rate at the Half Acre is being planned. The new requirement might be a suicide prevention training. Mental Health First Aid (the first training offered) is still available if anyone would like to get the discount.

h. Division of Budget and Finance

VP Link shared that VP Keen is providing the budget request to the governor this week, so there is no report.

i. Human Resources

VP Link shared that open enrollment starts today (Oct. 1).

There is an increase to both health and dental premiums which will be reflected in December paychecks because we pay in advance for benefits. The increases are from \$12 to \$29 per month, or from \$14 to \$34 per month depending what plan you have.

Flexible spending accounts need to be renewed annually. All other benefits continue as passive enrollment.

An online Benefits Fair will take place Oct. 6-10.

Point of Order – School of Energy Resources presentation planned for earlier in the agenda interrupted HR report to present on a new certificate program proposal.

VP Link took questions.

Sen. Robison asked about where we are with the “Case for Change” – They are conducting a test group of employees in Student Affairs. Then they will pilot employees in Budget & Finance.

Sen. Baker stressed the importance of communication of these efforts more transparently.

Sen. Holmquist emphasized that some employees were misinformed and thought only high deductible premiums would increase, but reminded Senate that all premiums would increase. He wanted to be very clear.

j. Foundation

Sen. Herman shared the opportunity to be a Campaign Advocate in Giving Day. You commit to plug a campaign. There’s a fun competition to help your cause earn more funding.

Here is the link to the main Giving Day Page: <https://give.uwyo.edu/giving-day-2025>
The big brown "Become An Advocate" button in the center of the screen is where people can sign up to be an advocate.

k. Office of the Ombud

Don Appiarius shared that he is offering trainings and presentations on all topics related to conflict management. He can tailor them to any timeframe for department needs. Please reach out to him at ombuds@uwyo.edu

l. Office of Community Engagement

Sen. Hand: No report.

m. Free Expression, Intellectual Freedom, and Constructive Dialogue Initiative

(This presentation was skipped during the meeting but took place later after New Business.)

IX. Confirmations

None

X. Old Business

a. Consideration of Resolution #252

Sen. Crayton not present.

Discussion of resolution tabled for November meeting.

b. Survey update and information.

XI. New Business

a. Consideration of Resolution #253

Sen. Hand moved to suspend the rules to pass this in one reading. Sen. Weber seconded. Unanimous vote to suspend rules.

Then Sen. Hand moved to approve the resolution. Sen. Weber seconded. After discussion including callback to earlier presentation, resolution was passed unanimously.

Martha McCoughey presented about the ongoing effort of the Freedom of Expression. Check the website for more information: www.uwyo.edu/principles.

All senators received reminders to “brush up” on our open dialogue skills in the form of tooth brushes.

The slideshow included rationale for the shift to be a campus that encourages open constructive dialogue.

Advisory board includes Sen. Dailey representing Staff Senate. She’s on student- and employee- facing committees.

Constructive Dialogue Institute’s “Perspectives” Curriculum of six online asynchronous lessons (30 minutes each) is available for students and staff. SOAR badges for students are also available. Email principles@uwyo.edu to express interest.

Oct. 28 4pm: Dr. Simon Cullen – Public Talk on AI platform to depolarize dialogue

XII. Exec Report

a. President

Marquez stressed the importance of attending the listening sessions to provide input for the search committee of the next president.

Reminder of the Shared Governance Forum Oct. 7 3:30-5:00 PM

b. Vice President

VP Marquez has attended ASUW meetings and provided updates on their discussion that followed the Branding Iron article following the death of Charlie Kirk. Continued discussion about how much power the executive committee should have.

c. Treasurer

Proxy Sen. Conard shared the Treasurer’s report on work toward planning for the upcoming Giving Day, Oct. 23-24.

Sen. Jackson encouraged anyone to reach out to him with questions about Giving Day.

d. Secretary

Proxy Sen. Hand had no report from Sec. McGinley

e. Member-at-Large

Sen. Hand had no report.

XIII. Committee Chair Reports

a. Governance Committee

Sen. Baker reported that Governance is working on the upcoming presidential election for the next Staff Senate President.

b. Recognition Committee

Sen. Conard reminded Senate of the Holiday Market new hours 10am-7pm to allow for people to visit after regular working hours. This will take place Dec. 12 in the UW Conference Center (by the Hilton).

c. Relations Committee

Sen. Weber reiterated the good use of the Ombudsman for conflict resolution. Sen. Larson and Thimens mentioned a large cannon blast that happened in August and resolved to have ROTC notify people when they are going to set that off.

Still sorting out details of the tuition waiver. Collecting data.

Encourage all to attend the benefit fair.

Tip of the Hat to Emilio Padilla for sharing the Tips weekly.

d. Staff Senate AI Committee - Call for a members (no more than 5)

A Staff Senate AI committee is needing a chair. So far the interest in this committee are from Sen. Weber, Sen. McGinley, and Sen. Sciulli.

XIV. Liaison Reports:

a. Athletics Planning – Senator Tang

Discussed function of the committee as serving as a liaison between Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and UW Athletics. 3 subcommittees include academic integrity, physical integrity, and student athlete well-being.

Some talk about changes with the Mountain West Conference came up.

b. Campus Safety Working Group – Senator LeBeau

No report.

c. Food Security Taskforce – Senator Robison

Sen. Robison shared that this committee is technically defunct. She will keep reaching out to Jess Dooley and see how Staff Senate can support the needs of Food Security. May put together a survey to collect information.

d. Freedom of Expression Initiative – Senator Dailey

Sen. Dailey will share more next month.

e. Green Dot Committee – Senator Hand

Sen Hand: Green Dot had the first full training of the year last Thursday. Shut down registrations at 67 to keep it manageable. Oct. training already has 20. Full GD training will be part of Business Ethics curriculum so 200 additional students will be trained this year. Last year there was a 9% increase in students being trained. This year, we hope to see at least 20% increase. Would love to partner with Staff Senate for trainings.

f. Public Art Committee - Senator Conard

No report.

g. Parking Committee – Brenda Cossitt – Senator Larson?

Sen. Larson said committee is focused on PSAs on how staff can avoid getting tickets. Importantly, when you get your new license plate, you must update your parking data. Even if the plate number is the same as previously.

h. Shared Governance – Senator Baker; Holmquist

Most of the meeting discussed the new budget model and including shared governance in the process of this change.

i. 2025 State Laws Working group

No report

j. Foreign Influence, Risk, Safety, and Travel (FIRST) Working Group (Senator Castillo)

No report

k. Office of Community Engagement (Hand)

No report. (Repeat item from VIII l)

l. Academic Affairs committee on AI (Weber)

XV. Open Forum

None.

XVI. Adjournment

4:08 PM

Respectfully submitted October 2, 2025.

Mollie Hand

Proxy for Secretary McGinley