



Staff Senate Monthly Report
Wednesday, February 5, 2025

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- President Seidel will hold Staff Town Hall on February 19th. The meetings will be held from 4:00 – 5:00pm at the Union West Ballroom. Questions can be submitted by February 14th via [Staff Town Hall Survey](#).
- Staff Recognition Day will be held April 7, 2025, at the Arena-Auditorium. Staff will have 2.5 hours of release time to attend the event.
- Nominations for Staff Senate Executive Committee will take place in March and elections in April. Consider becoming a Staff Senator and/or nominating your senator to be on the Executive Committee.
- Enjoy a free coffee with Staff Senate on February 28th 9:00-11:00am at Rendezvous Café. Come learn more about Staff Senate, who we are, and what we do.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS REPORT

- A. Faculty Senate – Chairman, Ray Fertig, III
 - a. Faculty Senate is focused on the USP proposal and faculty response, clarification of faculty/student recruitment definitions, and new degree program evaluation.
 - b. School of Computing moving to its own school vote in March.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

- A. President's Office – Megan Levin, Administrative Operations Manager
 - a. The President will hold a Staff Town Hall on February 19 from 4:00 – 5:00 pm in the Union West Ball Room. Questions may be submitted by February 14th.
 - b. Staff will receive 2.5 hours of release time for Staff Recognition Day.
 - c. Enrollment for the spring semester showed 93% of fall first time students have returned for spring semester, and we welcomed 360 new students.
 - d. Athletics is giving away free tickets to staff for the March 5th basketball game.
 - e. Following the federal executive orders, plan for clear and broad communication and is strongly advocating for UW.
- B. General Counsel – VP Tara Evans
 - a. General Counsel is following state legislation and federal mandates which include:
 - i. The concealed carry bill has progressed. They did carve out open carry as an amendment which if passed, UW could regulate.
 - ii. Three DEI bills, one of which pertains to what you can/cannot require a course on certain topics that show prejudice to American contemporary society. UW stands up for academic freedom and freedom of expression.
 - iii. President Trump's rescindment of Biden's executive orders and institution of thirty-five new executive orders which may include no federal funding for certain aspects such as DEI, climate, birthright citizenship, radical truth, environmental justice, etc.
 - b. UW has an Access and Engagement working group that will help refocus on the former DEI rules/regulations.

- c. There is a bill that would change UW's Board of Trustees to be partially elected seats as well as appointed seats and the number of seats. We currently have an all-appointed board.

C. Division of Operations – VP Mike Samp

- a. Residence halls are on track to open on schedule. Final design for the grounds will be forthcoming. One older dorm will be maintained for overflow. No parking spaces for the new residence halls are planned; eventually a 5-tier parking garage where the old UW police station was (long range plan).
- b. 15th Street will not open until the residence dorms open due to construction staging.
- c. The natatorium (aquatic center) is in process and will be a standalone building as far as energy resources.
- d. New flat plate going into the Science Initiative Building (building hardening feature).
- e. Finishing with the boiler installation in the west facility plant.
- f. Logistical concerns with stadium construction have resulted in a temporarily blocked portion of an adjoining parking lot.
- g. Asbestos abatement supplemental funding available slated for larger projects (not individual offices).

D. Division of Budget and Finance – VP Aaron Courtney

- a. Move-in-day volunteers needed mid-August.
- b. FY26 budget planning is in progress.
 - i. Offering open lab sessions on Wednesdays 3:00-4:00 for assistance.
 - i. March 3, 2025 - budgets due to Budget Office.
 - ii. March 10 – April 4 budget review with colleges.
 - iii. April 7-11 President reviews.
 - iv. April 15 President submits budget to Board of Trustees.
 - v. May 12-13 Board of Trustees' budget committee hearings.
 - vi. Expectations is to add 10% to utilities.
- c. Expected slight increase in tuition; enrollment is steady but not growing.
- d. Expected steady growth in graduate enrollments.
- e. Submitted fringe rates for FY26 are Faculty 40.2%, Staff 44.7%, Non-benefitted 3.6% (not approved yet).
- f. Watching state appropriations.

E. Human Resources – VP Bob Link

- a. New employees must complete the first section of their I-9s by the end of their first day (which can be done online), they then have three days to bring in their appropriate supporting documents.
- b. Back dating a hire is discouraged.
- c. IT security – stay vigilant, informed, and aware.
- d. Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is ready and available. The benefits office can assist personnel with getting connected with EAP.
- e. Talent team ready to support in the hiring process.
- f. Job descriptions not available online. Discussion with Class Comp recommended.
- g. Handbook review in process; will come out in as a SAP.

F. Office of the Ombuds – Don Appiarius, Ombudsperson

- a. Anticipating a series of workshops in partnership with other departments, geared to specific audiences and topics. Accepting topic suggestions.
- b. Human Resources would direct any mandatory mediation.

STAFF SENATE UPDATES

A. Staff Senate Rules and Procedures

- a. Minor grammatical and verbiage changes to the Staff Senate Bylaws were passed.

B. Staff Senate will be holding a Senator Meet & Greet Friday February 28th 9am – 11am. More information to come.

C. The reinstitution of Staff Senate scholarships was discussed, and an amendment was made so that applicants need to be enrolled in one class rather than a six-credit hour course. Further discussion was tabled and will be considered at the March Staff Senate Meeting.

STAFF SENATE REPORTS

- A. Staff Senate President – Adam Comeau
 - a. The Access and Engagement Group reviewed over 1,400 web pages to ensure compliance with the prohibited effort statement. Site authors have been contacted.
 - b. The Conflict Management Group will be meeting February 14th. The task is to find root causes of conflict in the workplace so they can work on remedial options.
 - c. Meeting with president elect Jesse Grosinger to prepare for the new year.
 - d. Office associate search continues; the first search failed but the committee is screening new applications.
 - e. President Comeau attended the Board of Trustees meeting earlier this month. There will be new trustees coming in. At the May meeting, Jesse Grosinger will be formally introduced as the incoming Staff Senate President.
- B. Treasurer – Senator Tori Henderson
 - a. Tori is working with Staff Senate Committee on the FY26 budgets and will meet with the Executive Committee to review.
- C. Recognition Committee – Senator Frankie Vogt
 - a. Staff Recognition Day (SRD) will be held on Monday April 7th at Arena Auditorium (AA) from 12:00 - 2:00 PM. This year our theme is Recognition Roundup.
 - b. President Seidel has graciously approved 2.5 hours of release time for Staff to attend SRD.
 - c. Years of service will be presented at SRD, please review the YOS excel file that has been sent out via listservs. It can also be found on Staff Senates' website under the Awards page and then scroll towards the bottom where you can find it. Due date for corrections is February 14th.
 - d. Awards for SRD will be posted soon and will have a quick turnaround. Emails will be sent out to listservs and by senators to their constituents to ensure deadlines are communicated for the nomination period. We have some exciting new awards for SRD this year and have increased the monetary value of each award from \$1,000 to \$1,250 in recognition of inflationary costs.
 - e. The Employee of the Fourth Quarter has been selected, and it is Jill Johnson, Director of International Students and Scholars. Congratulations Jill! There will be a reception hosted by the President's office on Monday, February 24th from 10:00am - 11:30am in the Cheney International Resource Center. Please swing by and congratulate Jill on her achievement.
- D. Staff Senate Relations Committee – Senator Megan Monahan
 - a. Staff Relations Committee will meet next Tuesday, February 11th and will continue to discuss classification and compensation as well as WyoCloud efficiencies.
- E. Recognition Committee – Senator Vogt
 - a. Holiday Market was successful; thanks to all who helped with the event.
 - b. Staff Recognition Day will be held April 7, 2025, at the Arena-Auditorium.
 - c. Allison Murray has been awarded the Employee of the Third Quarter. A reception in her honor will be held January 29th from 10:00 – 11:30am in the Union Family Room.
 - d. Employee of the 4th Quarter announcement will be made soon.
- F. Governance Committee – Senator Mollie Hand
 - a. There is an anonymous form in the governance file to remove senators for non-compliance.
 - b. New senators need T-shirts.
 - c. Next meeting will be held Monday, February 10th.
- G. Food Security Task Force – Senator Megan Monahan
 - a. Poke Center for Community Resources needs men's clothing.
 - b. The task force may be renamed.
 - c. Concern was mentioned about scanning IDs to obtain food. There are some food bank sources that do not require and can be found on the UW Food Security Taskforce website. <https://www.uwyo.edu/food-security/index.html>

H. Green Dot Committee – Senator Mollie Hand

- a. Over one hundred students have certified this school year as well twenty-five volunteer or staff facilitators. This past summer over 2,000 students and staff attended a one-hour overview session. Similar trainings are being planned for more departments.

I. Public Art Committee

- a. Dormitory art piece going forward.
- b. A replacement will be needed for Senator Grossinger's seat on the committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Senate Chambers may be ready for the March meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Roberson, Member-at-Large