



Staff Senate Monthly Report
Wednesday, March 5, 2025

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- March 10-11, Martin Carcasson, CSU, will be on campus to talk about his expertise on wicked problems and constructive dialogue. The public talk will be on the 10th from 5:00 – 7:30 in the Student Union Ballrooms. Tuesday, March 11th is geared towards staff and will be held 11:00am – 12:00pm at the same location with the topic understanding and counteracting toxic polarization, the causes, impacts, and tools to engage.
- Enjoy a free coffee with Staff Senate on March 28th 9:00-11:00am at Rendezvous Café. Come learn more about Staff Senate, who we are, and what we do, or bring a topic you would like to discuss.
- 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.

GUEST SPEAKER

- A. American Heritage Center – Paul Flesher, Director
 - a. The university is required by Federal law, University guidelines, and State statutes to retain and manage its records.
 - b. A Record Retention and Management Working Group is working towards creating a SAP that will be available once finalized.
 - c. Types of records include paper, virtual paper, proprietary software, and email.
 - d. Centralized proprietary records will be managed centrally; records created in units/departments will have a designated retention manager.
 - e. A committee will be formed for ongoing records management. Anyone interested in serving on this committee may submit a request to the American Heritage Center.
 - f. A survey and copy of the presentation will be sent out soon.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

- A. President's Office – Kelsey Kyne, Chief of Staff
 - a. Interviews for the Vice President for Information Technology position starts March 7th.
 - i. March 7th – Amy McLaughlin, Oregon State University
 - ii. March 10th – Jen Chavez, University of Wyoming
 - iii. March 12th – Matt Riley, University of Illinois
 - iv. March 14th – Harper Johnson, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
 - v. An all-campus session will be held for each candidate on the respective days from 1:00 – 2:30pm.
 - b. March 10-11, Martin Carcasson, CSU, will be on campus to talk about his expertise on wicked problems and constructive dialogue. The public talk will be on the 10th from 5:00 – 7:30 in the Student Union Ballrooms. Tuesday, March 11th is geared towards staff and will be held 11:00am – 12:00pm at the same location with the topic understanding and counteracting toxic polarization, the causes, impacts, and tools to engage.

- c. Board of Trustees meet March 26-28th; attendance is encouraged. The Board of Trustees will host a lunch to honor Staff Senate Leadership.
- d. Spring Convocation will be Tuesday, April 22nd from 3:00 – 4:30 at the Union Ballrooms with a focus on UW's achievement of our Research One Status.
- e. Presidential Leadership Institute will continue this year with a change to the curriculum. Applications will open in April.

B. General Counsel – VP Tara Evans

- a. Concealed Carry was signed into law by Wyoming Legislature, the law allows UW to prohibit open carry.
 - i. Concealed weapons are not allowed in health services, labs with explosives or volatile materials, where alcohol is served, law enforcement offices, or courtrooms. The new law goes into effect July 1st.
 - ii. Firearms must be placed in a secure storage container if not concealed on the person.
 - iii. Signs will be posted for dual use buildings. Signs for units are allowed but must be managed through Operations.
 - iv. UW will encourage gun safety and follow state statutes.
 - v. A modification to the regulation will be presented to the Board of Trustees during the March meeting.
 - vi. A FAQ will be forthcoming. Feedback on the FAQ from Staff Senate is due Monday, March 10th.

C. Research and Development – Shawna McBride, Senior Director

- a. UW has achieved the R1 Status which identifies us as a high intensity research institution which may bring in more funding from federal and state agencies. A celebration is being planned.
- b. REDD is developing resources for the Humanities and Liberal Arts as well as working with consultants to help increase opportunities for international funding, foundation funds, and nonprofit funding in order to expand research opportunities.
- c. Another focus is public relations and marketing for the Research Office.
- d. Potential changes on Federal funding are being monitored. Updates can be found on the [Federal Funding Updates](#) website.
- e. Undergraduate research day will be held April 26th.

D. Division of Operations – VP Bill Mia

- a. Buchanan Center parking lot will reopen when construction in the area is complete.
- b. The natatorium is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2026. It will include a diving well, hot tub, and long course pool that can be split with a bulkhead. Open swim hours will be scheduled.
- c. The North dorm is scheduled to open in August of 2025 and will have a dining center.
- d. 15th Street will open when the North Dorm opens.
- e. The former Union Parking lot will be eliminated but will retain ADA accommodations, delivery services, and bus traffic.
- f. The approved exterior design plan can be found on the Board of Trustees' Website. [Planning and Construction](#) Phase one and two will be completed this fall.
- g. The Lewis Street Corridor is planned to become a pedestrian area from 9th Street to 15th Street. UW does not own all the property at this point. Completion is scheduled for end of summer 2026 provided UW can acquire all the property. It will have limited vehicle access.
- h. Alternative uses for the lab school building have not been determined. There are no plans to demolish the building as it is part of the historic preservation.

E. Student Affairs, Hailey Vonburg, Assistant to the AVP

- a. [Wellness in the West](#) is the new division that has been providing wellness resources to faculty, students, and staff.
 - i. Requested resources can be added by contacting the Wellness Center.
- b. Staff members who complete mental health first aid training can get a discount on a Half Acre membership.
- c. Dean of Students is hiring multiple positions.

- d. Move in day for the dorms is August 15, 2025.
- e. Saddle Up is August 16-17.

F. 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. Regal Fox Theater will be providing staff discount ticket to see a movie for free. Discounts will be distributed through senior management down to the departments. Other discounts can be found on the Distributed. Other discounts can be found on the [HR Employee Discount Program Website](#).
- c. Having received a major marketing resource, HR is working through the market data matrix. Once completed, it will be populated in WyoCloud.
- d. HR continues to work on the staff reorganization but is doing so with a pilot program. They will continue to work with senior leadership on engagement.

STAFF SENATE UPDATES

- A. The reinstitution of Staff Senate scholarships was discussed. It was determined that there will be five \$200 scholarships for fall semester and five \$200 scholarships for spring semester, a total of ten scholarships per year. The funds would need to be used in the semester they were received. The plan is to resume the scholarships for August 2025. Further discussion was tabled until the Staff Senate Treasurer can be present.

STAFF SENATE REPORTS

A. Staff Senate President – Adam Comeau

- a. President Comeau will attend the March Board of Trustees meeting and lunch.
- b. An offer is pending for the Staff Senate Office Associate. Thank you to Kate Coleman in HR Recruiting for her guidance and help with this successful search.
- c. President Comeau will send the records retention survey when he receives it.
- d. A reminder to Staff Senate to respond to the FAQs was emphasized.
- e. The Staff Town Hall with President Seidel was successful.
- f. President Comeau is meeting monthly with president Elect Jesse Grosinger.

B. Treasurer – Senator Tori Henderson (via President Comeau)

- a. The Staff Senate budget was submitted for approval.

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. Staff award nominations are due today by 5:00 pm
- c. The Recognition Committee is partnering with the Food Security Task Force. Staff donating items in the increments of 5, 10, or 15 items will be eligible for additional raffle tickets.
- d. In preparation for Staff Recognition Day, Staff Senate will have a potluck and put awards together at Coe Library.
- e. Employee of the 1st quarter nominations close March 21st.

A. Staff Senate Relations Committee – Senator Megan Monahan

- a. Staff Relations Committee will meet next Tuesday, March 11th and will continue to discuss classification and compensation as well as WyoCloud efficiencies, and staff reorganization.
- b. A new committee chair will be selected.

B. Governance Committee – Senator Rebecca Sorber

- a. Coffee with Staff Senate was successful; another one is scheduled for March 28th.
- b. Nominations for Staff Senate seats and officers will go through March with an election at the April Staff Senate Meeting.

- C. Food Security Task Force – Senator Megan Monahan
 - a. The Recognition Committee is partnering with the Food Security Task Force to collect food pantry items.
 - b. Other food donation campaigns are being considered.
 - c. After researching it was determined that the data collection in one of the UW pantries is being done to order collaborate with Food Bank of the Northern Rockies.
 - d. There will be a funding drive. There is an ongoing campaign through the Foundation.
- D. Green Dot Committee – Senator Mollie Hand via Senator Sorber
 - a. Far more engagements of just under 6,000 students.
 - b. Focus is now on April Denim Day and Green Dot Day of Action.
 - c. Poet, Kyle Tran Myhre will give workshops and perform a Pokes Pub, and a speech on his popular Teds Talk. More information to come.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Roberson, Member-at-Large