



Staff Senate Monthly Report

Note: This report is a summary of the meeting; it is NOT the detailed minutes. They can be found on our Staff Senate website: www.uwyo.edu/staffsenate

Meeting Date: October 1, 2025 | **Location:** Wyoming Union Senate Chambers & Teams

Leadership Updates and Transitions

This month's meeting began with significant leadership changes. President **Jesse Grosinger** announced his resignation as he prepares to leave UW for a new opportunity in Riverton. The Senate expressed gratitude for his service and leadership. Vice President **Marquez** chaired the remainder of the meeting but shared that he will not be able to complete the presidential term due to work obligations.

A new **Staff Senate President** will be elected at the next meeting on **November 5**. Nominations are now open. The Senate also voted unanimously to amend the election process so that **all current senators are eligible** to run — even those who began their terms this fiscal year. This change was made to ensure a strong pool of candidates given the timing of the transition.

Presidential Search and University Updates

President **Ed Seidel** addressed the Senate to provide updates from the President's Office and share details about the ongoing **search for UW's next president**. A 17-member search committee, chaired by Trustee **Carol Linton**, has been formed and will host a series of **listening sessions** on October 6 and 7 to gather input from staff, faculty, students, and the public. There's also a form on this website: <https://www.uwyo.edu/presidential-search/index.html>. Finalists are expected to visit campus by **March 2026**.

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>)

President Seidel emphasized four priorities for his final year in office:

1. Preparing the university for a successful leadership transition.
2. Strengthening campus culture.
3. Advancing the university's fundraising campaign in partnership with the UW Foundation.
4. Deepening community engagement.

Other key updates:

- **Retention is now 79.4%**, up 5% from five years ago. Among students who participated in **Saddle Up**, retention is 80.4%.
- President Seidel will advocate for increased state funding in the next budget request.
- Upcoming events include a **Shared Governance Retreat** (Oct. 7), **Coffee & Conversation** sessions (Oct. 8 and Nov. 7), a **Town Hall** (Oct. 30), and a **Holiday Celebration** (Dec. 8).

Campus and Administrative Highlights

Academic Affairs

- Best wishes were shared with outgoing President Grosinger.
- The **Tenure and Promotion Reception** was well attended.
- **Amanda DeDiego** was named interim dean of UW Casper.
- Questions related to **HB1** should be directed to HR (for staff) or International Students and Scholars (for students).

General Counsel

- Offering trainings for **compliance with new legislation**. Slide decks available.
- **H1B** guidance available on Zoom and in-person.

Research and Economic Development

- External grant funding continues to grow, reaching **\$183 million in FY25**, up from \$150 million in FY24 and \$120 million in FY23.
- A federal government shutdown has begun, but proactive steps are being taken to protect critical services.

Campus Operations

- **South Hall** will be ready for **January move-in**. A moving company will handle all resident transitions.
- The name of the new dining hall (currently **Washakie**) is still under discussion.
- The new **aquatic center** remains on track to open in **April 2026**.

Student Affairs

- ASUW is conducting a data project on available student internships.
- The **Accessibility Committee** continues to review ADA compliance.
- Mental health resources are expanding, with three new **welfare coordinators** and plans for a second phase of the **Wellness in the West** campaign. Suicide prevention training may become part of the Half Acre wellness discount program.

Benefits, HR, and Employee Updates

Open enrollment for benefits began on **October 1**. All employees are reminded to renew their **flexible spending accounts** annually. Health and dental premiums are increasing by **\$12 to \$29 or \$14 to \$34 per month**, depending on the plan. These changes will appear in December paychecks.

An **online Benefits Fair** will run from **October 6–10**. Employees are encouraged to attend to learn more about available benefits and resources.

The “**Case for Change**” project is continuing, with pilot programs underway in **Student Affairs** and **Budget & Finance**. Communication and transparency around the initiative were emphasized during the meeting.

Resolutions

- **Resolution #252** in favor of changing tuition waiver from “one class of up to 6 credits” to “up to six credits” was tabled until the November meeting as more data is being collected.
- **Resolution #253** in support of a certificate program in the School of Energy Resources passed.

Ombuds Updates

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

Free Expression, Intellectual Freedom, and Constructive Dialogue Initiative Updates

Senators were encouraged to explore the **Constructive Dialogue Institute’s Perspectives curriculum**, which consists of six short online lessons. Staff and students who complete the training can earn a certificate. **SOAR badges** can be earned by students as well.

Other highlights:

- Senators received toothbrushes as reminders to “brush up” on open dialogue skills.
- A public talk by **Dr. Simon Cullen** on how AI can depolarize dialogue is scheduled for **October 28 at 4 p.m.**
- More information: www.uwyo.edu/principles or email principles@uwyo.edu

Committee and Liaison Reports

- **Governance Committee:** Overseeing the upcoming Staff Senate presidential election.
- **Recognition Committee:** Preparing for the **Holiday Market** on **Dec. 12** (10 a.m.–7 p.m.).
- **Relations Committee:**

- Encourages use of the Ombuds Office for conflict resolution and continues data collection on tuition waivers. Resolved issue with lout cannon going off unexpectedly – ROTC will now inform community when doing tests.
- **AI for Staff Committee:** Recruiting members (up to five).

Liaison Updates:

- **Green Dot Program:** First training session capped at 67 participants. Business Ethics curriculum will now include Green Dot training, potentially increasing student participation by 20%.
 - **Parking Committee:** Reminded employees to update parking data whenever a new license plate is issued — even if the number remains the same.
 - **Shared Governance:** Working to integrate shared governance into the university's new budget model.
-

Giving Day

UW Giving Day is scheduled for **October 23–24**. Staff are encouraged to participate by becoming **Campaign Advocates**, helping to promote fundraising efforts for causes they care about. Sign up at: give.uwyo.edu/giving-day-2025.

Final Notes

Vice President Marquez emphasized the importance of staff participation in the **presidential search listening sessions** and encouraged senators to represent staff perspectives during this critical transition.

The next Staff Senate meeting will take place on **Wednesday, November 5, 2025**, where elections for the new president will be held and additional business — including **Resolution #252** — will be addressed.