



Staff Senate Monthly Report
Wednesday, February 4th, 2026

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Staff Senate President - Gwen Dailey

- a. Welcomed staff back from Winter Break

B. Vice President - Jacob Marquez

- a. A general update on the state of The UW Presidential Search Committee was provided.

C. Treasurer - Senator Michala Drum

- a. The proposed budget was presented, pending approval from the Board of Trustees (BOT).
- b. The request asks for the same operating total as the previous fiscal year.
- c. A contingency plan has been developed should a budget cut be requested.
- d. Approval of the final budget is anticipated for May

D. Secretary - Senator Alicia Perez

- a. Senator Alicia Perez has assumed the role of Senate Secretary, effective immediately.

E. Senator At-Large - Senator Molly Hand

- a. Senator Hand will be stepping down from the Senator At-Large Position, Senator Aaron Sciulli will assume this role on a full-time basis beginning in March.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Governance Committee - Senator Tai Leigh Baker

- a. The election cycle is beginning for Staff Senate positions; the committee is reaching out to senators with terms ending June 30, 2026, to gauge interest in reelection.
 - i. There are currently 10 vacant district seats.
- a. The committee is partnering with Staff Relations to host a co-sponsored event to increase awareness of the time commitment and issues handled by the Senate.

- b. Nominations will be processed in March, followed by April/May voting and July confirmations. The first meeting for new senators will be the July 1 retreat.
- c. The Vice President, Treasurer, Member-at-Large, and Secretary positions are up for reelection; the Presidency is not.

B. Staff Relations Committee - Senator Christopher Weber

- a. Continued focus on parking issues, tuition waiver surveys, and FMLA/leave time (specifically exempt vs. non-exempt issues).
- b. Identifying dedicated workspaces for senators to utilize away from their desks.
- c. A working group is being formed to manage the rollout of staff scholarships.
- d. Information regarding the Half Acre/Rec Center discount is pending and expected soon.
- e. A Sub-Committee will be formed to further explore and analyze data relating to a proposed expansion of the existing Tuition Waiver Benefit for staff.

C. Staff Recognition Committee - Senator Jane Crayton

- a. Staff Recognition Day is April 13 from 12:00 – 2:00 PM in The Wyoming Union building.
 - i. Volunteers are needed for setup and cleanup (11:00 AM – 3:00 PM). Group work sessions to prep for the event will be held in March.
 - ii. Volunteers are being asked to wear black pants and a white dress shirt; red bow ties will be provided.
- b. Nominations for Staff Awards are now being accepted, these are due by February 20.
- c. Staff Senate Holiday Market 2025 Overview
 - i. The 2025 Staff Senate Holiday Market was our most successful event to date, both financially and in community impact.
 - ii. This year, the Holiday Market generated \$6,700 in profit, significantly increasing funds available to support future Staff Senate initiatives like recognition day and staff scholarships. The scope of the event was expanded significantly, with more than 30 additional vendors, creating greater opportunities for local makers, artists, and small businesses to participate and benefit.
 - iii. The event grew into a full-day campus celebration, featuring:
 - A live radio broadcast bringing visibility to the event beyond campus
 - Live musicians and DJs throughout the day
 - Appearances by Santa and the Grinch, along with a popular DIY photo booth
 - A curated Food Truck Village, offering diverse dining options and encouraging attendees to stay and engage longer

- iv. The expanded scope transformed the Holiday Market from a shopping event into a vibrant, immersive community experience, drawing strong attendance and positive feedback from staff, vendors, and campus partners.
- v. Overall, the 2025 Holiday Market demonstrated meaningful growth in scale, revenue, and engagement, reinforcing its role as a signature Staff Senate event and a major contributor to campus morale and community building.

LIASON REPORTS:

A. Shared Governance - Senator Seth Holmquist & Senator Tai Leigh Baker

- a. The interim final report is available on the BOT website. Senators are encouraged to share the report with constituents and forward feedback to Senators Holmquist and Baker or President Dailey.

B. AI Committee - Senator Christopher Weber & Senator Lisa Owens

- a. Senators Weber and Owens are the only staff representatives on this faculty-focused committee.
 - i. Senator Weber proposed a staff subcommittee within the larger group.
- b. President Dailey will invite the head of the AI committee to speak at a future full Senate meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Scholarships

- a. The availability of funding for scholarships has been confirmed for this annual budget.

B. JAC Committee - Proposed Budget Cuts

- a. Legislative meetings begin on Monday regarding potential university wide budget cuts.
- b. Staff are reminded that they cannot reach out to legislators as Staff Senate/University representatives, though they may do so as individuals.
- c. Staff Senate has passed a motion to write a letter in support of the ASUW resolution against cuts, specifically highlighting the impact on staff.
- d. President Dailey has started a draft for Senator review and edit; the Executive Committee will set a deadline for finalization.

EXTERNAL LIAISON REPORTS:

A. ASUW - Student Senator Logan Heard

- a. Passed Resolution 383 regarding the state legislature's proposed cuts to the University budget; Staff Senate support has been requested to further address this matter.

- b. Passed Resolution 2084 regarding the proposed budget cuts to public media, noting the elimination of 8 staff positions at WPM and the overall impact this will have on rural Wyoming localities.
- c. Passed Resolution 3085 regarding the denial of \$6 million in Athletics funding needed for D1/NCAA requirements.
- d. Encouraging the legislature to expand the Wyoming State Hathaway Program.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

A. President's Office - Kelsey Kyne

- a. Spring Convocation is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, from 3:30 – 5:00 PM in the Union Ballroom. This will serve as a farewell for President Seidel.
- b. UW will participate in the "Great Colleges to Work For" survey to assess communication transparency.
- c. The second cohort of the Presidential Leadership Institute has concluded; applications for next year will be announced soon.

B. Academic Affairs -

- a. Staff Award nominations are due March 6 via the Academic Affairs website.
- b. The search for the UW-Casper Dean is currently underway.

C. Research and Economic Development Division (REDD) - Shelly Schnieder

- a. The division is undergoing a reorganization due to funding changes.
- b. A campus Town Hall is scheduled for February 10 at 12:00 PM.
- c. REDD data shows UW has consistently brought in funding over the past several years.

D. Operations -

- a. The new South Hall dormitory is now occupied.
- b. The pool project is progressing and expected to be finished by the end of the spring semester.
- c. BOT approved a contract for landscaping around the residence halls and Union lot, beginning in March.

E. Student Affairs -

- a. Outstanding Senior Award nominations are due Friday, February 6.
- b. Phase 2 of Wellness in The West includes a self-guided online suicide prevention course for those who have completed Mental Health First Aid. An open house will be held by the end of Spring.

F. Human Resources - VP Bob Link

- a. I-9s must be completed within 3 days of starting work to comply with policy. Supervisors must ensure timecards are reviewed and not left to auto-approval.

- b. Staff are encouraged to review beneficiaries on retirement accounts. UW provides a \$20 match for contributions to WRS or TIAA.
- c. The Ombudsman position is currently vacant; issues typically handled by the Ombud may go through HR in the interim.

Respectfully submitted by Aaron Sciulli, Interim Member-at-Large