Chris Maki elected Staff Senate President

Staff Senate would like to congratulate Chris Maki on being elected as the 2021-22 president. She has already unofficially begun serving, with her official term to begin July 1st. Maki has been the Manager of Space Allocation since 2013, with the goal of traversing every square foot of University owned property. Chris graduated from the University of Wyoming with a degree in Textiles and Merchandising and minors in Apparel Design and Interior Design. Chris went on to obtain her license for Interior Design, working in the design and construction industry before returning to the University. Chris is also credentialed in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Building Design and Construction and Residential Building Design and Performance. When Chris isn’t walking all of campus, she is usually found to be engaged in local scouting groups or hanging out with her family.

“Twelve months seems like a long time, but as I embark on this year as Staff Senate President, twelve months doesn’t seem that long at all. What it does mean is twelve meetings with Staff Senate to make sure that staff and their concerns are represented to the University, wherein we are also informed by Vice Presidents and Provosts and various AVPs on the inner workings of our University. I will urge senators to convey important information to their constituents each month. My goal for the next year is to encourage staff senators to participate in senate committees and external committees to ensure that staff have representation and a strong voice. We will continue to encourage shared governance and work closely with ASUW and Faculty Senate. As things begin to open up this year, I hope to facilitate a safe return to the Holiday Market, community service, and Staff Recognition Day. We are facing another tumultuous year, but with a strong Staff Senate and engagement from our senators, I know that this will be a productive year.”

Welcome, Dr. Kevin Carman!

On behalf of Staff Senate, we would like to welcome our new Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost!

Dr. Carman is a distinguished scholar and administrator who led academic and research improvements at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Welcome, Executive VP for Academic Affairs and Provost Carman!
Vaccination Appreciation Day

UW employees who’ve reported being fully vaccinated are eligible for a personal day off. This vaccination appreciation day must be taken before Aug. 15. Employees will need to follow the standard processes for requesting time off, in collaboration with and approval by supervisors. The vaccination appreciation day will be tracked in this manner:

- For **salaried exempt employees**, managers will track the day manually -- it will not be added to the HCM system, and it will be used in whole-day increments.

- For **salaried non-exempt employees**, eight hours will be added to the Comp Bank and are to be used with normal Comp Bank rules established in the units. The hours will be prorated for part-time workers, if applicable.

- For **hourly non-benefited employees**, the Payroll Office asks you to use the “Vaccine Appreciation Leave” time-reporting code; the hours will be prorated to their full-time equivalent status; supervisors will track usage entered by employees into the timekeeping system; and units will establish rules for use.

Please contact Human Resources with any questions or concerns you may have about comp time.

Staff Recognition Day Comp Time

Every staff member was given **four hours** of comp time approved by Pres. Seidel in place of a live Staff Recognition Day event. The time must be used in one block by **August 1st** with the approval of a supervisor. The comp time was loaded in non-exempt employees’ Comp Banks on May 12th. Exempt employees will be on the honor system.

Make sure to use your comp time!

UW Vaccine and Testing Update

Beginning on **July 1, 2021**, mandatory surveillance testing programs will be discontinued.

However, the University will conduct random sampling diagnostic testing of **3% of the entire University community** on a weekly basis, except that persons at least two weeks past being fully vaccinated and persons who have received surveillance or diagnostic testing within five days may opt out of the testing. Additionally, general voluntary diagnostic testing will available to asymptomatic faculty, staff, students and the public.

As of June 24th, 2,097 of UW’s 2,922 full-time, benefited employees -- **71.7 percent** -- have reported having received at least one dose of the vaccine. Adding in non-benefited workers, 3228 of 6,018 employees -- **52.2 percent** -- have reported receiving at least one dose.

Congratulating John Davis on his retirement

University of Wyoming Operations Associate Vice President John Davis retired June 11 after a decade of service to the university.

Staff Senate would like to extend our congratulations to John Davis, former AVP of Operations, on his retirement! Davis was invaluable to the Senate, keeping us up-to-date with all things related to Operations. We have enjoyed our partnership, and congratulations once more to AVP Davis!

August Staff Senate Meeting

**Wednesday, August 4th at 1:15 PM**
***Union Senate Chambers***

OR virtual meeting via Zoom
Meeting ID: 998 0483 0698

* No Staff Senate meeting in July! *
UW Budget Update

As we all know our current budget situation is always a snapshot in time. Here’s where we stand in June of 2021.

Over the biennium, fiscal year (FY) 21-22, the Legislature asked UW to cut $44.5 million. These budgets cuts have been completed using a range of options:

- 45 vacant faculty positions were eliminated (~$11mill)
- 23 administrative positions were eliminated (~6.4 mill)
- 12 staff positions were also eliminated (~$1.7 mill, administrative and staff cuts were a mix of vacant positions and layoffs)
- ~$15mill was cut from operating costs
- planning to leave vacant positions unfilled for longer durations before rehiring (~$10 mill)
- other smaller cuts were made and some of the cut was offset with reserves, CARES funding, and fee increases.

The budget is balanced going into next FY.

The Legislature also asked UW to plan for an additional $8 million in cuts during biennium FY23-24. A range of options to meet this request and plan for continuing budget uncertainty from the state are currently in the works.

One concrete cost savings towards the $8 million that has already been implemented is to refinance past loans (for previous dorm renovations) at a lower interest rate and to use low interest loans to buy out the private partner share of Bison Run apartments, helping insure future university revenues (~$800,000 annually).

A final report from the academic program reviews began this spring will be sent to the Board of Trustees for action at their July meeting. This will trigger regulation 2-13 regarding program eliminations and begin a 45 day period where the campus community—particularly Faculty Senate—will have a chance to comment and engage on the recommendations before the Board votes on final program eliminations in October.

New Staff Senators

July begins the new Senate year and we are pleased to welcome our newly elected Senators as well as a few recently appointed Senators:

**Academic Affairs:**
- Denise Sheen, College of Business Student Success Center
- Kasi Smart, English
- Caroline Bragg, History
- Hailey Dungan, Admissions
- Ellie Riske, WY State Vet Lab

**Administration & Finance:**
- Peter Wolfinbarger, UW Stores
- Tara Van Cleave, Accounting
- Tim Nichols, Transit and Parking

**Student Affairs:**
- Adam Comeau, Campus Recreation
- Shelby Antepenko, Student Health
- Aleah Biertzer, Campus Recreation

Know someone who would make a great Senator?

Staff Senate is seeking nominees for open Senate seats to begin July 1st! The following divisions have seats up for election:

Academic Affairs, Administration, Information Technology, Institutional Advancement (Foundation), Student Affairs

Even if you don’t know your division – nominate yourself or others! We have additional vacant seats that we’ll be looking to fill by appointment.

To nominate a staff member, email David Keto, Credentials & Elections Chair, dketo@uwyo.edu