**Board of Trustees**

**Committee on Academic and Student Affairs**

**September 16, 2020**

**9:45-11:45am**

**Committee Report**

*UW Trustees: Michelle Sullivan (Chair), Mel Baldwin, Macey Moore, Laura Schmidt-Pizzato*

1. **Information & Discussion– Future Priorities**
   1. Information/Discussion: Recognizing that UW is facing significant challenges as the institution faces both looming budget cuts and major shifts in higher education, the committee, UW staff and faculty had a broad discussion about how the Committee can most effectively support strategic priorities and partnerships focused upon student success efforts. The committee began by hearing about President Seidel’s four priorities: Interdisciplinarity, inclusivity, connectivity and entrepreneurial. Acting Provost Alexander then went into some detail about what each of these priorities mean. The committee then discussed how we continue to innovate and support new approaches both to connect and recruit potential students and then support their success throughout their academic journey. The Committee emphasized the need
      1. To think carefully about where UW is well positioned for excellence;
      2. be willing to develop robust new partnerships;
      3. acknowledge that UW will have to innovate in completely new ways to support students and to serve the state.
   2. Action: This is an information item.
   3. Next Steps:
2. **Consideration and Action – ACT/SAT Test Optional Consideration** 
   1. Information/Discussion: ACT/SAT test availability has been significantly impacted due to COVID-19. This lack of ability to test has resulted in many students unable to provide the test scores required for admission to higher education institutions. Consistent with our near peers and regional peers, UW recommended offering applicants Test Optional Admissions for upcoming 2021/2022 terms. UW regulation provides the ability to consider holistic admission. This recommendation would fit within the existing allowance of the regulation. The Committee supported the recommendation. This motion is only for admissions not for financial aid. Trustee Moore emphasized the need to be very clear with those who are admitted that Wyoming high school seniors should take the ACT in order to qualify for the Hathaway and other scholarships.
   2. Action: Motion passed.
   3. Next Steps: Trustee Sullivan propose motion with full board:
      1. *I move to authorize administration to allow for students to choose a Test Optional consideration for admission to the University of Wyoming for the 2021/2022 academic year. The application materials will provide a disclosure statement to acknowledge that this option could result in financial aid implications for students.*
   4. Important that the Trustees consider the 2021 Financial Aid plan in order to support the recruitment of next year’s class.
3. **Information & Discussion – Shared Governance**
   1. Information/Discussion: At the request of the Board of Trustees Regulation Committee, President Seidel is convening a working group to provide him with recommendations for the content of a UW Regulation related to shared governance.  The Working Group’s recommendations will be informed by UW’s Pythian Paper on Shared Governance (currently being drafted by Professor McCracken Flesher and her working group) and the March 2017 AGB White Paper on Shared Governance. Tara Evans, Vice President and General Counsel, will chair this working group, and recommendations are due to President Seidel by December 1, 2020.  Representatives from the Faculty senate emphasized that with budget cuts, time is of the essence and noted that shared governance will be of paramount importance during this time.
   2. Action: This is an information item.
   3. Next Steps:
      1. Coordinate with Rules & Regulations committee and Working Group as a shared governance regulation.