

THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE TRUSTEES

February 16, 2022
Public Session

Final minutes can be found on the University of Wyoming Board of Trustees website at www.uwyo.edu/trustees

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Wednesday, February 16, 2022
Via Video Conference**

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The University of Wyoming Board of Trustees held a conference call on Wednesday morning, February 16, 2022. Trustee Chairman Jeff Marsh called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. Deputy Secretary RoseMarie London took roll.

Trustees participating: Trustees Brad Bonner, Kermit Brown, David Fall, Elizabeth Greenwood, Brad LaCroix, Carol Linton, Jeff Marsh, John McKinley, Macey Moore, Laura Schmid-Pizzato, Michelle Sullivan, and Dave True. Ex-officio members participating: UW President Ed Seidel, ASUW President Hunter Swilling. Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon, Wyoming Community College Commission Executive Director Sandy Caldwell, and State Superintendent for Public Instruction Brian Schroeder were not present.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Mask Policy (Spring 2022 COVID-19 Campus Plan), Seidel

UW President Ed Seidel discussed his recommendation to lift UW's mask policy, except in the classroom, healthcare settings, public transportation (which is federal requirement), UW's childcare center, and in individual offices if an occupant requests it. President Seidel stated the surge in cases related to the Omicron variant has appeared to peak statewide and nationwide, and sample prevalence at UW and in Albany County are on the decline. President Seidel reminded the Board there are currently no state requirements for masking, to include the K-12 system. President Seidel stated the university will continue to monitor County Transmission Indicators and in the event of a significant and sustained increase in transmission risk, the recommended modified policy might be revisited. President Seidel went on to discuss the shift in mask policies across the nation, noting that various institutions of higher education had begun to recommend but not require face coverings. President Seidel reported that while Wyoming and Albany County do not have a very high vaccine rate, at least 67% of university employees and 44% of students are vaccinated. President Seidel reported the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) continues to recommend face coverings in indoor settings, but also clarifies that universities should look at local conditions and implement prevention strategies to slow the spread. President Seidel further stated the university has implemented all of the CDC recommended prevention strategies, and he is comfortable with recommending a less stringent masking policy.

College of Health Sciences Dean David Jones provided a brief summary of the COVID-19 Advisory Committee's recommendations to the president. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood discussed what she felt is contradictory guidance within the current campus mask policy, and invited ASUW President Hunter Swilling to provide student perspective. Swilling discussed recent student survey results on the matter, and in response to inquiry from Trustee John McKinley, reported that the survey received 1,800 respondents; ~16% of student body. Trustee David Fall expressed his support of the president's proposed approach to lifting the mask policy. In response to Board inquiry, Jones discussed the distinction between voluntary and involuntary activities and corresponding areas of campus.

Trustee Brad LaCroix stated individual decisions regarding mask wearing should be respected. Trustee Carol Linton stated that masks in classrooms should be optional. Trustee Macey Moore stated the issue continues to be divisive and urged the Board to follow the state guidance. Trustee Jeff Marsh discussed state culture regarding the use of face coverings. Trustee David Fall discussed the complications of optional mask policy in classrooms. In response, Vice President and General Counsel Tara Evans stated that faculty would be required to adhere to the policy approved by the Board as it related to the use of masks in classrooms. Trustee McKinley stated he felt the president's proposal protects the most vulnerable in mandatory settings such as classrooms, allows for voluntary use of face coverings in other circumstances, and stated his support of the recommendation as articulated by President Seidel and Dean Jones. In response to inquiry from Trustee Laura Schmid-Pizzato, Evans discussed the process in place for medical and other accommodation as necessary. Faculty Senate Chairman Adrienne Freng stated the president's proposal is a good transition away from the mask policy, and supported Trustee McKinley's comments articulating the classroom as a different space.

Mask Policy I

02-16-2022 @ 9:17 a.m.

Trustee David Fall moved that effective February 21, 2022, masks will be recommended (not required) except for the following:

1. Masks will continue to be required in all medically-related units, including but not limited to: Student Health Services; Medical Clinic area within Athletics; Family Medicine Residency Programs in Casper and Cheyenne; Albany Community Health Clinic; and UW Speech & Hearing Clinic.
2. Masks will be required in all UW classrooms unless you can socially distance.
3. Masks will be required in any UW campus office when it is requested by the office occupant.
4. Masks will be required in the UW Early Childhood Education Center. Trustee David Fall further moved to revisit this policy at the March 2022 Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee Dave True seconded the motion. The motion failed via roll call vote.

Mask Policy II

02-16-2022 @ 9:27 a.m.

Trustee Laura Schmid-Pizzato moved that effective February 21, 2022, masks be required in all medically related units including: Student Health Services; Medical Clinic area within Athletics; Family Medicine Residency Programs in Casper and Cheyenne; Albany County Community Health Clinic; UW Speech and Hearing Clinic, any UW campus office when it is requested by the office occupant, and in the UW Early Childhood Education Center. Schmid-Pizzato further moved the university encourages individuals to choose to wear masks in other areas of campus. Trustee Brad LaCroix seconded the motion. The motion carried via roll call vote. Trustees David Fall and Dave True voted no. Trustee Michelle Sullivan was absent for the vote.

Trustee Kermit Brown stated that there is no excuse for denigrating those who choose to wear a mask. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood stated there is no reason to denigrate those who choose not to wear a mask.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: November 2022 meeting logistics, Marsh/Seidel

UW President Ed Seidel provided the Board information regarding the request by Wyoming Business Alliance President Cindy Delancey that the University of Wyoming host the Governor's Business Forum in Laramie November 15-17, 2022. President Seidel went on to describe the business forum as the state's premier event for analysis and discussion about the Wyoming's economic and business climate, and attracts the state's largest assemblage of business, civic, and political leaders. President Seidel stated that inviting the Governor's Business Forum to the University of Wyoming would complement the institution's strategic vision related to local and statewide economic development, build stakeholder connections, and showcase opportunities for corporate partnerships with the university's new Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation that will be stood up this summer. Trustee Jeff Marsh reported to the Board that the Governor's Business Forum will require the use of the Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center, and possibly the UW Conference Center to accommodate its ~600 attendees. Trustee Marsh reminded that the Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center is reserved for the UW Board of Trustees November 16-18, 2022, meeting and would need to consider an alternate location for its November 2022 meeting. Deputy Secretary RoseMarie London provided information related to other campus space, particularly the availability of the Wyoming Union ballrooms and ancillary 2nd floor meeting rooms.

November 2022 UW Board of Trustees meeting logistics

02-16-2022 @ 9:35 a.m.

Trustee John McKinley moved the November 16-18, 2022, UW Board of Trustees meeting be held in appropriate locations on campus to allow for the Governor's Business Forum to use the Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center, with priority locations as follows: Trustee Committee meetings in Wyoming Union, and the Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center if available, the full Board of Trustees meeting in the following order of priority: the UW Conference Center, Wyoming Union ballrooms, or Coe Library room 506, subject UW IT staff ability to provide appropriate technology in multiple locations. Trustee Macey Moore seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Michelle Sullivan was absent for the vote.

OTHER ACTION TAKEN AT MEETING:

Approval of Minutes

02-16-2022 @ 8:39 a.m.

Trustee Laura Schmid-Pizzato moved the Board approve January 12-14, 2022, UW Board of Trustees meeting minutes (executive and public session). Trustee Carol Linton seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous decision.

Public Testimony: UW College of Law student Nicholas McDaniel provided comment regarding the mask policy, and referenced direction regarding the mask policy made by the dean of students and general counsel related to a RSO Campus Ventures event.

Date of Next Meeting

March 23-25, 2022 (Laramie, Wyoming)

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Executive Session Information

[The UW Board of Trustees met in Executive Session on Wednesday, February 16, 2022, via video conference.]

Executive Session

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

7:30 a.m.

Via video conference.

The University of Wyoming Board of Trustees called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. Trustee Michelle Sullivan moved the Board to enter into Executive Session:

- 1) To consider the appointment, employment, right to practice or dismissal of a public employee and to consider accepting or tendering offers concerning wages, salaries, benefits and terms of employment during all negotiations (16-4-405(a)(ii) and 16-4-405(a)(x))

The executive session was attended by the 12 voting members of the UW Board of Trustees, ex-officio members, and UW administrators and staff as appropriate. Trustee Carol Linton seconded the motion. The motion carried. The Board entered into executive session at 7:31 a.m.

Trustees participating: Trustees Brad Bonner, Kermit Brown, David Fall, Elizabeth Greenwood, Brad LaCroix, Carol Linton, Jeff Marsh, John McKinley, Macey Moore, Laura Schmid-Pizzato, Michelle Sullivan, and Dave True. Ex-officio members participating: UW President Ed Seidel, ASUW President Hunter Swilling. Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon, Wyoming Community College Commission Executive Director Sandy Caldwell, and State Superintendent for Public Instruction Brian Schroeder were not present.

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Kevin Carman, Vice President and General Counsel Tara Evans, Deputy General Counsel Paula Whaley, UW Board of Trustees Deputy Secretary RoseMarie London, and IT Specialist Margarita Rovani attended the entirety of the meeting. The following administrators were present during their respective topics:

- The following administrators during their respective topics:
 - Vice President for Institutional Advancement Ben Blalock
 - Deputy Vice President for Business and Finance Alex Kean

Respectfully submitted,



RoseMarie London
Deputy Secretary, UW Board of Trustees