

**FACULTY SENATE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

September 25, 2023

IN ATTENDANCE:

OFFICERS: Robert Sprague, *Chair*; Treva Sprout Ahrenholtz, *Secretary*; Renee Laegreid, *Past-Chair*; Ray Stuart Fertig III, *Chair-elect*; Vladimir Alvarado, Gregg Cawley, Tiger Robison *Members-at-Large*. *Member-at-Large Godby was excused from the meeting.*

Guests: Steve Barrett, *Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education.*

Chair Robert Sprague called the meeting of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSE) to order at 12:05 pm.

The Chair called for a motion to approve the agenda for September 25; made seconded and carried. Member-at-Large Laegreid voted against the motion. The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes of September 18; made seconded and carried.

The Chair reported on his meeting on the President's Leadership Institute with Kelsey Kyne and President Tim Nichols, noting that the plan was essentially to create an academic curriculum for faculty and staff classes around leadership. The Chair reported on the President's AI Initiative, noting that he had emphasized that the majority of faculty hired for the initiative should come from diverse backgrounds so that they can assist not just with issues regarding AI but serve as productive members of their departments. The Chair noted that 6 of the 22 positions would be going to either the School of Computing or the College of Engineering. The Committee discussed.

The Chair reported that the total student headcount was down 1.7% from last year, with a 14.4% drop in out-of-state freshmen at the University. The Chair noted that the Provost had reported that the freshman retention rate for the year was 77% compared to 75.4% of the previous year to the Board of Trustees. The Chair reported that 136 new faculty members had been hired, with 56 being tenure and tenure track, 51 having fixed term contracts, and 29 having fixed term rolling contracts noting that his totals did not indicate distribution by college, though the data in the Board of Trustees report did break down positions by college and department. The Committee discussed.

The Chair then asked the Committee if they would like to follow up on the previously discussed issue of recording classes by proposing their own syllabus language to be made University standard, noting that the Department of Education considered recording classes a reasonable accommodation to a disability. The Chair then asked if the issue should be charged to the Faculty

Academic Standards, Rights, and Responsibilities Committee. The Committee responded in the affirmative reasoning that there was a need for clarity regarding whether the students could record via audio or via video as well. The Committee suggested that General Counsel Evans be contacted to help determine how Wyoming State Statutes regarding 1-party consent would affect any changes to syllabus. The Chair tabled the suggestion and informed the Committee that he would reach out to General Counsel Evans. The Committee suggested that the FASSR Committee be charged with discussion of the issue. The Chair agreed with the Committee's suggestion.

The Chair then asked the Committee if the Faculty Senate should create a resolution endorsing the Freedom of Expression Committee's four principles of Freedom of Expression as presented to the Board of Trustees. The Committee discussed and decided in the negative, and that the Co-Chairs of the Freedom of Expression Working Group would be invited to at the full Senate meeting on October 9.

The Chair then reported on the previous week's meeting of the Board of Trustees, noting that the Board had Approved 4% tuition increase, and raised online resident tuition from \$166 an hour to \$199 an hour and fees from \$14 an hour to \$44 an hour which would apply to online-only and hybrid-online undergraduate program seekers beginning FY 2025. The Chair asked Vice Provost Barrett if there was a clear definition for a hybrid program. Vice Provost Barrett responded in the affirmative and suggested that the Committee contact Matt Griswold, who would have that information readily available. The Committee discussed.

The Chair then reported that the Board of Trustees had viewed the proposed degree eliminations and that individual Colleges, Departments, and Programs would be putting together reports on the proposed degree eliminations, and would likely submit their reports sometime in November, with the Faculty Senate probably beginning to receive 2-13 requests starting in either December or January. The Chair noted that many of the eliminations would be uncontroversial but that the consolidation of the French and German languages majors into one European Language major would likely be controversial but noted that the proposed cutting of degrees would not see any loss in faculty. The Committee discussed and noted that the Chairs of the Graduate Council and Academic Planning should be advised of this development. The Committee noted that some of the programs to be eliminated had been suspended before they had been put up for elimination, preventing potential students from enrolling for these programs and skewing the enrollment numbers of those programs.

The Chair then noted that the Board of Trustees had approved the ability for UW to charge other institutions different market-based rates for their students to take UW courses via the Acadeum platform. The Chair then explained that this would essentially allow for the University to sell vacant seats in online-only classes to students at other universities and that the reverse would apply to other universities, meaning that they could sell their online courses to students at UW. The Chair noted that UW could be a "Home" institution, allowing for UW students to register for online classes at other institutions. The Chair advised the Committee that he planned to assign review of this issue to the Student Interaction Committee and that he would be including ASUW, Staff Senate, Academic Affairs, and Vice Provost for Online and Continuing Education Griswold in further discussions. The Committee discussed.

The Chair noted that he had received a second nominee for the Faculty Speaker Series and that he was selecting the two of them rather than having the Faculty Recognition Committee decide. The Committee discussed.

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:08 PM. Made, seconded, and carried.