

STAFF SENATE BILL #53

Title: Eligibility for Serving on Staff Senate

Date: April 6, 2022

Author: Senator Kennedy

Sponsors: Senators Nelson and Gomez

1 WHEREAS, the mission statement of the University of Wyoming Staff Senate states “The Staff
2 Senate will fulfill its advisory capacity while upholding the core values of unity, pride,
3 professionalism, and integrity and with a dedication to honest and open communication, by
4 providing a forum to foster and support a positive and meaningful dialogue among staff, faculty,
5 students, and the administration,” and;

6 WHEREAS, the composition of the Staff Senate is defined as “no more than forty (40) members,
7 or three (3) percent of the total number of benefitted staff at the time of reapportionment,
8 whichever is less.” (Rules and Procedures Article I, Section 1), and;

9 WHEREAS, benefitted staff exceeded 1,300 individuals, requiring 40 seats to be allocated
10 among the University’s eight divisions, and;

11 WHEREAS, the Credentials and Elections committee is tasked with both running elections and
12 filling vacancies in Staff Senate as outlined in Rules and Procedures Article V, Section 1.C, and;

13 WHEREAS, despite constant work from this committee there have been vacancies in Staff
14 Senate in each month of the 2022 fiscal year, and;

15 WHEREAS, the total of willing and eligible staff as a whole is sufficient to fill vacancies in Staff
16 Senate, and;

17 WHEREAS, Rules and Procedures outlines a senator must vacate their position if they “transfer
18 within the University from one division to another,” (Article III, Section 4.B), and;

19 WHEREAS, Rules and Procedures of the Staff Senate provide for Senator-At-Large seats “used
20 to fill seats that have been vacant for three or more months in a division that has no other
21 representation. The Senate-At-Large, though not from that division, will represent the staff of
22 that division.” (Article VII, Section 3.C), and;

23 WHEREAS, the term of these senators is defined as “A Senator-At-Large term will be one year,
24 unless there are no nominees for that seat in the next election. If there proceeds to be no
25 nominees for the seat, the Senator-At-Large term will follow membership term limits as outline
26 in this document.” (Article VII, Section 3.C.b), and;

27 WHEREAS, there are currently multiple vacancies in divisions with at least one other senator,
28 removing the possibility of Senators-At-Large filling these vacancies, and;

29 WHEREAS, the Credentials and Elections committee has interpreted Article III Section 4.B and
30 Article VII, Section 3.C to indicate senators must be employed in the division they serve, and;

31 WHEREAS, without clear indications, this committee has not allowed senators to serve outside
32 of their division without serving in a Senator-At-Large capacity, and;

33 WHEREAS, the Credentials and Election committee strives for transparency in elections while
34 fulfilling their function in Staff Senate;

35 THEREFORE, be it enacted that Article III, section 4.B be removed from the Staff Senate Rules
36 and Procedures, and;

37 THEREFORE, be it further resolved that any eligible staff member can participate in elections
38 for any division of the University of Wyoming, and;

39 THEREFORE, be it further resolved that any eligible staff member can be nominated and
40 confirmed to interim vacancies on Staff Senate, and;

- 41 THEREFORE, be it further resolved that Article VII, section 3.C.b be removed from the Staff
42 Senate Rules and Procedures to avoid redundancy.

Date of Passage: 04/06/2022

**“Being enacted on 04/06/2022. I do hereby sign my name hereto and approve this Senate
action.”** _____  _____

Staff Senate President, Chris Maki