

BRANDING IRON

Vol 119 Issue 69

Friday, February 10, 2017

Single Copies Free

Editorial: Student-less Affairs

Editorial Board

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Since July 2016, UW Student Media has been one of several student groups on campus mistreated by administration.

This problem arose over space allocation for our department. However, this editorial has not been written to discuss space allocation in the Union.

This editorial was written to call attention the manner in which Vice President “for Student Affairs” Sara Axelson, and those under her supervision, has treated students over the past year or more.

The primary theme of that treatment is deception. Through this process student affairs, and specifically Axelson, has been dishonest with students.

The first, and perhaps most significant example of this is the fact that Student Media was not even informed that we may lose our space until after an entire floor plan had been drafted by an independent architect.

Worse still may be the reason our department would be moved. In the minute’s attached to the third party consultants (ALM2S) report, it shows a recommendation from UW to reduce Student Medias footprint.

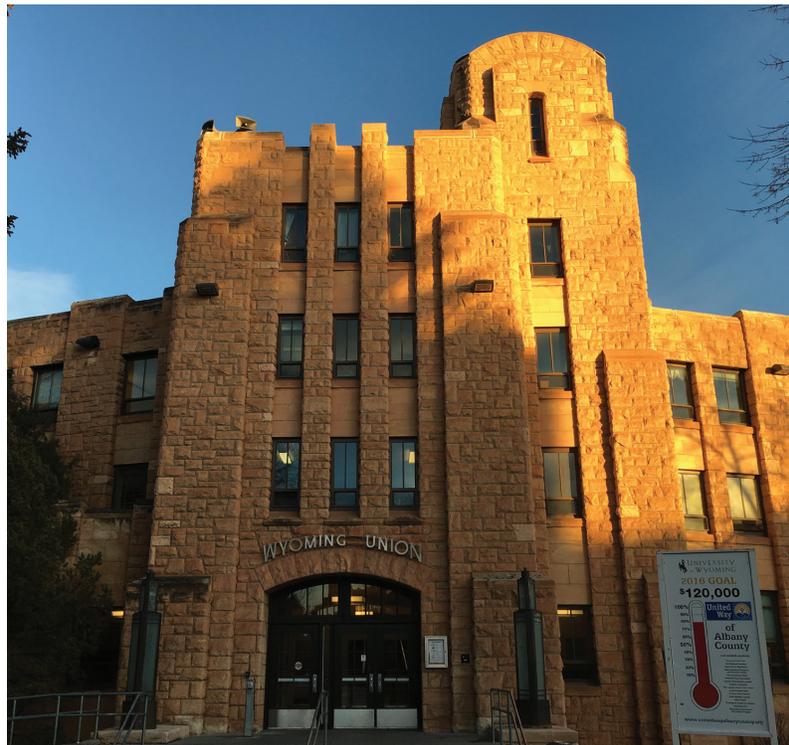
In an interview, and on several other occasions, Axelson was asked if this recommendation came from her. She consistently said she did not remember.

However, in an email written by Axelson on Mar. 20, 2016 she said, “We met with the consultant who shared some scenarios in the attachment in which we offered significant feedback. Bottom line is that they will return to us recommendations that include these key components with some variations.”

Axelson went on in the email to list those components, including, “Relocate the Veteran’s Center to the Union (Most likely 3rd floor, west wing,” and “Reduce the foot print of Student Media on the 3rd floor.”

Axelson admits in the email that the Veterans would rather not be in the Union.

This email is concerning for two reasons. The first is that in the BI’s initial interview with Axelson she first claimed that these were the recommendations of the consultant. After being pressed on the issue she then said she could not remember who made the recommendation.



(Photo by Jamie Hampton)

It is clear from this email that she made the recommendations. Beyond that they were issued as “key components” for the consultants, a rather difficult thing to forget.

Another example of Axelson’s department lying, affected not only Student Media, but the Veteran Center as well. Throughout the process of trying to persuade administration to vet the floor plan returned by the third party consultants, Student Media was told, “Nothing is set in stone.”

In a meeting with Axelson, Eric Webb, Dean of Students

Sean Blackburn, Vice President of ASUW Tyler Wolfgang and President Michael Rottelini, it became clear that was not true.

At that meeting we asked Axelson if the Veterans, who would now occupy our space, knew that the plan was on hold. Axelson said she didn’t know, and after Student Media demanded an answer, she asked Blackburn to answer for her.

Vision board reached out in an April email asking if the board would consider the options.

Rather than answer Kerbs, Darcy DeTienne, Director of the Wyoming Union, forwarded the email to Axelson and asked, “Since it was decided to get approval on a plan without going back to the team and involving them, how should I respond to this?”

Axelson and her subordinates had decided to move on from the union visioning board without so much as telling them.

The most recent deception came a week ago, when Student Media sat down with Blackburn to discuss the possibility of moving our department to the administrative offices in the basement of the union.

Blackburn told Student Media that nothing had been decided and that we would have a chance to further consider that space.

Unfortunately that chance never came. We received an email less than a week later informing us that they are moving forward with the plan and that the vetting process had concluded.

The bottom line is that the people whose job it is to look out for students is lying directly to students. They are pushing policies and changes that the affected parties have advocated against.

The question becomes why? Why push an agenda with which most students associated disagree? Why lie if they’re not doing anything wrong?

Student Affairs’ number one goal should be to listen to and help students. They have elected to do so by ignoring and lying to us.

ASUW must draft a resolution to halt this process. It has been rushed and forced from the beginning and is only convenient for those making the decision.

This is our school, they should serve us, not themselves.

For the sake of transparency, copies of the emails referenced in this editorial can be found on uwbrandingiron.com.



Comic by Elliot Hunt

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Preferential hiring for vets

Kristian Arnusch

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Senate File 053 (SF 53) was introduced to the Wyoming House of Representatives on Wednesday Feb. 3, as an update to a law allowing businesses to apply preference to veterans of the U.S. military when hiring.

The current statute gives able-bodied veterans in the state a 5 percent higher chance of being hired, and disabled veterans a 10 percent higher chance provided the veteran has lived in the state for a full year prior. SF 53 would amend the current law to eliminate the waiting time of one year, allowing veterans who move into the state the same privileges upon establishing residency.

"I think it's great! If someone wants to move to Wyoming and benefit the economy, they should go for it," Jose Delgado, a veteran and UW student, said.

The bill will provide an opportunity for veterans to come in and benefit all as-

pects of the state, including the economy, Delgado said.

"I think this will affect the University positively, vets won't leave Wyoming after they graduate," Delgado said.

The bill may also bring more of the U.S.' service men and women to Wyoming once they leave active duty.

"I think that any vet looking to have better chance at employment should stay in Wyoming. Absolutely it will encourage those coming back from active duty to live in Wyoming," Eric Magnuson, of UW's Army ROTC program, said.

Students from military families and backgrounds are also in favor of the bill.

"I believe it's a good thing that the state is taking an interest in our vets and finding a way to assist them in finding work," UW student, Mark Merlino, said. "I'm cautiously optimistic about this bill, having many family and friends that have served in the military. If the bill allows people to move to Wyoming to benefit the state, I'm all for it."



In regards to Senate File 053, Veteran Alex Gunter says, "I think it'll do a lot of good for veterans in the state and I think there should be more federal policies just like this." (Photo by McKenna Lipson)

There may also be negatives to the bill Merlino said.

"I do believe that decreasing the time they have to be here has some disadvantages," Merlino said. "What if veterans come into the state, get a job and then leave? Just because someone is a veteran doesn't mean they can't provide for themselves. This bill could very well be allowing

them to take jobs from the other citizens of the state who are in a worse position in life."

Merlino said the bill comes with more positives than negatives.

"It's good to know that the state is considerate towards those who have served us. It shows the patriotic fiber of the state and we as its citizens should expect nothing less," Merlino said.

Woman charged in Exxon robbery

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Kai Marie Blake was issued a \$100,000 arrest warrant after she failed to appear for her trial on Wednesday.

Blake is accused of stealing over a \$1,000 from her previous employer Big D. Exxon. Blake plead not guilty to this charge of felony theft. Blake's manager notified Laramie police that a theft may have occurred. Blake was then arrested following a police investigation that began Dec. 30, 2014, according to court documents.

"I learned from the manager that employe Blake, would take unregistered prepaid visa or other businesses card and use the business' computer system to scan and activate the visa card or other merchant card without paying for the funds loaded onto the card," Justin Johnson, Laramie police, said, according to court documents.

The manager told police that Blake did not have permission to be placing money onto these cards without making paying for them, according to court documents. In all, Blake made 47 transactions valued in excess of \$1,000, according to court documents.

Blake admitted to authorizing multiple cards, but said she had her man-

ger's approval and that she saved all the receipts so she would know how much money to repay, according to court documents.

It was discovered that Blake made 15 additional transactions that she did not save the receipts for, according to court documents.

If Blake is found guilty she could face up to 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.



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Q&A with Laurie Nichols

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All letters must include the writer's name, phone number and school year or university affiliation.

Letters should be kept to 400 words or less. The BI reserves the right to edit for length, clarity, libel and accuracy. Letters will run according to order received and the amount of space available.

CORRECTIONS

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The BI is published every Tuesday–Friday during the academic year with the exception of holidays and exam weeks, under the authority of the UW Student Media Board.

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UW President Laurie Nichols has plans for the future of the university's recruitment, retention, and now living space.

Branding Iron: Can you give me a quick overview of the recruitment and retention plan?

Laurie Nichols: The plan is not quite ready yet, so I don't really have it to share yet, but as soon as it's ready we'll share it with the whole campus and do a town hall meeting to try and get it out for everybody to see. We have worked with Huron consulting, who has been doing our financial work. We asked if they would step up and take on a special kind of sideline project of helping us with the strategic enrollment plan. They dug really deep into our data to understand us. So who do we recruit, what do our applicants look like, our yield data, who comes. They've looked a lot at transfer students, at in-state and out of state, really sort of the whole nine yards in terms of what we're doing, and using that data, they're trying to help us project out and put together a growth plan.

They have said that our greatest potential right now for growth is with transfer students, so they suggest we work on that, and that we also work on retention of students. Our retention is like 76% right now, and they would suggest we work on moving that closer to 80%.

BI: When are you planning to unroll that recruitment and retention plan?

LN: In a month to six weeks, I would say we'll have it ready to go. Then we'll begin implementation right after that, so summer

we'll hit it hard and it'll be a several year plan.

Writers Note: When asked about the plan for the dorms, Nichols went on to explain that she gave a presentation to legislators that included the renovation plan and pictures of village-style housing on other campuses, including Colorado State, Northern Colorado and South Dakota State.

The plan calls for a three phase building process. The first phase will be demolition of Crane and Hill halls, as well as the shared dining hall. Either three or four suite style halls will be built in that space and each building will have 200-250 rooms. Each building will have patios and outdoor fireplaces, and could possibly be residential Rooms will mostly have two beds, and there will be two to eight people sharing a living space.

The plan is to include an assortment of amenities. Each shared living space will include a bathroom and a living room, and the floors will have their own kitchen, dining areas, fireplaces, and laundry facilities.

Nichols also mentioned that they are leaning towards not tearing down McIntyre, Downey, Hill and White halls, and will probably open rooms on each floor to add amenities to those buildings as well. Another plan that the college has is to possibly close off the road currently running north of Grand Ave. to add a student walking path with added landscaping.

BI: How do you think this revitalization and renovation could affect attendance at UW?

LN: I can't help but think that we could put together this really cool village with brand-new buildings, do some neat residential colleges, and then really start to work on improving

some of the other buildings as we go. When students come to look at [UW] they would see we've improved the rest of the campus, I mean we have some great buildings. Then now we could show that housing is up to speed too. I really do think recruitment will change for us. I also think that more of our students will want to live on campus. Currently a lot of students want to get off campus because they don't want to live there. I actually think you'd really see that picture change a lot too. Students will really want to live in these facilities, because they're nice.

BI: In what ways do you expect the dorm renovation to attract students more than keeping degree programs and the frozen positions that are affecting campus?

LN: These are two different pots of money, and they do not mix. The housing money, the money we use to build dorms, and then the income we collect on the dorms we use to pay for the dorms. Essentially we're going to take out a loan to do this. Then we'll charge people to live there, and then you use that money to pay it back, so it is self-contained—what we call auxiliary funds, because this is an auxiliary function, and we can't use housing money to pay faculty. Then [the other pot] is the money used to pay faculty. It's state funds, it's tuition, and that's the money we are being asked to cut right now.

BI: What kind of time frame can be expected from start to finish of the dorm renovation project?

LN: We have a time frame where we would like to begin demolishing Crane in 2018 after summer. We would begin building right after, so we would be open Fall of '19.



White Hall, one of the four freshman resident halls at UW. The University is planning to renovate and revitalize the dorms on campus. (Photo by McKenna Lipson)

Exploring the nature of politics

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Growing up on a small farm in Minnesota, Teena Gabrielson found herself interested in politics at a young age.

"I was exposed to politics from an early age given the level of discussion within my family," Gabrielson said.

Before she attended Macalister College, Gabrielson had served as a U.S. Senate page in high school, which confirmed her love for political science. While in university, her confidence in the path she had chosen grew.

"By the time I went to college, I felt pretty confident that I was interested in political science," Gabrielson said. "I wrote my first abstract essay on 'What is Power?' and that hooked me on political philosophy."

Gabrielson, associate professor and Political Science Department Head, is a trained political theorist. Her classes range from ancient, modern and contemporary political thought. She also teaches courses on American political thought and environmental justice.



Teena Gabrielson is the department head of the Political Science department. Her new book focuses on the toxic body and how the media has impacted how people think about environmental justice issues. (Photo by Jahshua Sanchez)

The environment has always held a special place in Gabrielson's heart.

"I grew up with a lot of interaction with the natural world," Gabrielson said. "I spent a lot of time with the natural world in ways

that were really rejuvenating and pleasing to me."

These interactions have influenced her way of thinking and have ultimately intertwined themselves into her research.

"I'm concerned about environ-

mental politics," Gabrielson said. "How are we thinking about social justice issues as we think about the pressing environmental problems before us?"

Her current research focuses on the toxic human body. She uses this focus to engage in a conversation about environmental politics and how to bring social justice into the picture.

The media has also impacted how environmental justice issues are presented visually. Gabrielson dedicates a chapter of her book on this and how viewer's thinking is shaped through these images.

"My work on the toxic body is designed to help us think about those two things in common," Gabrielson said. "I want to think about the environment from new sites and new positions. One of those is the way in which many different human bodies register high levels of toxicity."

When talking about humans and toxic chemicals, Gabrielson gave a faculty senate lecture last semester on how chemotherapy is becoming normalized in everyday life through mass media.

see **POLITICS** pg. 8

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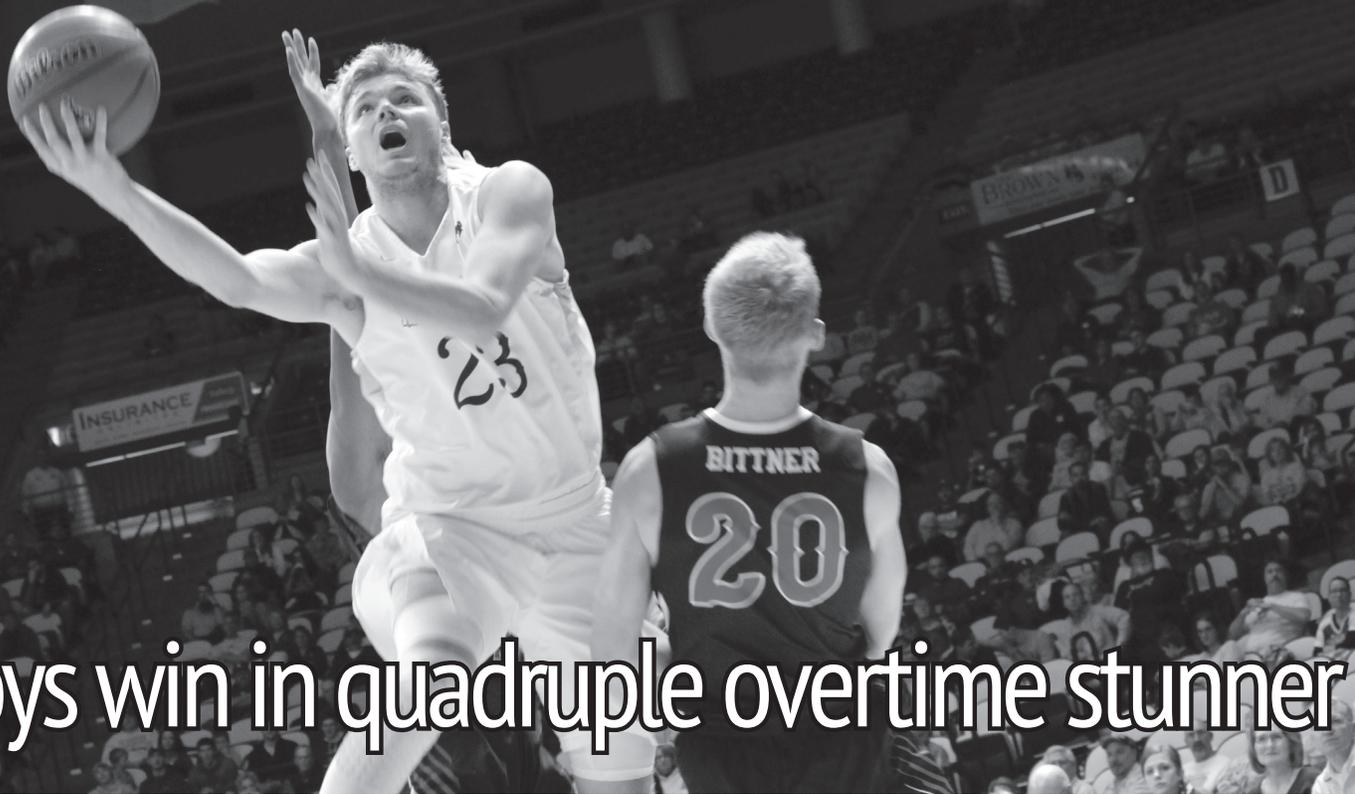
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Cowboys win in quadruple overtime stunner

Redshirt senior Jason McManamen looking to score a basket. Wyoming beat Fresno State 102-100. (Photo by Katy Grogan)

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The Arena Auditorium hosted a historic game on Wednesday night, with the Pokes taking Fresno state to four overtimes and scoring triple digits to edge past the Bulldogs 102-100.

"That was two good teams out there tonight," head coach Allen Edwards said. "You have to give Fresno State credit, especially being on the road to withstand the blows and continue to keep fighting. I also want to commend our guys for staying the course and coming away with a very good victory, which this time of year is critical to help position ourselves for a strong finish in league play."

Guard Jason McManamen scored 30 points on the night, marking his career high in points scored in a game. He also played 57 total minutes in the game, shot 47% from the field, and dropped seven three-pointers.

"With Jason (McManamen) being a senior, I was really happy for him," Edwards said. "What he did tonight—that is what he is capable of. Our team, and I say our team not just our coaching staff, always believed he would break out of this sometime during the season, and I'm really excited for him tonight."

Forward Hayden Dalton added his 9th double-double to this season's stats, scoring 21 points and securing 20 rebounds. He also added five assists, which marks his fifth game this season with at least five. Also scoring his career high, forward Alan Herndon shot 5-10 from the field, sinking four three-pointers and a few free-throws to add 17 points to the Pokes total.

"One of the keys was to rebound well tonight, and I have not been around a game where we got 60 rebounds," Edwards said. "It was a tremendous effort and H.D. (Hayden Dalton) had 20 or them by himself. And that trickled, Al (Herndon) had eight. Justin James had nine. Jordan (Naughton) had six. As we move forward, we're going to continue to need that kind of effort."

This quadruple overtime win tied for the longest game in men's NCAA this season, and the previous longest game was played the night before. The Alabama Crimson Tide took the South Carolina Gamecocks to four overtimes to win 90-86. The Pokes' last and only other four overtime game in its history was in 2002 against Air Force, when they defeated them 83-76.

"It's probably the craziest game I've ever been a part of," McManamen said. "Four overtimes, so many guys hitting big shots, making big free throws, it was fun."

The Pokes shot 30-77 and 39% on the night, adding 15 three pointers and 27 free throws. Fresno State shot 32-90 (36%), adding 10 three pointers and 26 free throws. These 90 shot attempts by Fresno were the third most shot all time at the Arena-Auditorium.

Despite the long game, only two pokes fouled out. James picked up his fifth foul in the first overtime, and was replaced by guard Morris Marshall, who has been troubled by injuries this entire season. Herndon then fouled out in the second overtime period and was replaced by Naughton.

"It's always hard to lose people when they foul out, but we always have guys like (Morris) and other guys on the bench who are always ready to come in and play," Dalton said. "That's what we love about

our team—we have a deep bench and everybody is always ready to play."

Coach Edwards also had some thoughts about the impact Morris had on the game.

"For Morris with this being his senior year, it was great to see him have a game like tonight," Edwards said. "Entering this year, I had plans for him, but he's dealt with injuries here and there which has made it hard to get him back out on the floor. But he's always stayed ready, and tonight he hit some big free throws. I'm happy for him."

The fourth overtime period began after a missed three pointer by McManamen in the final seconds of the third overtime, with the game tied at 90. Fresno nearly took the win but missed their attempt and the game went into the fourth overtime. The fourth overtime had five lead changes, but a couple of shots by guard Jeremy Lieberman and McManamen sealed the game, and Fresno was unable to close the gap.

"We all just kept fighting together," McManamen said. "We missed some big shots in the overtimes to give us the win, and we all made mistakes, but we never got down on each other and we stuck together and kept fighting until the very end."

The win raised the Cowboys to 14-10 overall and 6-6 in the Mountain West Conference. Fresno state dropped to 16-9 and 6-6 in the conference. Wyoming and Fresno state are currently tied for fourth in the conference, with Nevada and Boise tied at first, Colorado State at 2nd and New Mexico in the 3rd. This Saturday, the pokes will travel to Logan, Utah to play Utah State in another conference matchup. Utah State is currently 4-8 in the conference and 10-13 overall.

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POLITICS from pg. 5*Gabrielson*

“What happens when we begin to think about chemotherapy as a normal part of our life and what does it mean to think about cancer as an environmental issue?” Gabrielson said. “We tend to categorize it as a health issue but what if we think again about it as an environmental issue. How does that change our response to what constitutes environmental policy?”

The research allows Gabrielson to get lost in her work.

“I talk to students about this sometimes: the best work is the work you can lose yourself in,” Ga-

brielson said. “Many hours can go by [and] you’re still working away and you’ve lost track of time. My work is definitely like that.”

At UW since 2006, Gabrielson started out as an assistant professor before becoming the first female department head of political science in 2014. One of her main roles as department head was instituting the first five-year BA/MA program in the College of Arts and Science.

“We had our first cohort enter this year and we’ll have the second cohort next year,” Gabrielson said.

Gabrielson said she sees stu-

dent success as one of the best part of the job.

“Folks tend to talk about how faculty members tend to disagree on things, but there is one thing we care about deeply and that is the success of our students,” Gabrielson said. “It’s just so great seeing them go on and do the things they want to do.”

First generation student success keeps Gabrielson coming back and was one of the main reasons why she ended up at UW.

“It’s exciting,” Gabrielson said. “It feels like you’re making a difference for people.”

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