

*Approved February 14, 2024*

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**

**SUMMARY MINUTES**

**OF THE TRUSTEES**

**January 24-26, 2024**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

# University of Wyoming

## Vision

Use our unique strengths to make Wyoming and the world a better place.

## Mission

As Wyoming's university, we unlock the extraordinary in every person through education, research, innovation, engagement, and service.

## Values

- Access to an affordable, high-quality education.
- Real-world education where students learn by doing.
- A welcoming and supportive learning community fostered by integrity, inclusivity, freedom of expression, and respect.
- The growth, health, and leadership capacity of all members of the university community.
- Wyoming's wild and working lands as an asset to be utilized, understood, stewarded, and treasured.
- Our partnership and engagement with Wyoming communities in the creation and exchange of knowledge and resources.
- Our role as a catalyst for innovation and economic vitality.

*(Accepted January 2023)*

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING  
SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
January 24-26, 2024  
Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center  
Laramie, Wyoming**

As will be reflected in the public and executive session meeting minutes, the Board of Trustees of the University of Wyoming met in Laramie, Wyoming, on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, Thursday, January 25, 2024, and Friday, January 26, 2024. Committee Meetings were held on Wednesday, January 24, 2024. The Board's business meeting was held on Friday, January 26, 2024.

**TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**  
**BOARD MEETING AGENDA**  
**January 24-26, 2024**  
**Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center**  
**Laramie, Wyoming**

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**Thursday, January 24-26, 2024**  
**Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center**

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Introductions**

- Cowboys Football Coach Jay Sawvel – Welniak
- Wyoming Community College Commission Executive Director Ben Moritz – Seidel
- ASUW President Kameron Murfitt – Seidel

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE: UW President Update to Board, Seidel**

UW President Ed Seidel reported the university is actively addressing various aspects of student success, institutional excellence, community engagement, economic development, legislative advocacy, and research advancement to enhance its overall impact and reputation. President Seidel discussed retention and enrollment growth stating the university has seen a notable improvement in first-year student retention rates, with 92% retention from fall to spring, up from 90%. President Seidel stated he continues to pursue co-enrollment initiatives with Wyoming Community Colleges with an aim to facilitate smoother transitions for students. President Seidel stated that year-to-date, there has been a 7% increase in applications from first-time students, a 4.6% increase from transfer students, and a significant 20% increase from graduate students. President Seidel credited Associate Vice President for Communications and Marketing Chad Baldwin and his team for their contributions to this growth.

President Seidel went on to discuss retreat discussions with Ruffalo Noel Levitz (RNL) that focused on national trends in higher education, emphasizing the value of experiential learning and digital offerings, and reminded the Board that the state legislature will consider funding for the university's proposal for an AI initiative within the School of Computing to enhance digital offerings. President Seidel discussed institutional excellence and engagement during which efforts to embed experiential learning and pursue institutional excellence are highlighted, including the *Freedom of Expression, Intellectual Freedom, and Constructive Dialog* working group initiative, which has been adopted campus-wide. President Seidel recognized Martha McCoy for her efforts in this regard. President Seidel went on to briefly report the university is focused on steps to create career paths and progression ladders for staff members.

President Seidel discussed community partnerships and economic development and described collaboration with the Wyoming Business Council and other partners to enhance the university's impact on statewide economic development. President Seidel discussed partnerships with National Science Foundation (NSF) Engines to support the translation of research into economic development, including tech hub collaborations with Colorado on quantum computing and Idaho on nuclear energy. President Seidel reported the university is actively engaging with the state legislature regarding budget considerations, and reported that similar to last year student demonstrations at the Capitol on March 5, 2024, are being planned.

President Seidel provided update on research and grants reporting that under the leadership of Vice President for Research and Economic Development Parag Chitnis, the university has achieved \$150M in research expenditures in FY23, with expectations for continued growth. President Seidel called out the university's receipt of a grant from the Mellon Foundation to launch a PhD program in English.

In response to inquiry from Trustee David Fall, President Seidel stated the university is investigating ways to establish a presence on Wyoming Community College campuses. In response to inquiry from Trustee Dave True, Chitnis clarified resource distribution within the research unit.

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Research Excellence Presentation**

- Cattle and Carbon – Ranch-scale Investigations into Opportunities for Ranchers and Rangelands – Derek Scasta

As part of his presentation to the Board, Associate Professor of Rangeland Management Derek Scasta discussed the five-year, ~\$19 Million, multi-state study investigating how grazing management influences soil health and carbon sequestration and storage. The project involves 11 nonprofits, private research organizations, and public universities in the U.S. and U.K with work on the UW McGuire Ranch and 20 cooperating ranches in Wyoming and Colorado. The study, launched in 2022, employs state-of-the-art technology to address timely ranch management and environmental questions. Scasta discussed the global increase in CO2 emissions and its impact on climate change, highlighting the opportunity it presents for ranchers to sell carbon credits to the emerging private industry, creating potential revenue. Scasta reported the new phase of the project is in collaboration with \$9,000,000 in funding from the public entity Foundation for Food and Ag Research (FFAR), which was matched by the Nobel Research Institute, a private entity. Scasta reported that the ongoing research involves multiple locations, involving cooperating ranches across three regions, including the University of Wyoming's McGuire Ranch located between Laramie and Wheatland, WY. Scasta highlighted the importance of understanding how different soils, such as sand or clay, as well as measuring the quantity and quality of the forage influence carbon accumulation. Scasta stated that in partnership with researchers at Colorado State University (CSU), a soil probe is used to measure depths down to one meter to analyze the soil at different depths. In response to inquiry from Trustee John McKinley, Scasta stated there are currently no BLM or Forest Service grazing allotments utilized in this research, but there are a few State Trust Lands that are involved in the CO2 project.

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Update to Board: Trustees Education Initiative** – Bostrom/Shim

College of Education Interim Dean Jenna Shim, and Trustees Education Initiative (TEI) Board Member Dave Bostrom provided the Board update on key TEI initiatives, with a detailed focus on the Master Educator Competency Program (MECP) and Career Technical Education (CTE) efforts. Bostrom stated TEI was initiated to enhance the College of Education by improving educator preparation and support; born out of discontent within the legislature and school districts regarding the quality of education graduates. Initially funded by a \$5 million grant from the Daniels Fund, TEI focused on exploration, experiential learning, and career support for educators. The initiative has evolved to focus on three main areas: High Altitude Pathways, the MECP, and the Wyoming Teacher Mentor Corps.

TEI Director Colby Gull discussed upcoming activities related to High Altitude Pathways, including hands-on workshops for students to interact with potential employers. Colby stated the Wyoming Teacher Mentor Corps is recruiting mentors to support early career teachers, with a goal of expanding mentorship opportunities. Shim went on to provide updates on CTE, acknowledging the ongoing concern about the shortage of CTE teachers in Wyoming. Shim discussed the bridge introduction course in CTE which aims to attract a wide range of students, including veterans,

community college instructors, paraprofessionals, and industry workers, into CTE. The course is designed to accommodate hands-on learning experiences and is offered online with on-site mentors to provide in-person support.

The bridge instruction course covers various topics crucial for CTE teachers, including local job offerings, contracts, and partnerships with businesses and industries. Efforts are made to recruit students from the Wyoming Community Colleges and foster partnerships with business and industry to support the program. Shim stated efforts are being made to innovate the educational journey by compressing courses and streamlining dual enrollment between community colleges and the university. In response to inquiry from Trustee John McKinley, Shim stated while Western Wyoming Community College is participating in the bridge instruction course, there are no students from that district enrolled in the current semester. The Board received video testimonial regarding the value of CTE and the collaboration with various stakeholders, including the Wyoming Department of Education and career and technical student organizations, as a key aspect of improving the CTE teacher pipeline.

State Superintendent for Public Instruction Megan Degenfelder expressed enthusiasm for the collaborative efforts in addressing the shortage of CTE teachers and commended the swift improvements made in response to challenges faced less than a year ago when the CTE community sought alternatives to the university. Degenfelder emphasized the importance of partnerships in providing diverse opportunities for students and referred to a forthcoming teacher retention and recruitment retreat between the Department of Education and the university to further align efforts. Trustee Michelle Sullivan raised a question about the State Board of Education's involvement and oversight regarding the partnership and progress in CTE education stating her understanding some board members have been briefed, and plans for a formal update have been discussed.

Trustee Dave True expressed curiosity about the meaningful impact of TEI over the past decade, particularly regarding middle and high school student involvement in education, teacher preparation, and retention rates in Wyoming. Trustee True emphasized the need for tangible results and metrics to assess the program's success. Bostrom acknowledged the challenges and complexities in evaluating TEI's impact, noting that Wyoming's teacher retention rate is higher than neighboring states, though they agreed on the importance of objective measurements and suggests a thorough review of data in the upcoming meetings. Degenfelder concurred with Trustee True and spoke about ongoing efforts to collect statewide teacher survey data and establish a teacher retention and recruitment task force. Degenfelder emphasized the importance of collaboration and data analysis to address the evolving challenges in teacher preparation and retention.

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Update: K-12 Pilots and Masters Credits and College of Education Master Educator Competency Program** – Seidel/Carman/Shim

College of Education Interim Dean Jenn Shim provided an overview stating the Master Educator Competency Program (MECP) launched in partnership with 2Revolutions, involves several Wyoming school districts in its pilot phase. The program aims to equip Wyoming educators with essential skills for student-centered competency-based learning, ultimately aiming to improve student success and teacher retention rates in the state. Data collected from pilot districts led to



the development of eight overarching competencies for Wyoming educators, known as the Wyoming Portrait of an Educator.

Shim discussed collaborative efforts involving various stakeholders, including the university, state government and school districts, to innovate and pilot new programs aimed at supporting teachers and improving education in Wyoming. Shim stated the College of Education is actively involved in creating short courses (referred to as drops) with 2Revolutions with the goal to offer a total of 48 drops by the end of the next academic year, providing teachers with additional skills and opportunities for career advancement.

Vice Provost for Online and Continuing Education Matt Griswold reported the drops will be delivered through a platform called Rhapsode, offering adaptive learning elements to cater to individual student needs and pacing. The platform aims to make the learning experience more efficient and accessible for teachers. Griswold went on to state participating educators in pilot districts have the opportunity to earn three graduate credits, equivalent to a typical three-credit graduate course, which can be applied toward the College of Education's existing curriculum and instruction master's degree. Additionally, there are options for stackable drops and professional development credits to support teachers' professional development and career advancement. Griswold said currently, nine pilot school districts and a total of 81 teachers and 50 administrators are participating in the "Wyoming's Future of Learning" initiative. Participants engage in asynchronous coursework and facilitated skill-building activities to demonstrate, apply, and reflect on their learning. Griswold went on to state all Wyoming educators have the option to enroll in additional stackable drops of the MECP. Completion of three stackable drops, along with a capstone project, earns educators one graduate credit applicable to the existing curriculum and instruction master's program. Griswold stated the university can offer a maximum of eight graduate credits from the MECP stackable drops that can apply toward the university's existing master's degree; this is due to the fact that eight credits constitute 25% of the 32 credits required for the curriculum and instruction master's program, which allows the college to remain below the threshold for Higher Learning Commission's accreditation review. Those completing fewer drops or drops without the capstone course can earn professional development graduate credits.

Senior Policy Advisor for Governor Mark Gordon Lachelle Brant stated nine school districts are in the pilot program and there is an agreement participants will be given three credits for the work, and that participants will be granted further credit as they continue work in the fall. Trustee John McKinley expressed concern regarding the rollout and advertising of the program to ensure all interested parties are aware of the opportunities available. Trustee McKinley also discussed the ability to measure the success of the program and means to address ongoing challenges and evolving needs. Wyoming Community College Commission Executive Director Ben Moritz discussed the importance of aligning efforts with broader educational initiatives, such as competency-based education and micro-credentialing to ensure consistency and comparability across different educational levels and institutions. Moritz stated that when the university establishes policies around how to provide credit equivalents for microcredentials (which is what each "drop" is, essentially), it is establishing a sort of currency exchange rate. By establishing that exchange rate, the community colleges can then refer to that rate when they consider translating microcredentials into credits. Moritz discussed the challenge to evaluate how to translate from

microcredentials earned to credits earned and suggested the need for benchmarks and equivalencies.

Trustee John McKinley stated administration needed to resolve the issue of credit allocation for stackable drops and communicate the final decision clearly to school districts and teachers and stressed the importance of clarity and finality in decision-making, particularly regarding credit allocation. Trustee McKinley directed administration update the Board on progress during its February 2024 meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Annual Report: Academic Affairs, Sabbaticals/Leave for previous Academic Year (per UW Regulation 2-16) – Carman, Benham-Deal**

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Kevin Carman articulated the significance of sabbaticals and professional leave in faculty development is acknowledged, emphasizing their role in advancing scholarship and enhancing the educational experience for students. A Presentation by Associate Professor of English, Arielle Zibrak was postponed to a future date.

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:**

- **Annual Report: Division of Research and Economic Development; Science Initiative Update**
- **Information: Research and Economic Development Division FY2023 Report on Research Support and Technology Transfer – Chitnis**

Vice President for Research and Economic Development Parag Chitnis delivered a comprehensive overview of the university's research and economic development efforts, highlighting achievements, challenges, and future strategies. Chitnis reported the university has invested heavily in research, totaling \$150 million, with federal funding comprising over half of this amount. This significant investment underscores the institution's success in attracting external support for research endeavors. In comparison to neighboring universities in the 5-state mountain region, the university's research expenditures outstrip those of institutions like the Colorado School of Mines, despite its smaller size. Notably, the university's research output rivals that of larger institutions such as Iowa State University and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Chitnis stated that the university aims to increase research expenditures per faculty member, which currently stands at \$260,000, lower than that of larger universities.

Chitnis went on to report that efforts are underway to capitalize on new funding opportunities, including initiatives like the Chips and Science Act and grants for research in chronic wasting disease, to further boost research activities. Strategic initiatives include establishing new offices to leverage funding opportunities and fostering industrial partnerships to drive innovation and technology transfer. Chitnis said improvements in pre-award services are being implemented to streamline grant applications and support faculty in securing research funding. The Technology Transfer Office is being strengthened to facilitate the commercialization of research findings, with plans to hire additional staff and provide incentives for faculty engagement. Chitnis stated efforts to coordinate research impacts across the campus and engage with society are emphasized, with initiatives like the Advancing Research Impact in Society center. These efforts align with the university's goal of becoming a premier research institution. Chitnis stated the university's research and economic development division is actively pursuing initiatives to bolster research

activities, attract external funding, and translate research findings into tangible societal benefits, positioning the institution as a leader in academic research and innovation.

In response to Board discussion and inquiry regarding the timeline for staffing increases within the university, Chitnis confirmed that 11 additional staff members will be hired by the end of the fiscal year and restated the importance of addressing critical research areas like chronic wasting disease, leveraging institutional resources, and fostering collaborations to advance scientific endeavors and meet the needs of the state and region.

UW President Ed Seidel discussed the rigorous nature of grant competitions, with success rates as low as 10% in certain areas, underscoring the expertise of faculty and staff in crafting compelling proposals. President Seidel restated the significant increase in research expenditures over the past few years, which he attributed to both administrative initiatives and faculty efforts. It was noted the university has improved accuracy in reporting research spending, leading to a more comprehensive overview. Trustee David Fall commended the success. President Seidel discussed the future of Impact 307 incubators and stated the university aims to complement the initiatives of the Wyoming Business Council while focusing on local needs, particularly in supporting faculty and student startups.

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Naming of the Science Initiative Building -- McKinley**

Vice Chairman Kermit Brown took the chair to allow Chairman John McKinley to discuss the official naming of the University of Wyoming Science Initiative Building. Despite a momentary pause to clarify parliamentary procedure, the following motion was made, and a roll call vote was conducted.

***Naming of the Science Initiative Building***  
***01-25-2024 @ 2:18 p.m.***

Trustee John McKinley moved to name the building on the block of 9th Street and Bradley the “University of Wyoming Science Initiative Building.” Trustee David Fall seconded. The motion carried by roll call vote. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

Trustee McKinley further discussed UW Regulation 12-2 (Naming of University Facilities, Programmatic Units, and Funded Academic Honors), and UW Regulation 6-1 (Design, Construction, and Naming of Buildings) and Board authority as it relates to each.

**Roll Call**

Trustee Committee reports began at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 25, 2024. Deputy Secretary RoseMarie London called the roll.

Trustees participating: Brad Bonner, Kermit Brown (Vice Chairman) (via video conference), David Fall, Brad LaCroix, Carol Linton, Jim Mathis (via video conference), John McKinley (Chairman), Macey Moore, Laura Schmid-Pizzato (Secretary), Michelle Sullivan (Treasurer), and Dave True. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

Ex-officio members participating: UW President Ed Seidel, and ASUW President Kameron Murfitt, Superintendent for Public Instruction Megan Degenfelder, and Wyoming Community College Commission Executive Director Ben Moritz. Governor Mark Gordon was not in attendance. Senior Policy Advisor Lachelle Brant attended on his behalf.

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE: UW Fee Book Proposal for Academic Year 24-25 (per UW Regulation 7-11)** – Schmid-Pizzato/Kean

Trustee Laura Schmid-Pizzato discussed modifications to the UW Fee Book for AY 24-25, stating detailed proposals are available in the Biennium Budget Committee materials provided. Trustee Schmid-Pizzato highlighted a significant fee related to equitable access, which involves a program with the university store offering textbooks digitally for a fee of \$299 per student per semester. Trustee Schmid-Pizzato explained this fee aims to reduce overall textbook expenses for most students and offers the option to opt out if students have alternative access to textbooks.

***UW Student Fee Book approval and adoption of final Academic Year 2024-25 (FY2025) recommendations (per UW Regulation 7-11)***  
***01-25-2024 @ 2:31 p.m.***

In accordance with UW Regulation 7-11, Trustee Laura Schmid-Pizzato moved the Board approve the Academic Year 2024-2025 Student Fee Book recommendations as presented on pages 36-43 in the Biennium Budget Committee materials. Trustee David Fall seconded the motion.

In accordance with UW Regulation 7-11, Trustee Carol Linton moved the Board approve all the student fee narratives as presented on pages 40-43, and all of the Academic Year 2024-2025 Student Fee Book recommendations as presented on pages 36-39 in the Biennium Budget Committee materials except line 6 on page 37, which will be left at \$14/credit. Trustee Linton's friendly amendment was agreed to, and the motion carried. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Trustees' Annual Discrimination and Harassment, Mandatory Report, and Bystander Intervention Training** - Osborn

Per UW Regulation 4-2, all university employees are required to report harassment and discrimination to the University's Equal Opportunity Report and Response unit and the Title IX Coordinator. This training session provides a brief overview of sexual harassment and discrimination, mandatory reporting, accommodations for a disability, and bystander intervention. While Board members are not mandatory reporters, it is important for the Board to receive information about sexual harassment and discrimination, mandatory reporting, accommodations for a disability, implicit bias and bystander intervention. This is an annual training.

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Academic and Student Affairs Committee** – Michelle Sullivan (Chair)

Trustee Michelle Sullivan provided a brief summary of the Academic and Student Affairs discussion to include consideration of action to a Standard Administrative Policy and Procedure (SAPP) concerning naming opportunities and funding requirements for university facilities, programmatic units, and academic honorifics. Trustee Sullivan recommended Board Chairman John McKinley invite the now dissolved Regulation committee to review the SAPP and make

recommendations back to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee (AASA). Trustee McKinley stated he will consider an appropriate path forward to initiate the review process and recommends the Fiscal and Legal Affairs Committee and the Facilities Contracting Committee have an opportunity to consider the recommended modifications before the AASA Committee recommends action.

Trustee Sullivan discussed the Board's engagement with the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone tribes during its July 2023 meeting, and reported on progress made by administration since that time further suggesting the Tribes are given future opportunity to provide the Board feedback. Trustee Sullivan highlighted the positive connections being made with students from the reservation and with Central Wyoming College, emphasizing improvements in student success initiatives.

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Biennium Budget Committee – Laura Schmid-Pizzato (Chair)**

Trustee Laura Schmid-Pizzato proposed the following action recommended by the Biennium Budget Committee.

***Financial Aid Plan (per UW Regulation 7-11)***

***01-25-2024 @ 3:19 p.m.***

In accordance with UW Regulation 7-11, Trustee Laura Schmid-Pizzato moved the Board authorize administration to adopt the Financial Aid Strategies presented for the Academic Year 2025-26 awarding cycle, as presented on pages 44 in the Biennium Budget Committee materials. Trustee Carol Linton seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

***College of Agriculture, Life Sciences and Natural Resources – Replenishment of College Reserves (per UW Regulation 7-1 and UW Regulation 7-10)***

***01-25-2024 @ 3:20 p.m.***

In accordance with UW Regulation 7-1 and 7-10, Trustee Laura Schmid-Pizzato moved the Board authorize administration to transfer seven hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$725,000) from the Board of Trustees Special Project Reserve to the College of Agriculture, Life Sciences and Natural Resources Unrestricted Operating Reserve, as presented on page 47 of the Biennium Budget Committee materials. Trustee Carol Linton seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

***Athletic Unrestricted Operating Reserve Request (per Regulation 7-1)***

***01-25-2024 @ 3:21 p.m.***

In accordance with UW Regulation 7-1, Trustee Laura Schmid-Pizzato moved the Board authorize the UW Athletics Division to use up to five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) from the Athletics Unrestricted Operating Reserve to cover the cost escalation on the stadium lighting project, as presented on page 48 of the Biennium Budget Committee materials. Trustee Carol Linton seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Facilities Contracting Committee – Kermit Brown (Chair)**

Trustee Kermit Brown proposed the following action recommended by the Facilities Contracting Committee.

***Aquatics Center (Natatorium) -- Structural Design***

***01-25-2024 @ 3:32 p.m.***

Trustee Kermit Brown moved the Board authorize administration to proceed with the structural design of the new Aquatics Center in a manner that will accommodate a full stone exterior at a future date. This structural design will require modifications to the current building design that will result in an additional cost not-to-exceed three million dollars (\$3,000,000.00). Trustee Brad LaCroix seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

Trustee Kermit Brown further moved to add three million dollars (\$3,000,000.00) from the Construction Reserve account to increase the Aquatics Center project budget to a total project budget not-to-exceed Sixty-five Million Three Hundred Thirty-five Thousand Seven Hundred Fourteen dollars (\$65,335,714.00). Repayment to the Construction Reserve will be prioritized, first with any remaining funds from the Aquatics Center project after completion, and subsequently with other available Construction and Major Maintenance funds at the time of the project's completion. Trustee Brad LaCroix seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

Trustee Kermit Brown stated it would be prudent for the university to allow for the ability to apply stone to the stucco exterior of the Aquatic Center facade at a later date, which will also allow for an offset to major maintenance.

***Natatorium – Design and Building Name***

***01-25-2024 @ 3:39 p.m.***

Trustee Kermit Brown moved the Board authorize administration to officially name the Natatorium project building “University of Wyoming Aquatics Center”, add “Home of the Cowboys and Cowgirls” on the North side, approve the interior design, and approve the exterior modifications. Trustee Brad LaCroix seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent

Vice President for Operations Bill Mai provided further description of the Natatorium Design Updates as provided in the Facilities Contracting Committee meeting materials.

***15th Street – Design***

***01-25-2024 @ 3:37 p.m.***

Trustee Kermit Brown moved the Board approve the schematic design of the 15th Street project and authorize administration to proceed with the design and construction documents for a total project budget not-to-exceed Four Million Five Hundred Thousand dollars (\$4,500,000.00). Trustee Carol Linton seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

***War Memorial Stadium LED Lighting Upgrade – Construction Agreement  
01-25-2023 @ 3:45 p.m.***

Trustee Kermit Brown moved the Board authorize administration to increase the overall budget for the War Memorial Stadium LED Lighting Upgrade project from One Million Eight Hundred Thousand dollars (\$1,800,000) to Two Million Three Hundred Thousand dollars (\$2,300,000) funded with Athletics Private Funds and Athletics Reserves. Trustee Carol Linton seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

Trustee Kermit Brown further moved the Board authorize administration to execute the agreement between Owner and Contractor with Weifield Group Contracting, Inc. in the amount of One Million Nine Hundred and Forty-Seven Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Five dollars (\$1,947,955) for the War Memorial Stadium LED Lighting Upgrade. Trustee Carol Linton seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

***War Memorial Stadium West Stands Additions and Renovations - Change Order  
02-25-2024 @ 3:46 p.m.***

Trustee Kermit Brown moved the Board authorize administration to execute a change order with GE Johnson of Wyoming for the War Memorial Stadium West Stands Additions and Renovations project for an amount not-to-exceed One Hundred and Fifty Thousand One Hundred and Thirty-Six dollars (\$150,136.00). Trustee Carol Linton seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

***Student Housing and Dining – Change Order  
01-25-2024 @ 3:47 p.m.***

Trustee Kermit Brown moved the Board authorize administration to execute a change order with JE Dunn Construction for the Housing and Dining project for an amount not-to-exceed Two Hundred and Forty-Four Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty-Four dollars (\$244,824). Trustee Carol Linton seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

***College of Law – Graphics  
01-25-2024 @ 3:47 p.m.***

Trustee Kermit Brown moved the Board authorize administration to execute a contract with Western Sign and Design in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Three Hundred and Ninety-Seven dollars (\$100,397) for the College of Law Addition and Renovation project graphics package. Trustee Carol Linton seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

***Athletics Tracks Resurfacing – Project, Budget, and Delivery Method  
01-25-2024 @ 3:48 p.m.***

Trustee Kermit Brown moved the Board authorize administration to proceed with design and advertising of the Athletics Tracks Resurfacing project funded via the Athletics Directors Office with a total budget of Six Hundred and Sixty Thousand dollars (\$660,000) procured through the design-bid-build delivery method. Trustee Carol Linton seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

***Sheridan Research and Extension Center – Project Budget and Delivery Method  
01-25-2024 @ 3:49 p.m.***

Trustee Kermit Brown moved the Board authorize administration to proceed with the Sheridan Research & Extension Center Maintenance Facility project with a total budget of Two Million One Hundred and Ninety-Three Thousand Four Hundred and Twenty-Five dollars (\$2,193,425) procured through the design-bid-build project delivery method. Trustee Carol Linton seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

***Agriculture Building, Laboratory 6036 Renovation –Project, Budget, and Delivery Method  
01-25-2024 @ 3:49 p.m.***

Trustee Kermit Brown moved the Board authorize administration to proceed with the design and advertising of the Agriculture Building, Laboratory 6036 Renovation project. Funding shall come from the College of Agriculture, Life Sciences, and Natural Resources Dean’s Office with a total budget of Six Hundred Thousand dollars (\$600,000), procured through the design-bid-build delivery method. Trustee Carol Linton seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

***Red Barn – Deconstruction  
01-25-2024 @ 3:49 p.m.***

Trustee Kermit Brown moved the Board authorize administration to proceed with design and advertising of the Red Barn Deconstruction project with a total project budget not-to-exceed One Hundred Thousand dollars (\$100,000) funded via the College of Agriculture, Life Sciences, and Natural Resources Dean’s Office Designated Operating F&A. Trustee Carol Linton seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

***Land Access and Use Agreement – Mesonet  
01-25-2024 @ 3:51 p.m.***

Trustee Kermit Brow moved the Board approve the Land Access and Use Agreement and authorize Administration to sign the Land Access and Use Agreement needed for the Wyoming Mesonet project. Trustee Carol Linton seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

***Special Use Permit – United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service  
01-25-2024 @ 3:51 p.m.***

Trustee Kermit Brown moved the Board approve the Special Use Permit and authorize Administration to sign the Special Use Permit with the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service. Trustee Carol Linton seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.



***Amendment No. 3 to the Agreement for Services between the Trustees of the University of Wyoming and Wood Group USA, Inc.***

***01-25-2024 @ 3:52 p.m.***

Trustee Kermit Brown moved the Board approve Amendment No. 3 to the Agreement as amended for Services between the Trustees of the University of Wyoming and Wood Group USA, Inc. in the amount of One Million Seven Hundred and Fifteen Thousand and Eighty-Seven dollars (\$1,715,087). Trustee Carol Linton seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Fiscal and Legal Affairs Committee – Macy Moore (Chair)**

Trustee Macey Moore reported the university had a clean audit for the second year in a row. Moore thanked the internal and external team for their hard work. Moore further discussed internal audits of ASUW, and a change of management audit for the College of Business which resulted in one recommendation and several commendations.

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Legislative Relations Committee – Kermit Brown (Chair)**

Trustee Kermit Brown reported the committee received an update from Vice President for Government Affairs and Community Engagement Mike Smith in a closed session.

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Research and Economic Development Committee – David Fall (Chair)**

Trustee David Fall reported the committee received three research presentations funded by the Trustees' Research Excellence Fund established the previous year. Trustee Fall stated the first presentation focused on seed dispersal in the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem, exploring ecological dynamics within this unique environment. Subsequent presentations delved into vertical indoor farming initiatives conducted within the Science Initiative Building, showcasing innovative agricultural practices. Trustee Fall commended the work.

**Friday, January 26, 2024**

**Marian. H. Rochelle Gateway Center**

**Business Meeting**

**Roll Call**

The business meeting was called to order at 10:26 a.m. Deputy Secretary RoseMarie London called the roll.

Trustees participating: Brad Bonner, Kermit Brown (Vice Chairman) (via video conference), David Fall, Carol Linton, Jim Mathis (via video conference), John McKinley (Chairman), Macey Moore, Laura Schmid-Pizzato (Secretary), Michelle Sullivan (Treasurer), and Dave True. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

Ex-officio members participating: UW President Ed Seidel and Superintendent for Public Instruction Megan Degenfelder. ASUW President Kameron Murfitt, Governor Mark Gordon, , and Wyoming Community College Commission Executive Director Ben Moritz were not in attendance.

***Approval of Meeting Minutes  
01/26/2024 @ 10:26 a.m.***

Trustee Laura Schmid-Pizzato moved the Board approve December 13, 2023, public and executive session meeting minutes. Trustee David Fall seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Appointment of Trustees Officer Nomination Committee – McKinley**

Trustee John McKinley appointed Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood and Trustee Dave True to the Nomination Committee, stating Trustee True will chair the committee and will present a slate of candidates to the Board during its March 2024 meeting. Trustee True stated the committee would appreciate expressions of interest in officer positions, to include those currently serving in officer roles.

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE: UW Regulation Housekeeping – Evans**

***Adoption of UW Regulations 1-103, 2-17, 2-122, 2-208, 3-2, 4-5, 5-5, 6-11, 8-2, 9-3, 11-9, 12-6 (Standard Administrative Policies and Procedures – Governance and Structure, Academic Personnel, Academic Management, Enrollment Management, Athletics, Employment and Ethics, Facilities, Information Technology, Research and Economic Development, Student Affairs, and University Relations)  
01-26-2-24 @ 10:27 a.m.***

Trustee Brad Bonner moved the Board authorize adoption of UW Regulations 1-103, 2-17, 2-122, 2-208, 3-2, 4-5, 5-5, 6-11, 8-2, 9-3, 11-9, 12-6, as presented. Trustee David Fall seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

**Reports**

**ASUW – President Kameron Murfitt**

ASUW President Kameron Murfitt was absent from the meeting. A written report was provided to the Board following adjournment.

**Staff Senate – President Adam Comeau**

Staff Senate President Adam Comeau reported the annual Staff Recognition Day event will be held on April 16, 2024, in the Arena Auditorium concourse, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Comeau stated the event will celebrate university staff, and recognition awards, as well as milestone years of service awards ranging from 5-45 years of service at the university. Comeau reported that the Staff Senate Governance Committee is preparing for the upcoming election of new senators, and election of officers during March 2024. Comeau reported the Staff Senate Relations committee is currently involved in ongoing discussions with administration regarding access to academic courses for staff and discounted Half Acre Gym access. Comeau stated that he is working with the Office of the President on the Presidential Leadership Institute that will aid in professional development opportunities for staff.

**Faculty Senate -- President Robert Sprague**

Faculty Senate Chairman Bob Sprague stated that he had no formal report for the Board. In response to inquiry from Trustee McKinley, Sprague stated that Faculty Senate has been working

on basic administrative procedures, along with preparing for upcoming voting on resolutions updating graduate bylaws, a new degree program proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Applied Software Development, and the movement of the Biodiversity Institute under the budget of the Haub School.

***Public Testimony [Scheduled for Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.]***

Sandy Theil, Chairman of Wyoming Institute of Disabilities provided testimony related to concerns about the College of Health Science leadership and the effects administration's actions on Wyoming Institute for Disabilities.

Douglas Reeves, donor, and UW alumni provided testimony related to appreciation for University of Wyoming students' communication related to appreciation to donors; university leadership on national issues related to K-12 recruitment and the Wyoming Teacher Mentor Corps, and Career and Technical Education; and University of Wyoming debate team and its coach.

Kyle True, community member and parent, provided testimony expressing concerns about the culture at the University of Wyoming.

Bruce Thoren, Superintendent Fremont County School District #24, provided testimony in support of efforts of College of Education Interim Dean Jenna Shimm's efforts to support Career Technical Education.

Jessie Dafoe, Wyoming Association of Career Technical Education, provided testimony in support of efforts of College of Education Interim Dean Jenna Shimm's efforts to support Career Technical Education.

## **Committee of the Whole**

### **Board Committee Reports**

**Trustee Committees** *[Committees of the Board will provide reports during the regular work sessions and will not have a formal report to provide during the Business Meeting.]*

**Liaison to Other Boards** *[Written Liaisons to other Boards Reports were provided in advance.]*

- UW Alumni Association Board – Laura Schmid-Pizzato & Jack Tennant
- Foundation Board – Brad Bonner & David Fall

Trustee Brad Bonner announced the UW Foundation will conduct its meeting February 8-9, 2024, in San Diego, California.

- Haub School of Environment & Natural Resources – Michelle Sullivan

Trustee Michelle Sullivan stated the transition of the Biodiversity Institute budget from the Research and Economic Development division to the Haub School is underway.

- Energy Resource Council – Dave True
- Cowboy Joe – John McKinley

## **OTHER ACTION TAKEN AT MEETING**

### ***Academic Affairs Personnel Matter***

***01-25-2024 @ 10:30 a.m.***

Trustee David Fall moved the Board authorize administration to move forward on the personnel matter as discussed in executive session. Trustee Macey Moore seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

### ***Honorary Degrees Recipients***

***01-26-2-24 @ 10:28 a.m.***

Trustee Michelle Sullivan moved the Board approve the Honorary Degrees recipients as recommended, to be awarded in Spring of 2024. Trustee Macey Moore seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

### ***Academic Personnel Report***

***01-26-2-24 @ 10:28 a.m.***

Trustee Michelle Sullivan moved the Board approve the Academic Personnel Report as provided. Trustee David Fall seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

### ***WWAMI Appeal***

***01-26-2-24 @ 10:29 a.m.***

Trustee David Fall moved the Board authorize administration to deny the WWAMI loan repayment appeal as discussed in Executive Session. Trustee Brad Bonner seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

### ***Agreement between the University of Wyoming and the Wyoming Governor's Office (SER)***

***01-26-2-24 @ 10:29 a.m.***

Trustee Dave True moved the Board authorize administration to execute the Agreement between the University of Wyoming and the Wyoming Governor's Office. Trustee Michelle Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent.

## **New Business**

### **Date of Next Meeting**

February 14, 2024 (conference call)

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

### **Executive Session Information**

*[The UW Board of Trustees met in Executive Session on Thursday, January 25, 2024, and Friday, January 26, 2024, in person and via video conference.]*

**Executive Session I**  
**Thursday, January 25, 2024**  
**8:00 a.m.**

The University of Wyoming Board of Trustees called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m. Trustee Laura Schmid-Pizzato moved the Board enter 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))
2. To consider or receive any information classified as confidential by law (16-4-405(a)(ix))
3. On matters concerning litigation to which the governing body is a party or proposed litigation to which the governing body may be a party (16-4-405(a)(iii)); and
4. On matters concerning the security of public or private property (16-4-405(a))

The executive session is attended by the 12 voting members of the Trustees, and ex-officio members. Trustee Carol Linton seconded the motion. The motion carried. The Board entered executive session at 8:10 a.m.

Trustees participating: Brad Bonner, Kermit Brown (Vice-Chairman) (via video conference), David Fall, Brad LaCroix, Carol Linton, Jim Mathis (via video conference), John McKinley (Chairman), Macey Moore, Laura Schmid-Pizzato (Secretary), Michelle Sullivan (Treasurer), and Dave True. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent from the meeting.

Ex-officio members participating: UW President Ed Seidel, ASUW President Kameron Murfitt, Wyoming Community College Commission Executive Director Ben Moritz, State Superintendent for Public Instruction Megan Degenfelder. Governor Mark Gordon was absent. Senior Policy Advisor Lachelle Brant attended on his behalf.

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Kevin Carman, Vice President and General Counsel Tara Evans, Vice President for Budget and Finance Alex Kean, Vice President for Government Affairs and Community Relations Mike Smith, Deputy General Counsel Paula Whaley, Deputy Secretary Board of Trustees RoseMarie London, IT Specialist Margarita Rovani attended the entirety of the meeting.

The following administrators attended during their respective topics:

- Senior Vice Provost Tami Benham-Deal
- Associate Vice President for Human Resources Bob Link
- College of Arts and Sciences Dean Scott Turpen
- Neltje Center Executive Director Beth Venn
- School of Energy Resources Executive Director Holly Krutka
- Vice President for Campus Operations Bill Mai
- Internal Audit Director, Danika Salmans
- Chief Information Officer Robert Aylward
- College of Agriculture Interim Dean Kelly Crane
- College of Agriculture Associate Dean Eric Webster
- Outside Counsel Bob Berger of Lonabaugh and Riggs
- Outside Counsel Arthur Hundhausen and Kami Pomerantz of Holland & Hart

**Friday, January 26, 2024**  
**Executive Session II**  
**8:00 a.m.**

The University of Wyoming Board of Trustees called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Trustee Laura Schmid-Pizzato moved the Board enter 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))

This session was attended by:

- The 12 voting members of the Trustees
- Ex-officio members UW President Ed Seidel, and Superintendent for Public Instruction Megan Degenfelder, and
  - Vice President and General Counsel Tara Evans

Trustees participating: Brad Bonner, Kermit Brown (vice-chairman) (via video conference), David Fall (via video conference), Brad LaCroix, Carol Linton, Jim Mathis (via video conference), John McKinley (chairman), Macey Moore, Laura Schmid-Pizzato (secretary), Michelle Sullivan (treasurer), and Dave True. Trustee Elizabeth Greenwood was absent from the meeting.

Ex-officio members participating: UW President Ed Seidel, and State Superintendent for Public Instruction Megan Degenfelder. ASUW President Kameron Murfitt, Wyoming Community College Commission Executive Director Ben Moritz, and Governor Mark Gordon were absent.

Respectfully submitted,



RoseMarie London  
Deputy Secretary, UW Board of Trustees