

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Executive Summary Legislative Reports

Excellence in Higher Education Endowment Endowment Reserve Account

1 OCTOBER 2009

Under W.S. 21-16-1204, the University of Wyoming must report annually on faculty positions partially or fully funded through the endowment program, including the name of each faculty member filling a Wyoming Excellence chair, their education and experience, their research and instructional activities, and the benefits of their research and instruction. Attached are the reports of the past year's activities for the Wyoming Excellence Endowment program and the Endowment Reserve Account, as required by the Legislature.

The Excellence in Higher Education Endowment affords UW an unprecedented opportunity to promote learning, conduct research, and provide service and outreach to the citizens of Wyoming, in accordance with the university's mission and the statutory mandates. According to the statute, not less than 2/3 of the amounts designated to UW must be used to expand university instruction and research in disciplines related to economic and social challenges facing Wyoming. No fewer than four (4) Wyoming Excellence chairs must be in the College of Education. The remaining endowed faculty members must have established reputations in other areas of distinction as identified in the university academic plan (*The Creation of the Future: University Plan 3 2009-2014*), including business, arts and humanities, mathematics, cultural studies, economics and law.

Since FY2007 fifteen (15) Wyoming Excellence chair positions have been authorized by the Provost. Given the recent investment markets and the need for prudence in filling endowment-funded permanent faculty positions, and consistent with representations to the Joint Appropriations Committee, the university placed a number of the authorized searches on hold during FY2009. Nine positions are filled and the other authorized six remain on hold pending a more favorable financial climate and evidence of a sustainable flow of adequate earnings. One-time supporting funds have been made available to support visiting professorships that do not require a permanent commitment of salary dollars but afford UW's colleges and departments the opportunity to continue to build programs consistent with the legislative mandate.

Among the nine filled positions are all four legislatively mandated College of Education positions. They include Wyoming Excellence Chairs in Literacy and Science Education, filled previously, and in Reading Education and Mathematics Education, filled in FY 2009. In the life sciences, in addition to the Ecology chair filled last year, UW filled a Wyoming Excellence Chair in Prion Biology, consistent with the importance of wildlife diseases to Wyoming's economy. In the fine arts and humanities, UW continued to support the Eminent Writer-in-

Residence position, authorized earlier, and established and filled a new visiting Eminent Artist-in-Residence position in FY 2009. In addition, the UW Art Museum has successfully recruited a Master Teacher of Art to a position to be supported for five years by the Wyoming Excellence funds.

Of the six positions placed on hold, temporary endowment funding is being used to support a prominent visiting faculty member in Law and to launch the hire of a permanent chair in Collaborative Resource Management. Highlights of the educational experiences and accomplishments of the Wyoming Excellence chairs can be found in the Position Descriptions section of the report.

Expenditures for salaries and benefits, support, advertising and recruitment, and equipment and facilities totaled \$1.4 million for the fiscal year. The balance in the endowment expense account held at the university was \$3.2 million at June 30, 2009.

No funds were requested from the Excellence in Higher Education Reserve account, which is held by the state treasurer.