

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Relevant background

As the only four-year research university in Wyoming, the University of Wyoming has a responsibility to foster research and development not just on the campus but on behalf of the entire state.

The traditional core mission of the Office of Research and Economic Development is to serve UW researchers by providing assistance in submitting proposals for external funding and providing support in accounting and compliance with award requirements. In addition the office is increasingly involved in the state's economic development. Changes in the global economy have led to a fundamental shift in the strategies needed for economic success. Wyoming will succeed in the new economy by increasing the educational attainments of its people, and helping them in developing new products, services and business models, through research, and by transforming existing businesses to make them more productive. UW assists in all these endeavors through the research office's Economic Development Outreach Program in partnership with the Wyoming Business Council.

The Office of Research and Economic Development is composed of a number of units that enable it to fulfill both its research and economic development missions. This document presents a comprehensive plan for the Office of Research and Economic Development, followed by unit-level plans for:

- Office of Water Programs,
- Wyoming Natural Diversity Database
- UW-National Park Service Research Station
- Wyoming EPSCoR/IDeA Programs,
- Research Products Center,
- Wyoming Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) Initiative,
- WyomingEntrepreneur.Biz Network (including the Small Business Development Center, Gro-Biz, and Market Research Center),
- Wyoming Technology Business Center, and
- Manufacturing Works.

Mission and values:

The core mission of the Office of Research and Economic Development is to:

- enhance a culture of research and development at the University of Wyoming;
- provide support and regulatory services for externally-funded research, including educational opportunities and grants administration;
- provide support for faculty research through start-up funding, core facilities, seed funding and major equipment matching programs;

- foster and celebrate the research accomplishments of undergraduates, graduates and faculty, including sponsorship of the President's Speaker Series and Undergraduate Research Day; and
- provide service and education to Wyoming small businesses so they can increase employment and build wealth.

5% and 10% Budget Reduction Scenarios:

Many units of Research and Economic Development are primarily supported on Section II funds, however, we have identified several areas where cuts could be made if necessary.

5% of our Section I budget is equivalent to \$101,988. To meet this level of reduction we would reduce the Wyoming Technology Business Center (WTBC) support budget by \$11,661; the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (WYNDD) personnel budget by \$13,261; and the Climatology Research support budget by \$77,066.

10% of our Section I budget is equivalent to \$203,976. To meet this level of reduction we would reduce the Wyoming Technology Business Center (WTBC) support budget by \$11,661 and their personnel budget by \$11,661; the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (WYNDD) personnel budget by \$26,412; and the Climatology Research support budget by \$154,242.

Both WTBC and WYNDD would seek to increase Section II revenue to offset the reductions. There is not Section II funding available for the Climatology Research support budget and the decrease will significantly impact our ability to support this program.

Other Recommendations (not in priority order):

- **Combine staff support** – does every department on campus need a full-time department secretary and/or bookkeeper? Efficiencies would be gained and specialization could occur instead of expecting one person to do everything. Two models to consider:
 - ✓ Centralize staff support by college/administrative unit instead of having dedicated staff in each department.
 - ✓ Combine support for smaller departments within a college/administrative unit.
- **Furloughs** – require all employees to participate in a furlough program. This should be done in a way that reflects the relative financial impact on employees at different levels. For example, classified staff could be required to be on a furlough for one day; all other employees could be required to be on a furlough for two days. Also, to minimize the morale issue, allow the employees to chose the day they want to take.
- **Start-up funding for new faculty** - we currently require potential hires to provide a detailed list of equipment, GAs, etc, for start-up funding. The start-up requests have been increasing steadily for the last few years. Considering the current economic environment

and that many institutions are not hiring, there is opportunity to bring start-up requests back to a reasonable level.

- **Increase tuition and fees.**
- **Indirect costs** - During the next negotiation period for Indirect Costs (FY10), attempt to negotiate a higher indirect cost rate. Be consistent in the application of the rates; do not allow waivers for indirect costs unless it is required by the sponsor (i.e. U.S. Department of Education, Private Foundations). Do not allow reduced rates for industry sponsors.
- **Save on electricity** – At night and on weekends, turn off all computers, monitors, lights and any other equipment that has a parasitic power use.
- **Go green on campus** –
 - ✓ Reduce cost of power, utilities and landscaping (would require initial investment).
 - ✓ Stop printing and distributing flyers to every employee. Use technology more effectively to communicate.
 - ✓ Adjust thermostats down in winter, up in summer.
- **Computer replacement** - put the computer replacement program on a 5 year plan as opposed to 4 years.