

UW STAFF SENATE MEMORANDUM

TO: MYRON ALLEN, PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
FROM: STAFF SENATE, CHERI FRANK, STAFF SENATE PRESIDENT 
SUBJECT: BUDGET EXERCISE RECOMMENDATIONS
DATE: 5/4/2012

As representatives of a large portion of the University of Wyoming community, Staff Senate has prepared this memo to update our previous budget document presented to the administration December 7, 2011. The Staff Senate recognizes the need to support the core elements and the mission of the University. It is also the responsibility of the Staff Senate act as a representative voice for the University's staff and to speak on behalf of our constituency.

Staff Senate continues to support the further investigation of cost savings potential offered in our December document:

- Early Retirement
- Utility cost cutting options
- Analyzing costs associated with travel and recruitment

Additionally we would be negligent in our duties if we did not address staff concerns regarding the elimination and potential job cuts presented in the administrative budget reduction report dated December 16th, 2011. Staff is very concerned that more than half of the proposed reductions are derived from a reduction in force of faculty, administrative and non-academic personnel (classified staff). Staff Senate recommends that staff and faculty cuts only be considered as a LAST RESORT! After the budget reduction action of 2009 many staff members experienced increased job duties to cover for the positions eliminated. Numerous staff members are already tasked to their maximum abilities and further reductions would increase workloads to such a critical point that accurate and timely service to our customers, the students of the University of Wyoming, could be negatively impacted.

We also take this opportunity to support the May 4, 2012 proposal presented by Faculty Senate. Staff and Faculty share many of the same concerns regarding the impact of an 8% budget reduction to the University of Wyoming and the core of the mission. We cite the Faculty Senate's final Summary:

Individuals may voice concerns over specific programs. When viewed more globally, however, there are no programs that can be cut without causing a negative impact to our students and the citizens of our state. As the state's only major four-year institution, we must recognize the extremely important role UW plays in maintaining the vitality of our state.

When cuts were required in 2009, the administration made choices that minimally affected the core mission of the University. The Faculty Senate proposes that any potential cuts should follow the same approach. That is, protecting as much as possible the core elements of the University's mission: faculty support, extension/outreach, libraries/research and student support. It is, however, impossible to make the 2009 cuts again. Those things are gone.

The administration should continue to forcefully convey to the Governor and Wyoming Legislators that the University budget has no 'bloat' in its current state. We have been doing more with less for some time. Over time, our standard budget has increased less than the average State budget. We have moved items from Section I to Section II where appropriate; we have made some units more self sufficient. Inflation is taking a toll on availability of real dollars. Further budget reductions will have measurable negative impacts for the University of Wyoming and for Wyoming citizens. (Faculty Senate, pg. 3, 5/4/12)