

**Resolution in Support of Postponing Sale of the Y Cross Ranch**

**WHEREAS**, the Y Cross ranch in Albany and Laramie counties, comprising 60,000 acres of land, ranch buildings, residences, several creeks and reservoirs, ranch and farm equipment, and cattle was donated to UW and CSU 14 years ago for educational and scientific purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, the ranch has undergone major improvements in the past 14 years, generating an annual profit of \$457,000 as of 6/30/2012; and

**WHEREAS**, the two universities are selling the ranch by a sealed bid process by November 13, 2012; and

**WHEREAS** some arguments made by the Foundation in favoring a sale such as its distant location and inaccessibility due to weather conditions appear spurious; and

**WHEREAS**, little effort was made in the past 14 years to promote use of the facility to faculty, staff and students across campus as documented in a recent informal survey; and

**WHEREAS**, the donor of the ranch, Ms. Amy Davis, publicly expressed regret about donating the ranch since UW did not made creative use of it as a teaching tool; and

**WHEREAS**, the presence of a likely buyer on the UW Foundation board and the Y Cross management board, and a recent unsolicited bid for the ranch, creates the impression of a conflict of interest; and

**WHEREAS**, neither the UW Foundation nor the dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources clarified how proceeds of the sale will be used to benefit students.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Faculty Senate

- Requests that sale of the Y Cross ranch by the University of Wyoming be postponed for five (5) years.
- Urges the UW Foundation and the Dean of the College of Agriculture to use the 5 year hiatus to make faculty, staff and students across campus aware of the resource so that there is opportunity for it to be used for its intended purpose.
- Requests that use for teaching, research and other purposes by UW employees and students on the Y Cross be documented.
- Recommends that at the end of the 5 year period an advisory committee, including representation from each college whose faculty used the ranch for teaching and research, be established to make a formal public recommend to the Foundation about whether the ranch be retained as a teaching and research tool at UW, or alternatively sold by sealed bid.