RESOLUTION FOR PROTECTION OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

WHEREAS, recently, under pressure from the energy industry and state legislators, “Carbon Sink” artwork was prematurely removed by UW officials;

AND WHEREAS, this act of censorship is contrary to the UW Mission and can be interpreted as a violation of academic freedom;

AND WHEREAS, a “new” selection/approval process for campus artwork associated with a new building has been legislated;

AND WHEREAS, freedom from censorship and preservation of academic freedom is of essential and non-negotiable importance to the integrity of a public university and to its duty to provide students and citizens with ideas, perspectives, and truths that are at the heart of a vital democracy and an open society;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Faculty Senate of the University of Wyoming strongly expresses its opposition to censorship or restrictions of academic freedom at the University of Wyoming;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate calls upon the University of Wyoming Trustees to ensure that the next UW President supports the University Mission and academic freedom and places academic freedom above pressures which would undermine the essential nature of what it is to be a public university in service to society.

AUTHENTICATION: The foregoing Senate Resolution 318, As Amended, duly adopted by the Faculty Senate of the University of Wyoming under date of January 28, 2013, is hereby transmitted to the President of the University of Wyoming for review in accordance with UW Regulations.

Tucker Readdy
Secretary of the Faculty Senate