

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**  
**FINANCIAL CRISIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE**  
**Friday, July 29, 2016**

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**Friday, July 29 2016  
12:00 - 2:00 p.m.  
Coe Library 506; University of Wyoming Campus**

**AGENDA**

Call to Order .....	1
Roll Call and Approval of Minutes.....	1
Public Session	
I.    Public Comment Session .....	1
II.   Welcome Provost Kate Miller, Q&A.....	1
III.  Debrief of Town Hall Meeting .....	1
IV.  Role of the FCAC in Handling Suggestions .....	1
V.   Board of Trustees' Retreat, August 3-5, 2016 .....	1
Adjournment .....	2

### **Call to Order**

Chair Steve Bieber called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

### **Roll Call and Approval of Minutes**

Committee members present included: UW President Laurie Nichols, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs Kate Miller, Vice President for Administration Bill Mai, Dean of the College of Law Klint Alexander, Dean of the Outreach School Susan Frye, Dr. Robert Sprague, Dr. Frederic Sterbenz, Dr. Robert Cawley, Dr. Donal O'Toole, Chair Steve Bieber, Ms. Molly Marcusse, Mr. Kevin Colman, Ms. Rachel Stevens, and Mr. Joel Defebaugh (via conference phone).

Mr. Joel Defebaugh moved to approve the minutes from July 22, 2016, as presented. Dr. O'Toole seconded. All committee members were in favor; the motion passed unanimously.

### **Public Session**

#### **Public Comment Session**

There was no public comment.

### **Welcome Provost Kate Miller, Q/A**

Chair Bieber welcomed Provost Miller. He noted that Provost Miller had been communicating via email and had attended a few of the committee meetings via conference phone. Provost Miller noted that she was looking forward to working towards a solution.

### **Debrief of Town Hall Meeting**

Chair Bieber noted that he received more input from the campus community following the town hall meeting. He noted that comments were both positive and negative. There was brief discussion on only holding town hall meetings when there was new information to share with the campus community.

### **Role of the FCAC in Handling Suggestions**

The committee discussed how to handle suggestions submitted to the committee. There was a suggestion to have a comments box placed on campus where people could submit suggestions. The committee noted that they wanted to respond to the emails the committee received, and it was noted that Chair Bieber would respond to the emails. It was also decided that once per week on Mondays, a summary of the emails received would be shared with the committee. There was discussion of how to handle the comments if they increased as the planning process proceeded and units began to submit their budget reduction plans. The committee also discussed how to encourage campus to submit comments, perhaps by sending news releases/messages using UW Communications to all of campus either from the FCAC or from the Staff Senate President, Faculty Senate Chair, and ASUW President. It was noted that a link to the President's budget planning website should also be included in these releases.

### **Board of Trustees Retreat, August 3-5, 2016**

Chair Bieber reviewed the Board of Trustees' Retreat agenda with the committee, highlighting topics such as the legislative meeting, the Huron presentation, FY17 and FY18 budgets, and

revenue enhancement. There was brief discussion on workload, and the amount of money that would save the University. It was noted that Academic Affairs had received workload documents and were beginning to analyze them for financial impacts. There was discussion on how UW compared to other schools in areas such as faculty workload, nonacademic staff, pay rates, benefits, and retirement. It was noted that UW had a very generous benefits package compared to other schools.

President Nichols gave a brief review of efficiency strategies to implement on the academic side of the institution, such as reviewing academic programs, work load, how full classes are, eliminating bottlenecks in courses, and minimizing administrative overhead. There was brief discussion on UW's (Agency 067) and Medical Education's (Agency 167) supplemental budget requests. A few committee members asked if UW had asked the legislature to release some of the rainy day funds for the fiscal system. There was further discussion on the costs of the fiscal system, which Vice President Mai explained and noted that he would be confident in the costs once the contracts were signed following the Board of Trustees' Retreat next week. It was noted that UW had come up with nearly all of the funds for the project, with only \$1-2 million remaining that would be covered in the FY19-20 biennium. There was discussion of sharing the contract with Huron with the campus community once it had been signed.

The committee also discussed Huron's process, and it was noted that Huron needed to talk to the right employees in order to understand how UW does business. The committee also discussed the Consensus Revenue Estimating Group (CREG) report, and how that would affect current budget planning. There was discussion on state revenues.

Chair Bieber noted that Dr. Maggie Murdock and Dr. Ann Alexander would be meeting with the committee on August 9 to discuss how financial exigency would affect accreditation. He noted that the committee would have a report from the Board of Trustees' Retreat on Friday, August 12. Chair Bieber asked the committee if they needed to meet on Tuesday, August 2, as the Friday, August 5 meeting had already been cancelled. Mr. Joel Defebaugh moved to cancel the committee meeting on Tuesday, August 2. Dr. O'Toole seconded. The motion passed. The committee briefly discussed the financial impact of shifting from a tuition rate charge based on credits to a flat tuition rate. There was also discussion on the Higher Learning Commission's policy changes towards institutions in financial exigency. It was also noted that UW's credit score and its relationship with the HLC had not changed under the financial crisis, but that both organizations were aware of the current status.

### **Adjournment**

Dr. Cawley moved to adjourn. Mr. Defebaugh seconded. All committee members were in favor, and the committee adjourned at 1:28 p.m.