

Energy Resources Council Meeting

Approved Minutes

March 27, 2015

Energy Innovation Center

7:30 a.m. – noon

UW BOARD OF TRUSTEES – WORK SESSION

The University of Wyoming Energy Resources Council (ERC) members met with the University of Wyoming Board of Trustees on Friday, March 27, 2015 from 7:30 a.m. to 9:16 a.m. at the Rochelle Gateway Center on the University of Wyoming campus in Laramie for a joint working session. The work session included discussion on items 1-6 of the ERC agenda. Minutes from the UW Board of Trustees meeting can be found at http://www.uwyo.edu/trustees/2015-meeting-materials/march_2015_meeting.html

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 9:43 a.m. by Chairman Paul Lang.

ATTENDANCE:

ERC Members Present

Paul Lang, Sen. Jim Anderson (Natrona), Carl Bauer, Sen. Eli Bebout, Tom Botts, Cindy Crane, David Emery, Rep. Tom Lockhart, Indie Burke and Jeane Hull

ERC Members Absent

Dick McGinity, Dave True, and Rob Wallace

SER Staff in Attendance

Mark Northam, Mary Byrnes, Diana Hulme, Don Roth, Rob Hurless, Abby Scott, Trish Steger, Catherine Harris, and Rachel Ferrell

Others Attending

Richard Horner, Brett Befus, Wendy Lowe, Kipp Coddington

AGENDA:

- 1) **Introduction of Sen. Eli Bebout, Sen. James Lee Anderson, Michael Pishko, and Kipp Coddington**
 - **College of Engineering * State of the College and Tier I Update**
- 2) **Carbon Management Institute**
- 3) **High Bay Update**
- 4) **Legislative Update**
- 5) **High Bay Funds and Matching Funds**

- 6) Indirect Funds
- 7) Approval of Agenda
- 8) Approval of November 2014 Minutes
- 9) Foundation and Houston Trip Update
- 10) Division Updates
 - A) Research
 - B) Outreach
- 11) EORI Update
- 12) FY 15-16 Financial Update
- 13) SER Budget FY 17-18
- 14) Executive Session (Personnel)
- 15) New Business/Directions for Next Meeting
- 16) Adjournment

MEETING DETAILS BY ITEM:

Approval of Agenda

Action: A motion was made by Rep. Lockhart to accept the agenda as presented and seconded by Mr. Bauer. Motion passed without objection.

Approval of Minutes – November 2014

Action: A motion was made by Ms. Hull to accept the minutes from the November 2014 meeting as presented; action seconded by Mr. Bauer. Motion passed without objection.

Indirect Funds

Summary: UW's standard overhead charge is 41.5 percent of which it will return indirect funds under the following breakdown: 15 percent to the department, 5 percent to the college and 5 percent to the Research Office. The School of Energy Resources (SER) will be considered both department and college, and receive a total of 20 percent indirect funds. Private-sector grants may receive up to an additional 30 percent return for all grants over \$1 million. No overhead charge is assessed to state funds.

Comments: Dr. Northam responded to Mr. Botts that in the past, several grants have had individual arrangements, but most have been set at the traditional 41.5 percent.

Foundation and Houston Trip Update

Summary: Foundation representatives and Dr. Northam met with several key donors including Marathon Oil, Exxon Oil, British Petroleum (BP), Shell Oil, Saudi Aramco, and Ultra Petroleum.

Comments: Dr. Northam assured the council relationships are strong and there is an excellent commitment to the University of Wyoming. Marathon Oil and BP have indicated a strong interest in recruiting UW students. Ultra Petroleum will contribute to the High Bay Research Facility (HBRF) and to the endowment for a chair of the Petroleum Engineering College. It was determined Dr. Mohammad Piri should make a visit to the Iranian leadership at Saudi Aramco in the near future.

Division Updates:

Research

Summary: Ms. Hulme provided a brief overview of the Centers of Excellence for the new council members and attending guests followed by a breakdown of current activities for each center. The Center for Energy Economics & Public Policy has completed its executive summary report and made it available for review. It has selected three proposals from the request for proposals on carbon management. The Center for Fundamentals of Subsurface Flow has funded six projects and will provide funding for junior staff. The Center for Photoconversion and Catalysis is ready to install solar panels on the Energy Innovation Center. The Center for Biogenic Natural Gas Research and Wyoming Restoration & Reclamation have both become self-sufficient and no longer require funding from SER. The Uranium Research Center has concluded its study and the reports will be presented at the 2015 In-Situ Recovery of Uranium Symposium scheduled for April 21, 2015 in the Wyoming Union Ballroom in Laramie. For those unable to attend, the summary reports will be made available on the SER website. The Clean Coal Research Consortium has completed Phase I, and Phase II is under development. Several proposals are under review at this time. The 3-D Visualization Lab continues to attract a diverse client use. At this time, the lab is attempting to capture specific data regarding the use of the lab, its clients and how it is being used.

Outreach

Summary: A rebranding for SER is under way which will update all of the outreach materials. The Distinguished Speakers series continues to be very robust with 2- 3 speakers per week and excellent attendance. A number of professors from the College of Engineering are speaking this year as part of a continued effort to assist the College of Engineering with its outreach. Ms. Byrnes reminded the council of upcoming events: UW Law Tour, Clean Coal Conference and the Alumni Association reception.

Comments: Sen. Bebout asked if an international collaboration effort protocol was in development or had been established. Ms. Byrnes responded positively and assured the council she will continue to follow up with the Governor's office.

Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute

Summary: Mr. Hurless reported two candidates for the position of Director of Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute (EORI) will be interviewed on the Laramie campus in April. The quarterly

EORI Commissioners meeting will be held in Casper in mid-April 2015. The EORI lab has been completely shut down and decommissioned. The Enhanced Oil Recovery conference is being planned for July 2015.

Comments: Sen. Bebout initiated a discussion regarding the difference between the hiring process for UW and the private sector. It was agreed the UW process takes more time and candidates are chosen by a search committee rather than a single individual. The council was assured the SER director and the EORI Commission representative would have substantial influence in the decision-making process for the new EORI director.

FY 15-16 Financial Update

Summary: SER is currently on track for budget expenditures. \$400,000 has been committed to the College of Engineering and Applied Science for faculty. SER remains committed through this current biennium to support three faculty positions; however those commitments shall revert to the College of Engineering in the upcoming biennium budget. \$2,000,000 has been designated for the construction of the High Bay Research facility.

SER Budget FY 17-18

Summary: Dr. Northam reported SER staff had begun to construct a zero-based budget for the new biennium. The new budget will include two new cost centers, Special Projects and Carbon Management Institute.

Comments: Chairman Lang expressed concerns regarding SER's commitment to faculty support. Dr. Northam assured the council that discussion with the College of Engineering Dean Michael Pishko is still ongoing and the matter will be addressed fully within the next few months.

Executive Session

The board adjourned the regular meeting to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues at 11:32 a.m.; the board resumed regular session at 12:38 p.m.

New Business/Directions for Next Meeting

Summary: The council members decided to postpone the original date for the May council meeting. Ms. Steger was tasked to poll the council and determine another date in early June 2015.

Adjournment

Ms. Hull made a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded by Rep. Lockhart. Motion passed without objection and the meeting concluded at 12:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Paul Lang
Chairman

Tom Lockhart
Vice-Chairman