



Energy Resources Council

Minutes

November 13, 2020

ZOOM

7:30 AM – 1:30 PM

THE JOINT SESSION WITH THE UW BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ERC Chairperson Cindy Crane called the joint session with the University Of Wyoming Board Of Trustees (UW BOT) and the Energy Resources Council (ERC) to order at 7:40 AM.

ATTENDANCE

UW Board of Trustees Present

Jeffrey Marsh, John McKinley, Michelle Sullivan, Kermit Brown, Mel Baldwin, Brad Bonner, David R. Fall, Laura Schmidt-Pizzato, Macey Moore, Dave True, Dick Scarlett and Brad LaCroix. Ex-Officio members: Governor Mark Gordon, Edward Seidel, Riley Talamantes, Jillian Barlow and Sandra Caldwell

ERC Members Present

Cindy Crane, WY Sen. Jim Anderson, Carl Bauer, Tom Botts, Mark Doelger, David Emery, WY Rep. Mike Greear, Vello Kuuskraa. Ex-Officio members: Randall Luthi and John Koprowski

ERC Members Absent

Charlene Russell

SER Staff and Faculty in Attendance

Holly Krutka, Steve Carpenter, Mohammad Piri, Tim Considine, Kipp Coddington, Rachel Ferrell, Pam Henderson, Richard Horner, Emma Jane Alexander, Christine Reed, Jerry Evans, Erin Phillips, J. Fred McLaughlin and Trish Steger

Others in Attendance

Mary Ivanoff, Christopher T. Stratton and David Jewell

The Joint Session with the UW Board of Trustees began with greetings from UW BOT Chairman, Jeffrey Marsh. Chairman Marsh introduced new trustee, Brad LaCroix.

Energy Resources Council Chairwoman, Cindy Crane welcomed the trustees and expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to address the UW BOT. In her opening comments, Chairwoman Crane addressed many areas of the School of Energy Resources. Notably, the SER research program continues to excel. The SER research division continues to lead the university in acquiring research grants securing more grants and grants of higher value. The carbon-engineering program continues to advance coal-to-novel products. The Center for Economic Research and Policy Analysis is preparing to fill two new positions with principally grant funding to stand up their program. The 3D Visualization center continues to serve multiple departments across campus and develop its expansion. The Center of Innovation For Flow Through Porous Media, the Enhanced Oil Research institute and the Wyoming Energy Authority are collaborating on projects, which will benefit the stakeholders of Wyoming. The SER Academic program, under the leadership of Tim Considine, acting director, is undergoing a revitalization process. Chairwoman Crane, then, introduced SER Executive Director, Holly Krutka, to elaborate on SER's achievements and goals for FY21-22.

Dr. Krutka provided a more in depth overview of the current projects under development by the School of Energy Resources. The SER academic program is interdisciplinary and is currently seeking an energy-related minor to enhance the recruitment/enrollment potential. Addressing carbon capture, she spoke to the possibility of developing a biomass or coal fired facility as part of forest management in response to a suggestion by Governor Gordon. Amazon and Microsoft have historically funded carbon removal projects like this. SER has been impacted by the recent budget cuts resulting in about \$800,000 being cut from the research budget. She indicated that if more cuts were to take place in FY22, it would be necessary to reduce the research budget even more. SER is aggressively looking for other revenue streams, especially large grant proposals to alleviate any potential loss of revenue. Additionally several of SER's former funding commitments across UW are ending and this will assist with the loss of revenues. SER has collaborated with the Office of Research and the Office of Sponsored Programs to ensure the challenges in administration are addressed and alleviated for the future. A post-award collaboration model has been developed. It has been recommended for use across campus. Pre-award continues to be hindered by a lack of staff and insufficient tools. A study is ongoing of the pre-award system. The study will assist with a better understanding of how to serve the university. She thanked the BOT for meeting with the ERC and the SER staff and pledged her assistance going forward.

In closing the joint session, ERC Chairwoman Crane expressed her gratitude for the UW BOT and the Wyoming Governor's assistance and partnership. She looks forward to improving and to furthering the development of the multi-disciplinary interaction and collaborative plans of SER and for the potential commercialization of the coal-to-product program. Governor Gordon offered his appreciation for the UW BOT, ERC and SER. He noted that while much work remains to be done the future holds great promise. He felt that the State of Wyoming was well represented by the individuals in the UW BOT, ERC and SER. He requested that SER reach out to new legislators and assist with educating them on the mission and goals of the SER.

The session concluded at 8:45 AM and the UW BOT departed for other meetings.

ERC MEETING ITEMS BY DETAIL

Call to Order

Chairwoman Crane called the regularly scheduled ERC meeting to order at 8:58 AM.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Randall Luthi motioned to accept the agenda as presented. Carl Bauer seconded it. Motion passed without objection.

Approval of August 2020 Minutes

Motion: Dave Emery motioned to accept the minutes as presented. Tom Botts seconded the motion. Motion passed without objection.

Follow Up Discussion to Joint Session

SER needs to provide more clarification as to how it assists the various colleges/departments across campus. The SER financial funding graph should be improved to demonstrate this more clearly. The council expressed their appreciation for the pre/post award discussion and the changes that are taking place. They encouraged the possibility of embedding a staff member within two or three units as they felt this would provide better service and successful outcomes. Additionally, it could be an excellent opportunity for a graduate student. The council was appreciative of the cooperation and understanding coming from the UW BOT and agreed that more outreach needed to transpire with the legislators.

Reports/Motions

- Executive Director's Report
Holly Krutka provided an overview of SER activities. Highlights included the new minor under development by the Academic program, the advent of stakeholder visitations to the Energy Innovation Center, the launch of CarbonSafe Phase III, development of 2 new proposals for rare earth elements and critical minerals, and the addition of an outreach coordinator to the SER staff.

Dr. Krutka informed the Council that the Wold Chair was making progress and a nominee should be approved before the end of November 2020. Nominations and applications are out for new Occidental Chairs.

To conclude her report Dr. Krutka explained a new faculty model was under development. The model would be for new faculty and would include a sliding scale for salary based on responsibility. It would be renewable based on performance and engagement with the Centers of Excellence.

- SER Budgets
FY21 operating budget is on track to expend 21% of the total budget for the first quarter. There is a possibility of splitting up the indirect funds so they can be spent out differently. SER is collaborating with Sponsored Programs to find a way to enable a standard input method in the university's finance system, WyoCloud, for grants. FY21 budget cuts have been made and reflected in the reports. If

additional cuts are mandated for FY22, Dr. Krutka expressed concern explaining that cutting travel and outreach would not be sustainable and research could not sustain additional cuts.

*Full copies of the following SER reports/PPT are available in the August 2020 **ERC Notebook** or upon request.*

- SER Finance – Rachel Ferrell
- Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute (EORI) – Steve Carpenter
- Center of Innovation for Flow Through Porous Media (COIFPM) – Mohammad Piri
- Academics – Tim Considine
- Academic Review – David Whitman
- Center for Energy Regulation & Policy Analysis – Kipp Coddington
- Center for Economic Research – Erin Philips and J. Fred McLaughlin
- Engagement – Christine Reed
- 3D Visualization Center – Emma Jane Alexander
- Emerging Technologies – Richard Horner

Wyoming Energy Authority (WEA) Exception Requests

Actions/Motions

- **University of Kentucky Carbon Capture**
Motion by Carl Bauer: Commit to host the site, commit to funding up to \$2M in preparing the site and additional funding conditional on DOE award. A second was not recorded. Motion failed - four nays to three ayes.
- **MTR Carbon Capture (MTR) & Others**
Motion by Senator Anderson: Fund MTR at \$5M with all State funding to be spent within the State of Wyoming, funding is conditional on availability of funding and MTR receiving DOE grant. Also approve funding for the other four requests: **Wyoming Reservoir Pilot Test Data Acquisition Program (WRPTDAP) 2.0 - \$150K; Foam Assisted Gas Injection EOR - \$90K; Carbon Ore, REEs and CMs Initiative: Powder River Basin - \$100K Project I/Green River - \$100K Project II.** Motion seconded by Carl Bauer. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

Members of the ERC adjourned regular session and entered into an executive session for discussing personnel.

Conclusion of ERC November Meeting

Members of the ERC reconvened into regular session for the purpose of adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 1:42 PM.

Next Meeting Details

The next meeting of the ERC will be held March 20 & 21 at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Tasks and Assignments

- Make contact with Black Hills Energy to determine if they have contacts at Microsoft
- Begin outreach to new legislators
- Update SER funding graph to more clearly show funding across campus
- Develop and present the faculty model/policy for action by the ERC

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Cindy Crane
Chairperson

James Anderson
Vice-Chairperson