

THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

MINUTES OF THE TRUSTEES

SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, August 23, 2012

**Final Minutes can be found on the University of Wyoming Board of Trustees website
at www.uwyo.edu/trustees**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
“SPECIAL” MEETING OF THE BOARD
MINUTES OF THE TRUSTEES**

**Thursday, August 23, 2012
7:00 a.m.
Conference Call in Old Main Boardroom**

AGENDA

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| Call to Order | 1 |
| Roll Call | 1 |
| Public Session | |
| 1. 2013-2014 Supplemental Budget Request, Buchanan..... | 1 |
| Adjournment | 4 |

Call to Order

Board President Trustee Dave Bostrom called the meeting to order at 7:03 a.m.

Roll Call

Deputy Secretary for the University of Wyoming Board of Trustees Shannon Sanchez took roll. Trustees who participated: Dave Bostrom, Dick Davis, Betty Fear, John MacPherson, Jeff Marsh, Brad Mead, Jim Neiman, Dave Palmerlee, Ann Rochelle, and Howard Willson. Ex-officio Trustees Tom Buchanan and ASUW President Joel Defebaugh attended in the Old Main Boardroom. Ex-officio Trustee Governor Matt Mead was not in attendance; Mary Kay Hill Education Policy Advisor to the Governor participated on his behalf. Trustees Lauer and Trooper and ex-officio Trustee State Superintendent for Public Instruction Cindy Hill did not participate on the call.

Public Session

1. 2013-2014 Supplemental Budget Request, Buchanan

Operating Budget Request

Interim Vice President for Administration – Fiscal Administration Janet Lowe provided background information regarding this request and the budget process. She stated that this budget request is for the second year of the biennium and has both the operating budget component and capital construction request. Vice President Lowe referred the Board to the “Special” Meeting Report distributed in advance of the meeting. She stated that UW is requesting a 3% increase, \$5,014,453 to increase salaries and associated employer-paid benefits for faculty, staff and graduate assistants supported by Agency Budget 067, which now includes the School of Energy Resources. Vice President Lowe explained that UW’s operating budget priority is a program of targeted salary increases that would begin to move the University’s salaries closer to the average of market competitors, after four years with no salary increases. UW has lost ground in its ability to provide competitive salaries and retain the best faculty and staff, and as a result, the number of faculty members leaving the institution for more attractive offers at other schools is rising.

Vice President Lowe noted that any salary increases will be merit-based; some employees would receive less-than-average percentage raises, while others will receive greater-than-average percentage raises, and some will not receive a raise which will still leave some employees below market. Vice President Lowe noted that this request may be the first of what may be a multi-year effort to address this issue.

Trustee Mead inquired about the 88% national average and where the University is with respect to cost of living. Vice President Lowe commented that the information is based on FY 2012 data. President Buchanan noted that the data provided is from the Oklahoma State University Faculty Salary Survey (OSU Survey) which is a survey done nationwide each year. He noted that the survey does not take into account different state level impacts such as taxes or cost of housing, nor does it account for regional or state level market issues. President Buchanan stated that not all cost of living indexes reach the same conclusion, they vary depending on if they weight

local/regional tax structure, cost of housing, or different measures. The University has historically used the Oklahoma State University Faculty Salary Survey (OSU Survey) as the resource for acquiring data to present to the legislature.

In response to Trustee Marsh’s inquiry regarding the proposed amount allotted toward the School of Energy Resources, Vice President Lowe noted the amount to be approximately \$95,000 which includes benefits.

Trustee Davis commented on the University’s lack of funding for raises for the last four years, and the proposal for a 3% increase to be less than he would expect, and requested some rationale for selection of the 3% number.

In response, President Buchanan noted that he had had an opportunity to visit with Governor Mead since the last Board meeting in May. The conversation was of broader context with respect to all state employees, the importance of salaries and the need to recognize state employees and how competitive their salaries are in the market. President Buchanan noted that this request is the first of a multi-year effort and will be addressed through other requests in the coming years. In addition, he stated that since the University is also discussing budget reductions at the University, 3% would be an appropriate initial target, appropriately considering salary requests for the following year for an amount greater than 3%, contingent upon the reaction to the request being presented at this time.

Vice President Lowe provided information for the 167 compensation request, noting the proposed amount is the same as that of the 067 request, 3%, which is an annual amount of \$261,902 including benefits; the total amount requested is \$5.3 million.

Capital Construction Request

President Buchanan noted that this request is for continuing the support of efforts to develop a Tier I engineering school at the University of Wyoming. President Buchanan provided some background regarding the start of this initiative, noting that during the 2012 budget session, the Wyoming Legislature appropriated \$1.1 million for renovation and expansion of the Engineering College’s facilities and an additional \$30 million in matching funds: \$14.2 million in general funds and \$15.8 million in capital gains from the Wyoming Permanent Mineral Trust Fund which could be used for renovation and expansion of the facility.

President Buchanan stated that the Legislature conveyed expectation for the building project cost to be approximately \$100 million and directed the administration to “lead the university toward a Tier One academic and research institution in areas of excellence appropriate for Wyoming.” President Buchanan provided some information regarding the task force appointed by the Governor, Wyoming Governor’s Energy, Engineering, STEM Integration Task Force (WGEESIT), which was created to assist in guiding the effort. The Task Force is co-chaired by former Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal and Baker Hughes Executive Chairman Chad Deaton. President Buchanan noted that he will provide more detailed information regarding the task force at the September Board of Trustees meeting. He then noted that the group has met on

several occasions and continues discussion and deliberations. President Buchanan informed the Board that in following correspondence from Governor Mead, Trustee Dave Bostrom now serves on the committee as a special liaison to the UW Board of Trustees, and attended the meeting in Jackson earlier this week (Monday, August 20 and Tuesday, August 21, 2012).

President Buchanan stated that recent discussions by the WGEESIT included topics regarding investment in personnel resources and programmatic investments which will be necessary to elevate the college to the stature needed. The committee work is not yet complete. President Buchanan noted that the conversations taking place with WGEESIT are in alignment with the internal visions for the future of the College of Engineering; priorities are being heard, recognized, supported, and enhanced. President Buchanan stated the report from the committee will be submitted to Governor Mead in mid to late fall and at this point, there is no specific direction from the committee and we do not expect any until the recommendation is submitted to the Governor.

President Buchanan commented on the timeline of this project thus far, stating that in the materials thus far, \$45 million has been identified. With \$45 million in place, the current request to the legislature is for the remaining \$60 million. President Buchanan commented that it is likely that one of the outcomes of the WGEESIT recommendation will be a broader challenge to the state and the University with recommendation of programmatic and faculty expansions. President Buchanan stated the timeline is such that the full extent of needs are not likely to be known for the University to make a comprehensive request to the legislature at this session. Additional language will be inserted to maintain the same request that we have in the documents with a request of \$60 million in addition to the funds we already have for this project.

President Buchanan stated the University will take forward the request to the legislature for the full \$60 million with the anticipation there may be supplemental needs and supplemental requests that we will not be able to address. He commented that some of the language may be modified before submission and we will address the change in project timeline not in project direction.

Trustee Bostrom provided some additional information regarding the Wyoming Governor's Energy, Engineering, STEM Integration Task Force (WGEESIT), listing the current members of the group. He commented that the direction from the task force will be for UW to create an even larger depth on becoming a Tier One institution. Trustee Bostrom noted that they need to go back and really look at the facility being proposed, making it adequate to house the appropriate faculty and accommodate the needs of the University for the next 100 years. We should create a facility that is impressive when viewed by prospective student and faculty. Trustee Bostrom stated that it is clear when you look at the dollar amount that this is a major investment.

Trustee Rochelle inquired about the current enrollment numbers for resident and non-resident students; President Buchanan will email that correct information to the full Board following the meeting.

Trustee Rochelle thanked Trustee President Bostrom for serving as the liaison for the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Mead moved to approve the 2013-2014 Supplemental Budget as presented; second from Trustee Fear. The motion passed unanimously.

There was no other business to come before the Board.

Trustee Bostrom thanked the Board and administrators for gathering for this “Special” meeting.

Adjournment

Board of Trustees President Dave Bostrom adjourned the meeting at 7:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shannon Sanchez
Deputy Secretary, Board of Trustees