

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**Regular Meeting Conference Call**

**Wednesday, October 18, 2017**

The final report can be found on the University of Wyoming Board of Trustees Website at <http://www.uwyo.edu/trustees/>

## **University of Wyoming Mission Statement (July 2017)**

We honor our heritage as the state's flagship and land-grant university by providing accessible and affordable higher education of the highest quality; rigorous scholarship; the communication and application of knowledge; economic and community development; and responsible stewardship of our cultural, historical and natural resources.

In the exercise of our primary mission to promote learning, we seek to provide academic and co-curricular opportunities that will:

- Graduate students who have experienced the frontiers of scholarship and creative activity and who are prepared for the complexities of an interdependent world;
- Cultivate a community of learning energized by collaborative work among students, faculty, staff and external partners.
- Nurture an environment that values and manifests diversity, internationalization, free expression, academic freedom, personal integrity and mutual respect; and
- Promote opportunities for personal health and growth, physical health, athletic competition and leadership development for all members of the university community.

As Wyoming's only public university, we are committed to scholarship, outreach and service that extend our human talent and technological capacity to serve the people in our communities, our state, the nation and the world.

**TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING AGENDA**  
**Wednesday, October 18, 2017**  
**Regular Meeting Conference Call**  
**Old Main Boardroom; Laramie, Wyoming**

**WORK SESSIONS**

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**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:**

**Approval of September 13-15, 2017 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes (public session & executive session)**, MacPherson

**CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX(ES):**

- Work Session
- Education Session
- Information Item
- Other           Specify: Committee of the Whole (Items for Approval)

**BACKGROUND AND POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:**

The draft minutes were uploaded to the trustee secure site for review and comment in advance of the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: **15<sup>th</sup> Street Legislative Report**, Boswell

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX(ES):

- Work Session
- Education Session
- Information Item
- Other                      Specify: Committee of the Whole (Items for Approval)

BACKGROUND AND POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

During the 2017 legislative session, footnote 12 of the University's 067 budget requires UW to request a meeting with the city of Laramie "to address the need for vacating Fifteenth Street between East Willett Drive and East Iverson Street to unify the campus and protect pedestrian traffic." UW is directed to submit a report to the Joint Appropriations Committee no later than November 1, 2017 "regarding the findings, costs and impacts, including possible mitigation actions, of the plan."

The draft report is provided on the following pages, although amendments can be made to the draft document prior to finalization. No Trustee action is required. The final report will be submitted by the November 1, 2017 deadline identified in the budget footnote.

In summary, the report notes the complexities involved in planning for the possible vacation of a significant arterial roadway presently owned by the City of Laramie. Public comments regarding the possible vacation have been overwhelmingly in opposition to any vacation. The report proposes no formal action without significant additional study. Planning resources are required in order to examine the impacts of a possible vacation of some or all of the length of the street identified in the footnote, or, in the alternative, costs associated with other options such as a pedestrian overpass or underpass. Traffic flow studies merit consideration, as impacts to 9<sup>th</sup> Street and 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, respectively, are likely. Without such further detail, attempting to identify impacts of a vacation could be counterproductive.

PRIOR RELATED BOARD DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS:

During the November 19-21, 2009, and January 21-23, 2010, Board of Trustees meetings, connecting east campus with west campus across 15th Street was discussed as part of the Long Range Development Plan. The Trustees Legislative Relations Committee discussed the footnote at its September, 2017 meeting, and provided an update to the full board at its meeting that month.

WHY THIS ITEM IS BEFORE THE BOARD:

The UW report to the Legislature is due no later than November 1<sup>st</sup>, and the Board may wish to offer a sense of the Board's support for continued discussions and study relative to the possible vacation of 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

ACTION REQUIRED AT THIS BOARD MEETING:

No action is required. The Board may wish to consider a motion in support of further study of the possible vacation of 15<sup>th</sup> Street, or the board may simply note the receipt of the draft report, which will be finalized prior to the November 1<sup>st</sup> submittal deadline.

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

The University of Wyoming Board of Trustees supports the continued examination of impacts of the vacation—in whole or in part--of 15<sup>th</sup> Street as a public through street from East Iverson Avenue to East Willett Street. Further, the Board supports continued examination of impacts of a possible vacation to the University community, the City of Laramie, and the State of Wyoming.

**PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:**

The President supports the consideration of further study of the vacation with more information needed on impacts and cost.

*DRAFT*

To: Wyoming Legislature, Joint Appropriations Committee  
From: University of Wyoming  
Regarding: Report in response to budget footnote #12, Agency 067

**2017 Session Laws, Chapter 120, Original House Bill 1, Section 067 (12):**

*The University of Wyoming shall request a meeting with the City of Laramie to address the need for vacating Fifteenth Street between East Willett Drive and East Iverson Street to unify the campus and protect pedestrian traffic. The University shall report to the joint appropriations committee not later than November 1, 2017 regarding the findings, costs and impacts, including possible mitigation actions, of the plan.*

**Summary**

In response to the footnote in the University of Wyoming budget, the University of Wyoming and representatives of the City of Laramie held numerous meetings—both formal and informal—from April through October of 2017. No attempt was made to offer a final determination of the advisability of vacating 15<sup>th</sup> Street—a major arterial street in the community—because of the complexity of the impacts such an action would have on the city and the university.

No recommended plan is being brought forward, as there has been neither the opportunity for the retention of planning consultants nor a source of funding identified for such necessary work in the few months between the effective date of the budget footnote and the deadline for the submittal of this report.

Instead, there is recognition that a vacation should not occur without significant assessment of whether such an action would accomplish any measurable increase in pedestrian safety, whether vacating the street would genuinely serve to enhance unification of the campus, and whether the displacement of vehicular traffic to other routes in Laramie could be addressed safely and responsibly. Considerable further study is necessary to determine whether impacts caused by the vacation might be of such significance and would require a dedication of sufficient resources toward mitigation so as to outweigh the possible benefits of eliminating through traffic on the section of 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

**15<sup>th</sup> Street Today**

15<sup>th</sup> Street is identified as a major arterial roadway by the City of Laramie. It is one of the primary north-south traffic corridors of the community, and one of three primary north-south routes for traffic in the area considered to be the traditional campus of the University of Wyoming. The street provides vehicular access to UW parking lots in the area of the Wyoming Union, Coe Library, and Half Acre Gymnasium. In addition, vehicles access Sorority and Fraternity rows and—to a degree—the UW IT Building and the Buchanan Center for the Performing Arts from 15<sup>th</sup> Street. UW bus routes use 15<sup>th</sup> Street, accessing a primary loading and unloading area in the

Union lot. The street is primarily four lanes of traffic—two in each direction-- in the area identified by the footnote.

### **Pedestrian Crossings of 15<sup>th</sup> Street**

The area identified in the budget footnote is a three block section of 15<sup>th</sup> Street which is crossed thousands of times a day by pedestrians, most of whom are University of Wyoming students. The street is bordered on each side by the University of Wyoming campus. Students living in the UW residence halls primarily cross 15<sup>th</sup> Street diagonally at Iverson Avenue, a crossing site described as perhaps the busiest such intersection in Wyoming, although no formal counts of pedestrians has been attempted. The intersection is controlled by traffic lights, and pedestrian-only crossing pattern is incorporated into the light sequence. One block to the north, pedestrian traffic crosses 15<sup>th</sup> Street at Sorority Row, an intersection controlled by a traffic light, with a pedestrian crosswalk and crossing signals. Further north is the Fraternity Row roadway. There is no formal crosswalk for pedestrian traffic at this intersection, although pedestrian crossing is common. Still further north is Willett Drive, an intersection controlled by a traffic light with a pedestrian crosswalk. All painted crosswalk markings are faded and some have been displaced through construction and pavement overlays.

The City of Laramie has enhanced the Iverson crosswalk through the installation of crosswalk timers, audio alert devices, and by limiting right turn on red options for traffic on 15<sup>th</sup> Street. Perhaps the most significant change to vehicular traffic on 15<sup>th</sup> Street was the reduction of the speed limit to 20 miles per hour in recent years.

### **City Construction Plans for Iverson Avenue and 15<sup>th</sup> Street**

The City of Laramie has existing plans to reconstruct Iverson Avenue from 9<sup>th</sup> Street to 15<sup>th</sup> Street, and 15<sup>th</sup> Street from Iverson Avenue to Willett Drive.

The Iverson and 15<sup>th</sup> Street project, as currently designed, will feature significant changes to traffic patterns, with single lanes of traffic on 15<sup>th</sup> Street, dedicated, two-way “bicycle track” corridors on both 15<sup>th</sup> and Iverson, and a major redesign of the intersection of 15<sup>th</sup> and Iverson, wherein the entire intersection would be raised to curb height. Vehicles would drive up and down slight inclines to the raised intersection “table,” which would be further characterized by stamped and colored concrete. All of these design elements are intended to enhance awareness of the significant pedestrian presence.

The project is on hold due to budget concerns, and the budget footnote regarding the vacation of 15<sup>th</sup> Street has been mentioned as another factor in the delay. Of possible relevance, the Wyoming Department of Transportation plans to perform significant construction work on Grand Avenue, which parallels Iverson Avenue, in the summer of 2019.

### **Accident History, Traffic Counts**

The City of Laramie identified a total of six reported traffic accidents in the past ten years on 15<sup>th</sup> Street from Grand Avenue to Willett Drive, a number considered by the city to be very



low. The most notable recent accident occurred in 2012, and involved a non-fatal injury to a pedestrian. In that incident, a speeding driver failed to negotiate the Ivinson intersection and struck a UW student who was standing on the sidewalk waiting to cross the street. The driver, who was not affiliated with UW, was alleged to have been impaired.

Traffic counts for the area are several years old, and predate the construction of the new Laramie High School. The relocation of the high school from the area north of campus to the eastern area of Laramie may have affected traffic counts to the degree that prior numbers may be of limited relevance. Traffic surveys were conducted during the summer of 2017, when the intersection of Grand Avenue and 15<sup>th</sup> Street was completely blocked due to construction.

### **Meetings In Response to the 2017 Budget Footnote**

University staff met with staff from the City of Laramie in April of 2017 in order to discuss the footnote to the UW budget. As a result of the meeting, a PowerPoint presentation outlining possible scenarios for vacating all or portions of the three blocks of 15<sup>th</sup> Street was developed for discussion purposes. Alternatives to vacation of the street, such as the construction of a pedestrian overpass or pedestrian underpass, were also discussed and added to the visual presentation.

The PowerPoint was presented during a public work session of the Laramie City Council in April. As an element of the same meeting, the City Council traveled to campus, toured the 15<sup>th</sup> Street corridor, and continued the work session in a lecture hall on the UW campus.

The budget footnote was an item of discussion on two occasions when Laramie Mayor Andi Summerville and City Administrator Janine Jordan met with UW President Laurie Nichols.

The Legislative Relations committee of the University of Wyoming Trustees discussed the budget footnote and progress on the UW report in September of 2017. The footnote and the report were also discussed by the full Board in September. Laramie's Mayor and City Manager addressed the committee—which is chaired by former Speaker of the Wyoming House of Representatives Kermit Brown—and the full board during the September meeting.

At the suggestion of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming, the Laramie City Council held four formal public listening sessions, co-hosted by ASUW, in October of 2017. Two sessions were held in city facilities, and two were held on campus. All were well attended.

### **Options presented in April 2017 for the purposes of discussion**

1. Vacation of all three blocks of 15<sup>th</sup> Street, from Ivinson Avenue to Willett. No private vehicle through traffic
  - Could provide maximum pedestrian safety along the entire three blocks if vehicular traffic is eliminated.
  - Provides maximum campus unification effect of the options presented.
  - Could necessitate new access for vehicles to Union parking lot, fraternity and sorority row streets.

- Would result in the significant disruption of north-south (or south-north) transportation routes for all vehicles
  - Would some element of the street surface be retained, much like Lewis Street, or be completely eliminated and perhaps replaced by landscaping and pedestrian pathways?
  - Would travel by emergency vehicles and busses be allowed?
  - Ownership and maintenance of significant sub-surface infrastructure would have to be addressed. This includes city-owned water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer, as well as natural gas and other lines.
2. Vacation of only one or two of the three blocks of 15<sup>th</sup> Street
- Still provides enhanced pedestrian safety by eliminating through traffic by private vehicles
  - Could allow for vehicle access to Union parking lots and Fraternity and Sorority Row from 15<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Would result in significant disruption to vehicle traffic routes
  - Limited campus unification effect
  - Sub surface infrastructure ownership and maintenance would have to be addressed
3. Pedestrian overpass at Ivinson and 15<sup>th</sup> Street
- Pedestrian safety at Ivinson is addressed
  - No disruption to vehicle traffic routes (following construction)
  - No likely beneficial impact to other pedestrian crossings
  - Sidewalk barriers would have to be considered to prevent pedestrian crossing at street level
  - Significant ramp construction on both sides in order to meet ADA requirements
  - Snow and ice clearing considerations
  - Expense of construction
  - Limited unification benefit
4. Pedestrian underpass at Ivinson and 15<sup>th</sup> Street
- Pedestrian-vehicle safety issues addressed, however raises other possible safety concerns associated with lighting, visibility
  - No disruption to vehicle traffic routes (following construction)
  - No beneficial impact to other pedestrian crossings
  - Impacts to underground utilities
  - Expense of construction
  - Limited unification benefit
5. Existing City plan for Ivinson, 15<sup>th</sup> Street reconstruction
- Limited pedestrian safety enhancement
  - Enhanced vehicle awareness of crosswalk, intersection
  - No disruption of current vehicle traffic routes
  - No impact on unification

It should be noted here that detailed exploration of costs of construction, design of alternative travel routes and other mitigation measures were considered to be well beyond the limitations caused by existing planning budgets and staff resources.

### Items Relevant to the Consideration of Vacation of 15<sup>th</sup> Street

- **Ownership of 15<sup>th</sup> Street is under the control of the city.** The street is owned by the City of Laramie, and no vacation of the street could occur without formal action by the city council.
- **UW has commissioned a 10-year Housing Study,** which will make recommendations likely to impact the existing residence halls and, possibly, King Street, the small street which runs to the east from the intersection of 15<sup>th</sup> and Iverson.
- **Another street has been partially vacated by the City of Laramie in recent years, with UW taking ownership.** Significant portions of Lewis Street, directly to the north of campus, have been vacated by the city as a result of multiple UW facility construction projects in the area between 9<sup>th</sup> Street and 13<sup>th</sup> Street. The vacation of several blocks of Lewis Street allows UW to assume responsibility for the development of the area following the purchase of multiple private properties north of Lewis. UW will still provide access to UW busses and to emergency vehicles, but through traffic of private vehicles is no longer permitted. A major city-owned water line was relocated as a result of the vacation.
- **Prexy's Pasture** can serve as only a limited window on the benefits of elimination of vehicles in a central area of campus. The proposal by then UW President Phillip Dubois to eliminate vehicle access, road surfaces and all vehicle parking in the area was bitterly opposed at the time, yet is widely praised as a visionary decision today, and one which few might wish to reverse. That said, the decision primarily affected the university community, not the community of Laramie as a whole. The possible vacation of 15<sup>th</sup> Street requires buy-in from a far broader constituency.

### Discussion

A primary consideration relative to the possible vacation of 15<sup>th</sup> Street is stated simply in this way: Where will that traffic go, and what will be the impact? The redirection of hundreds of vehicles a day from 15<sup>th</sup> Street will have an undetermined but likely significant impact on the nearest north-south routes—**9<sup>th</sup> Street and 22<sup>nd</sup> Street**. Both streets have existing challenges. Ninth Street, in particular the area from Iverson Avenue to Lewis Street, is not an arterial street by design nor by designation. The already busy street features multiple crosswalks which are used by a large number of pedestrians each day, while anecdotal accounts abound of significant pedestrian crossings outside of designated areas. Were 15<sup>th</sup> Street to be vacated, displaced traffic could substantially increase the challenges associated with pedestrian safety on 9<sup>th</sup> Street, and mitigation measures would likely be required. The question of whether a potential pedestrian safety issue at 15<sup>th</sup> Street would simply be shifted to an already problematic area on 9<sup>th</sup> Street deserves study beyond that which is available at this writing.

22<sup>nd</sup> Street traffic continues to increase with development in the northern neighborhoods of Laramie. Problems at already-busy intersections from Willett to Reynolds streets could be multiplied by traffic no longer able to access the 15<sup>th</sup> Street corridor, and mitigation efforts should be studied.

Laramie's traffic patterns may already be likely to change with the move of the viaduct over the Union Pacific rail yards from the current Clark Street location to the Harney Street overpass now under construction by the Wyoming Department of Transportation. While a shift of a few blocks may not seem substantial, its potential impacts on traffic routes in Laramie are considered to be significant. Add to this the possible elimination of the 15<sup>th</sup> Street corridor, and the cumulative impacts in numerous areas are deserving of study.

The impacts to emergency response times of a vacation of 15<sup>th</sup> Street are a frequently cited concern, and would need to be thoughtfully addressed in any mitigation plan. If the street is closed off entirely, emergency vehicles will have a longer route to travel from one side of campus to another. Even if some emergency traffic is permitted access to 15<sup>th</sup> Street, the effects of such a change should be carefully studied prior to any decision on the future of the street being made.

### **Unification**

Perhaps the most difficult element of the budget footnote to successfully address with confidence is the degree to which 15<sup>th</sup> Street serves to divide the University of Wyoming campus, and whether the vacation of that street would indeed serve to unite East and West campus. Students on the East campus are described by some as being isolated, and not feeling connected to the rest of campus.

Simple distance from West campus plays into the lives of faculty, students and staff whose days are spent at a considerable walk or ride from the traditional facilities in the area of Prexy's Pasture. Whether proximity, or lack thereof, has a more relevant impact on perceptions of campus unity than the presence of a major roadway deserves further consideration.

The presence of a major transportation corridor through the center of campus certainly limits options that might be developed as elements of long range planning for the university. Were the street not to exist in its current form, such plans may well take a different form than those which must, as a matter of practical consideration, address the presence of the street.

### **Comments Associated With Public Hearings Held by the Laramie City Council**

While the budget footnote did not seek an expression of public support for the possible vacation of the relevant section of 15<sup>th</sup> Street by the city, it is worthwhile to note the sentiment of those attending the four public listening sessions was overwhelmingly in opposition to any such action. Of approximately seventy individuals who spoke on the subject, all but one were opposed to the city giving up ownership and control of the roadway. Significantly, opposition was consistent whether it was offered at one of the two sessions held on campus, or at the two sessions held at city facilities.

Several distinct themes emerged from the comments, a representative sample is provided here:

- Eliminating through traffic on 15<sup>th</sup> Street would be a significant disruption of access from one side of the city to another, when such crosstown routes through campus are already

limited. Such a hardship is an unnecessary burden on the community, and might impact emergency response times.

- The possible closure would serve to further divide the city while seeking to unite campus.
- Traffic accident history does not justify the possible closure.
- Significant impacts to other streets such as 9<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> must be considered, and would likely outweigh the benefits of eliminating traffic on 15<sup>th</sup>. Methods to mitigate impacts to 9<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> streets should be considered, but so, too should the impact of increased traffic to numerous other area streets which would result from the closure of 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Unification of campus is a more complex issue than that which is addressed by the footnote. Simple proximity issues—distance of East campus from other parts of the traditional campus—are likely more significant than the presence of traffic on 15<sup>th</sup> Street.
- The existing plan to improve the intersection of 15<sup>th</sup> and Iverson is preferable to closing 15<sup>th</sup> to traffic.
- While some alternatives to closing the street might be worth considering, the cost of projects such as an overpass or an underpass should not be borne by the city.
- Additional pedestrian signals would be preferable to the city vacating the street, while still enhancing pedestrian safety. Highly visible pedestrian signals at 9<sup>th</sup> and Lewis Street and on 22<sup>nd</sup> Street near the Rochelle Gateway building are effective, and should be considered as an alternative to closing 15<sup>th</sup> Street to traffic.
- Even temporary daytime closures to through traffic would be preferred over full elimination of traffic.
- The footnote serves to pit the university's interests against those of the community, causing unnecessary friction.
- Access by parents and other visitors to facilities in the Union already causes confusion, closing of the street would make the problem worse.
- The footnote is an example of legislative overreach into decisions that should be made at the local level.
- More study is necessary before any action is taken.

The University of Wyoming would agree, in particular, with the latter point. The alternatives described elsewhere in this report represent a tentative first step toward a vigorous examination of impacts, options and other considerations that should be examined and weighed by all concerned. Numerous issues may arise from the possible vacation of 15<sup>th</sup> Street, not the least of which is the question of whether the city would have any interest in such an action. That said, the footnote offers the opportunity to discuss and perhaps address issues related to 15<sup>th</sup> Street that have been the subject of conversation for decades. Limited funding for the reconstruction of Iverson and 15<sup>th</sup> Streets, coupled with scheduled maintenance of Grand Avenue in 2019, provide a window for additional examination of the opportunities presented.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: **Academic Affairs/Student Affairs Trustee Committee**, Sullivan/MacPherson

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX(ES):

- Work Session
- Education Session
- Information Item
- Other                      Specify: Committee of the Whole (Items for Approval)

BACKGROUND AND POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

In July 2008, the UW Board of Trustees established three standing committees to allow subsets of the board to develop special expertise on topics that may arise within broad spheres of governance: academics and research, fiscal and legal affairs, and university support. These committees were charged with reviewing and discussing informational items requiring in depth background or complex issues about which the board anticipates making decisions within the coming months.

Those committees were: *Academics and Research* (including Honorary Degrees), *Fiscal and Legal Affairs* (including Audit), and *Student Affairs/Athletics/Administration* (including Trustee Award of Merit Committee). The purviews and scope of standing committees have changed over time. Most recently, a standing committee related to Academics and Student Affairs was not included among those adopted by the Board in May, 2015.

The accompanying document proposes the creation of an ad-hoc Academic and Student Affairs Committee with an eye toward amending Article VII of the Trustees' Bylaws that would establish a standing committee in the future.

PRIOR RELATED BOARD DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS:

At the July 2017, meeting, the Board engaged in initial discussion around reestablishment of an Academic Affairs Committee. At the September 2017 meeting, the Board requested that Trustee Michelle Sullivan work with Vice Presidents Miller and Blackburn to develop a charge and scope for such a committee.

WHY THIS ITEM IS BEFORE THE BOARD:

To request approval of the creation of an ad-hoc Academic & Student Affairs committee to begin work at the November Trustees meeting.

ACTION REQUIRED AT THIS BOARD MEETING:

Board approval or disapproval to create the committee.

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move approval to establish an Academic and Student Affairs Ad-Hoc Committee, using the text provided in the document provided in the meeting materials. Initial membership shall include: Trustee Michelle Sullivan as Chair, Trustee Mel Baldwin, and Trustee David Fall.

PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:

The President recommends approval.

## **ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee is responsible for reviewing and making recommendations to the full Board regarding the University's academic mission, as well as policies and resources needed to realize that mission, execute UW's academic strategic priorities, ensure the quality and integrity of each of UW's academic programs, and to ensure the University remains focused on an excellent student experience whether it is on a UW Campus or at a distance.

The Committee shall provide governance oversight on such matters as academic program development, review, accreditation, and discontinuance; student admission and performance standards; faculty tenure; major academic initiatives; maintaining an appropriate balance among teaching, and research/scholarship and service.

The Committee will review policies, programing, and data indicators related to student engagement, wellness, development, and persistence. Review policies relating to student housing; student conduct, rights, and responsibilities; sexual misconduct; co-curricular learning opportunities, and campus safety and inclusion. Review progress on achieving strategic goals aimed at enhancing the overall quality of life for students at the University.

In discharging their duties hereunder, the members shall work with the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Vice President for Student Affairs.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:

**UW/Community College Preliminary Legislative Report**, Miller/Aguayo

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX(ES):

- Work Session
- Education Session
- Information Item
- Other           Specify: Committee of the Whole (Items for Approval)

BACKGROUND AND POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Final Progress Report submission, related to UW's response to the State of Wyoming's 2017 Senate File No. SF0001, General Government Appropriations, University of Wyoming 17LSO-0679:

*The University of Wyoming, the community college commission and each community college shall collaborate and develop a unified plan to provide a coordinated approach to the recruitment and retention of and incentives for students graduating from Wyoming secondary schools and from schools in states contiguous to Wyoming. The university, on behalf of the university, community colleges and commission, shall report their progress on the plan to the joint education interim committee and the joint appropriations committee not later than September 30, 2017, and incorporate a final plan for the legislature not later than December 1, 2017, within their respective 2019-2020 biennial budget requests.*

PRIOR RELATED BOARD DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS:

None

WHY THIS ITEM IS BEFORE THE BOARD:

The attached Progress Report was submitted to the legislature in September 2017, endorsed by all eight Wyoming public college presidents and the Wyoming Community College Commission. The Plan will be presented to the Board for approval during the November 2017 meeting.

ACTION REQUIRED AT THIS BOARD MEETING:

None

PROPOSED MOTION:

N/A

PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:

N/A



## Wyoming Colleges' Recruitment and Retention Plan September 2017 Progress Report

### Submitted by

Casper College President Darren Divine  
Central Wyoming College President Brad Tyndall  
Eastern Wyoming College President Lesley Travers  
Laramie County Community College President Joe Schaffer  
Northern Wyoming Community College District President Paul Young  
Northwest College President Stefani Hicswa  
University of Wyoming President Laurie Nichols  
Western Wyoming Community College President Karla Leach  
Wyoming Community College Commission Executive Director Jim Rose

### Legislative Request

*2017 SF0001* The University of Wyoming, the community college Commission and each community college shall collaborate and develop a unified plan to provide a coordinated approach to the recruitment and retention of and incentives for students graduating from Wyoming secondary schools and from schools in states contiguous to Wyoming. The university, on behalf of the university, community colleges and Commission, shall report their progress on the plan to the joint education interim committee and the joint appropriations committee not later than September 30, 2017, and incorporate a final plan for the legislature not later than December 1, 2017, within their respective 2019-2020 biennial budget requests.

### Response Development Process

On June 20, 2017, the presidents of each Wyoming college, their chief enrollment officers, and the Wyoming Community College Commission met together in Casper, Wyoming to discuss possibilities for partnership in recruitment and retention of Wyoming and neighbor-state students. Key themes for collaboration were identified and form the basis for the response.

On July 20, 2017, the presidents of each Wyoming college or their delegates, selected board members, the Wyoming Community College Commission, and the Wyoming Department of Education met with representatives from the Lumina Foundation in Rock Springs, Wyoming regarding the current state and future needs of the Wyoming workforce as it relates to levels of post-secondary educational attainment. Wyoming has the opportunity to consider setting a state-wide goal of citizens with certificates, associate's degrees, and bachelor's degrees as a

framework to meet the needs of an educated citizenry associated with economic development, such as that articulated through the governor's ENDOW initiative.

On October 11, 2017, the presidents of each Wyoming college and the Wyoming Community College Commission will meet again in Casper, Wyoming to review and finalize the *Wyoming Colleges' Recruitment and Retention Plan*, determine opportunities for further development, and articulate a timeline for deliverables in the coming three years.

### Key Themes

The *Wyoming Colleges' Recruitment and Retention Plan* will outline tactics, to be completed throughout the coming three years, which focus on the following themes:

- (1) **creating a college-going culture,**
- (2) **removing barriers** to college participation,
- (3) **building a pipeline** for Wyoming's colleges,
- (4) **developing paths to re-entry into college** for Wyoming high school graduates entering higher education **from the workforce,** and
- (5) **building pathways to completion.**

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: **Science Initiative Update**, Synakowski

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX(ES):

- Work Session
- Education Session
- Information Item
- Other                      Specify: Committee of the Whole (Items for Approval)

BACKGROUND AND POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

At the September 2017 meeting, the status and planning for a proposed \$100M Science Initiative Building, and perspectives on the overall vision for use of the facility were discussed.

There it was agreed that a small group of faculty and stakeholders, to be led by Vice President Synakowski, should be formed to advance interior research facility design and to enjoin the exterior design activity group. The new group was thus formed to drive the major design elements home in time for Trustee consideration in November, and then budget consideration. Two meetings were held in person (1.5 days each) and one by video. Participants were architects (Perkins and Will and GSG), four faculty, facilities planning, Governor Mead representative Phil Nicholas, Trustee Brown, Senator Chris Rothfuss, and VP Synakowski.

A compelling interior and exterior design is now in place. The exterior incorporates aspects of Aven Nelson and buildings on Prexy's Pasture with modern design considerations. It projects UW tradition, modernity, and research excitement. The exterior helps the interior convey openness and accessibility. Central have been faculty considerations. The interior will incorporate state-of-the-art concepts in lab design, enabling cross-disciplinary research and education with high student-faculty engagement as well as active-learning settings.

Regarding research programs, a group of ten faculty has been formed to frame the principles that will drive the decisions of who and what activities will occupy the building. Considerations with UW strengths; potential for economic impact, student participation, and multidisciplinary and cross-institutional partnering; and alignment with state and national research priorities.

Attachments: rendering of exterior design; Biennial Budget Briefing one-pager dated September 25, 2017; proposed intro text requested by Governor Mead

PRIOR RELATED BOARD DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS:

The status of the SI building was discussed at the September 2017 meeting.

WHY THIS ITEM IS BEFORE THE BOARD:

In November, details of the design and scientific and programmatic governance will be outlined

ACTION REQUIRED AT THIS BOARD MEETING:

None, except to note.

PROPOSED MOTION:

None



**Perspective** at Lewis and 10th



**Perspective** at 9th and Lewis

Exception Request  
Monday September 25, 2017

Release of Funds for the Science Initiative Building  
Biennium Budget Briefing

**Summary – Progress towards a compelling design and set of programs for the Science Initiative Building has been impressive and important** – The Science Initiative - the building that will support it and the principles girding it - are compelling and timely, and investment in it will lead to a long-term asset for UW, the state, and the nation. This Exception Request reflects a judgment, including my recent assessment, that UW is ready to begin the lead work required to for construction of the building. Recent progress has been rapid in defining and refining the facility design, through focused, targeted discussions involving faculty, UW facilities experts, architects, past and present legislators including your delegate, and me. What will result will be a compelling and conspicuous addition to UW, transforming its research mission as well as ably advancing its architectural traditions.

**The SI, and the concept of the SI building, its mission, and its elements, are compelling and timely** –My judgment is informed by my experiences in research, research leadership, project construction, and what I've learned of the SI mission as I've explored my new opportunity. My background includes service at the US DOE as Associate Director of Science, leading a program with an annual budget of about \$400M. I was also program leader and researcher at two national labs. I have knowledge of national research priorities and directions, evolution of the ways fast-moving research is being advanced nationally, strategic planning, and project construction. I have experience in research partnering nationally and overseas, both as a program leader and as a scientist on the ground. All this had as a germ my experience as a young student in the lab.

Areas of research that the SI will enable are of keen interest and importance to Wyoming, the nation, and the world. The SI will promote the interests of Wyoming by transforming the use of research as a tool for students, actively engaging them in state of the art research techniques and front-line active learning classroom settings. As it benefits UW's students, the impact will also reach deep into secondary schools, as has already been demonstrated with the Research Scholars and LAMP programs. UW students will be imbedded in highly multidisciplinary research, critical in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and to economic success. This is essential because (a) the great challenges for Wyoming and the nation are multidisciplinary, and (b) through learning how to lean into multidisciplinary problems, UW and its students will become nimble thought leaders and assert leadership into a future whose details cannot possibly be predicted now. Entry and tenancy of the facility will be based on faculty performance including success in attracting external funding, promise of cross-disciplinary work, accessibility of their research to students, and potential for outcomes that can bring economic benefit to the state.

**Recent progress in interior and exterior design has been rapid** - I've been involved in intensive discussions on the SI facility, leading a group focused on sharpening its design both in the interior and exterior. Progress has been rapid. We have worked to ensure that the facility will promote the long-term interests of the initiative as it projects an air of research excitement accessible to students visible to external visiting stakeholders. Attention has been on both interior lab and classroom design to ensure success of the research enterprise while capturing the best architectural traditions of UW. The group driving this design home includes four faculty, facility construction staff at UW, architects from a local Laramie firm as well as the national firm Perkins and Will, Phil Nicholas as the Governor's representative, Trustee and former legislator Kermit Brown, and House Minority Leader Chris Rothfuss. We will present a design to Trustees in November, and share it with you and legislators and citizens in the late fall and through the winter. This will be accompanied by a description some details of the initial research thrusts. Progress has been informed by a trip early in September to Stanford to study three research buildings and learn from their experiences. Confidence in the SI at UW was strengthened in this visit. Much of the latest thinking driving the most up-to-date design work at Stanford is in fact reflected in the UW SI building design.

**UW is ready to move towards SI Building construction because of building design and program maturity** - The timing of this Exception Request is based on the readiness to prepare for construction, and the imperative of the mission to commence sooner rather than later. The combination of the SI mission's high relevance to Wyoming and the nation, the leading-edge concepts to be incorporated in the building design and the rapid convergence of its design elements, the maturity of research ideas of the faculty, and the plans for use of the building will yield research with a high degree of promise for near- and long-term economic impact driven by a focus on student education through research participation.

### **Science Initiative Mission and Means**

The Science Initiative (SI) will create a world-leading educational and research experience at the University of Wyoming. The initiative includes both programs to enhance science education and a proposed new SI facility that will transform interdisciplinary research and education. When complete—and in combination with the Enzi STEM Building, the Engineering Education and Research Building, the High Bay Research Facility, and the NCAR-Wyoming Supercomputing Center—the University of Wyoming will have world class facilities and infrastructure to attract distinguished faculty and recruit top notch students who pursue STEM careers. Ultimately, the goals of the SI are to:

- Recruit and retain talented students in the areas of science to develop a highly skilled workforce.
- Advance competitive scientific research that will directly support economic development through creation of new companies and support to Wyoming industries.

The Science Initiative facility will create a unique research and teaching environment which enables the growth of cutting-edge, interdisciplinary research in the life sciences, data analytics and data visualization with benefits stretching as far as the minerals industry and tourism. UW recognizes the state's ENDOW initiative to enhance the diversification of Wyoming's economy will rely, to a significant degree, on the state's university graduating students educated in the ways of fast-paced, rapidly changing STEM-based research. In this facility, students will engage directly with faculty scientists using state-of-the-art laboratories and instrumentation.

The facility, with space utilization to be determined through a competitive process, will be available to faculty expected to collectively secure tens of millions of dollars per year of research funding—thus the financial return on the state's investment promises to be multi-fold. The flexibility of the lab spaces in the SI Building are designed in response to the reality that UW research platforms must be able to respond to a state and global future where the most important research directions are interdisciplinary and largely yet to be identified.

With work underway on top-tier Engineering, the Science Initiative will define the reputation of the University of Wyoming as one of the nation's best universities in STEM education.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: **Honorary Degree Committee Update**, Sullivan/Nichols

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX(ES):

- Work Session
- Education Session
- Information Item
- Other           Specify: Committee of the Whole (Items for Approval)

BACKGROUND AND POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

A conference call with the Honorary Degree Committee was held on September 27 to finalize the call for nominations and determine a schedule for review of nominations. The committee recommended extending the deadline for nominations to Friday, November 17. The call for nominations is attached [Attachment I].

The committee will review nominations in later November and will have a scheduled conference call in early December to discuss nominations and make recommendations to the Board. Any final checks will be performed prior to the Board meeting in January, at which time recommendation(s) for honorary degree will be presented to the Board.

PRIOR RELATED BOARD DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS:

WHY THIS ITEM IS BEFORE THE BOARD:

To inform the board that a solicitation for nominations has gone out and the review process will begin in November/December.

ACTION REQUIRED AT THIS BOARD MEETING:

N/A

PROPOSED MOTION:

N/A

PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:

N/A





# 2018 HONORARY DEGREES

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Board of Trustees, President, and Provost of the University of Wyoming are pleased to solicit nominations for honorary degrees to be conferred in the spring of 2018.

An honorary degree from the University of Wyoming recognizes individuals who embody the university's high ideals and exemplify the values of excellence, service, and integrity. These degrees recognize outstanding accomplishments in all professions, public service, or service to humanity. Degrees awarded *honoris causa* are among the highest honors a university can confer.

Nominations for honorary degrees will be accepted from current or former members of the Board of Trustees, members of the UW faculty, and UW alumni. Each nomination should identify the nominee, provide contact information, and address at least one of the following criteria:

1. Outstanding contribution to the lives of the people of Wyoming.
2. Outstanding career or lifetime accomplishment on a state, national, or international level by an alumna or alumnus of the university.\*
3. Accomplishments so exemplary as to have won recognition on a national and regional level, with relevance to Wyoming.

The nomination materials submitted for consideration must include the following:

- A letter of nomination that describes fully how the nominee meets at least one of the above criteria;
  - A vitae or similar document that describes the nominee's accomplishments, including—as appropriate—a list of public recognitions, other awards and honors, publications, etc.
  - Two additional letters of support detailing explicit examples of how the nominee meets the criterion; and
  - A one- or two-paragraph summary of the nominee's qualifications. (See examples at: [www.uwyo.edu/honorarydegree/](http://www.uwyo.edu/honorarydegree/))
- UW employees (except emeritus faculty) and public office holders (e.g. Congressional Leaders, Legislators, Governors), or those who left office less than one year ago, are not eligible.

Please submit nominations by means of hard copy or e-mail to the president of the university who will then refer them to a joint committee of trustees and faculty members. The nominations and UW's deliberations are kept confidential. The committee will forward its recommendations to the UW Board of Trustees for final decision in January 2018.

\* Please note that the UW Alumni Association also recognizes distinguished alumni annually. Criteria for that award can be found at: [uwyo.edu/alumni/about-the-uwaa/d-a-msa/](http://uwyo.edu/alumni/about-the-uwaa/d-a-msa/)

**All nomination packets are due no later than November 17, 2017.**

Please send submissions to:

Laurie Nichols, UW President • Department 3434 • 1000 E. University Ave. • Laramie, WY 82071

Nominations may be e-mailed to [uwpres@uwyo.edu](mailto:uwpres@uwyo.edu) • Telephone inquiries should be directed to (307) 766-4121.



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

# 2018 HONORARY DEGREES

# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



An honorary degree from the University of Wyoming recognizes individuals who reflect the university's high ideals and values and exemplify the concepts of excellence, service, and integrity.

For more information about Honorary Degrees at the University of Wyoming and the nomination criteria: [www.uwyo.edu/honorarydegree](http://www.uwyo.edu/honorarydegree).

**Nominations are due no later than November 17, 2017.**



AGENDA ITEM TITLE: **Construction Update**, Mai

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX(ES):

- Work Session
- Education Session
- Information Item
- Other           Specify: Committee of the Whole (Items for Approval)

BACKGROUND AND POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

**BSL – 3 Update**

- The construction of the existing facility is in the commissioning phase.
- Architectural design of the incinerator is at 99%. Subcontractor pricing is anticipated in October.

**Engineering Update**

- Structural Steel erection is complete. The concrete on metal deck and associated toppings slabs are underway, Concrete Masonry Unit (CMU) pilasters are being constructed. Shotcrete shear cores are being placed. Interior/Exterior metal stud framing is underway. Duct work installation is underway.

**Arena Auditorium Phase II**

- Substantial completion is anticipated in time for the first game. Sletten Construction will be wrapping up punch list items for the next few weeks.

**High Bay Research Facility**

- Projects utilizing Board approved uses of contingency are underway.

**Mick and Susie McMurry High Altitude Performance Center (AKA RAC 2)**

- Drywall work is underway. Mechanical Electrical Plumbing (MEP) rough-in is 90% complete. Finishes are underway and will continue through December.
- Athletics will vacate the existing spaces at which point renovations will commence.

**WWAMI**

- 100% Construction Documents were issued last week.
- It is anticipated that the construction contract will be awarded in November.
- Construction completion is anticipated at the end of May 2018

**Science Initiative**

- The design meetings held on October 4 and 5<sup>th</sup> were productive, Board approval of the exterior is anticipated at the November meeting.
- The Exterior public meeting will be held on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Landscape Master Plan**

- The landscaping committee for the AA Phase II and HAPC met on October 6<sup>th</sup> to review the Landscape Master Plan.
- Board review and consideration for action is anticipated at the November meeting.

**PRIOR RELATED BOARD DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS:**

Regular construction updates have been shared with the Board.

**WHY THIS ITEM IS BEFORE THE BOARD:**

This information is presented for the general information of the Trustees.

**ACTION REQUIRED AT THIS BOARD MEETING:**

N/A

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

N/A

**PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:**

N/A