1. **Consideration and Action– Request for Authorization**

    1. Information/Discussion: This is an updated Request for Authorization (RFA) to establish a School of Computing (SoC) at the University of Wyoming. The new proposal includes ways to minimize costs by proposing the SoC initially be "incubated" in an existing college. Dean Wright and others have suggested the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. This aids in coordinated development of the SoC and further strengthening of the CS/ECE department. Efforts will need to be made to make sure that the SoC fulfills its campus-wide role of championing the "Digital for All" program during this incubation stage. A complete budget for the first four years based solely upon the $3M internal funds targeted was provided. The annual ongoing operating budget at the end of the four years is $3M/year, and the total costs, which include one-time costs, over the four years are $12M. The budget is designed to maximize benefits to student programs and faculty while minimizing administrative costs. The first four years focus on the creation of state-of-the-art applied computing labs, joint hires with existing UW departments, and new faculty affiliate programs that catalyze deep inter- and cross-disciplinary collaborations. The curricular aspects will initially focus on enhancing and supporting UW's existing computing offerings, developing valued-added certificate courses, working with departments to develop computing minors, and working to help develop a Digital for All component in the new USP. As student and faculty needs evolve BA and BS curricula focused on applied computing will be developed in collaboration and in support of other campus units. Initial offerings will be prioritized in collaboration with ASUW and with the community colleges.

    2. Action: Motion passed.

    3. Next Steps: Trustee Moore to propose motion with full board:

        i. *"I move that the Request for Authorization for the School of Computing be approved."*

2. **Information and Discussion – Saddle Up**

    Information/Discussion: UW is completely redesigning its onboarding process, and a key component of this redesign is a "Week Zero" week-long academic onboarding program called *Saddle Up*, which is being designed now and the first freshman class and transfer students will participate in August of 2022. Research shows that short academic preparation programs, designed to accelerate adjustment to college life, increase retention and academic success by giving students low-stakes opportunities to build their resilience and success skills. Programs similarly structured at peer institutions have resulted in an average 7-10% increase in first-to-second year retention rate, positive and significant impacts to graduation rates and GPA, higher student confidence and resilience, and reduced achievement gaps. Saddle Up is a new academic preparation program that will provide incoming students with a realistic, rigorous, fun, and exciting entry to college-level work, with an emphasis on how to be successful in a college class. It will give students real-world practice in the cadence and experience of an

academic semester on a small scale, with classes that include homework and exams with feedback on how to improve performance (low stakes), fitness and wellness time, college connection time, study time, and essential skills sessions. Current UW students – Poke Pack leaders - will provide mentorship and coaching throughout the week to groups of 8 incoming students. This experience will provide incoming students with the academic skills and mindset they will need to be successful, including notetaking, managing time and course loads, exam preparation skills, and exploration of UW's academic and student support services and experiential learning opportunities. Participants will earn students one credit hour of UW credit. A shorter set of transfer programs will also be offered and will focus on enhancing incoming transfer students' sense of belonging and familiarity with UW resources. There will be tailored versions for Laramie residents, Casper residents, and online transfer students.

Saddle Up will be organized as 9 "camps" – one for each college plus exploratory studies. Each day will begin with a collect-up where students will learn a UW tradition, get an important tip to practice for the day, and generally get them excited for the day ahead. Then, students will head to a core class – a simulation of a large class – focused on either biology or math, depending on their college. These classes will give students a chance to "get the willies out" so that the experience of walking into, participating, and advocating for themselves in large classes is not new. Every day new students will have time for supplemental instruction and study time to get them in the habit of studying and learning how to manage their academic workload. Students will participate in skills sessions, mindfulness and movement sessions, and get a chance to spend time in UW innovation/maker spaces. These are meant to build their sense of belonging to UW, but also model a healthy lifestyle for a stressful midterm week. In the afternoon, the college camps will have college sessions where they build community, skills, and comfort with their faculty and college staff and support teams. Previously, UW's onboarding process, which had not been redesigned other than additions in the past several years, was: Discovery Days/Campus Pass, Admitted Student Days (2), a June orientation, a Cowboy Connect. The new onboarding process will be: Discovery Days, Campus Pass, Admitted Student Days (4) with resource programming and registration opportunities, a Visit summer programs and virtual orientation, Saddle Up

1. Action: This is an information item.

2. Next Steps: This is an information item.

3. **Information & Discussion – Food Security**

   1. Information/Discussion: Vice President Kim Chestnut provided an update on the efforts of our ASUW Food Security Taskforce. The taskforce is currently working on interrelated strategies to address food insecurity at UW that include a meal swipe program, increased use and funding of food share cabinets, a new program on good food recovery, partnering with Student ACRES Farm, and increasing the use of the UW Food Share Pantry. The taskforce has partnered with UW Foundation on a spring "Planting the Seeds" fundraising campaign and is looking forward to the opportunities to increase awareness of these resources on campus.

   2. Action: This is an information item.

   3. Next Steps: This is an information item.

4. **Information & Discussion – Strategic Planning**

    1. <u>Information/Discussion:</u> Vice Provost Anne Alexander provided an update on UW's Strategic Planning process. In the past couple of months Dr. Alexander has initiated the process by conducting informal dialogues with faculty, students and staff, reviews of recent reports on UW, reviewing metric updates based on UW's previous strategic plan *Breaking Through 2017-2022*, engaging in conversations with organizational change and planning experts on campus, and receiving over 80 nominations to form two teams that will work on the strategic planning process. The Strategic Planning Team will tackle three broad areas of conducting department conversations (academic + nonacademic unit conversations), supporting and assisting in college reorg conversations and conducting workshops/idea labs. The Strategic Planning Council will receive input from the Strategic Planning Team, will draft the plan and listen/embed to campus/constituent feedback on draft. In recognition of the rapidly changing environment of higher education, Wyoming's economy, and the academic workplace, the plan will provide a flexible roadmap for 2022 and beyond but will not have a traditional 5-year or 10-year timeframe. Rather, to recognize that adaptability and agility are the keys to our long-term success, the path it lays out will explicitly acknowledge the volatile, complex and uncertain world in which UW operates. We will embrace an appreciative-inquiry approach, and focus on identifying systems, mechanisms, and processes that should be prioritized for investment and calibration. Finally, a core implementation team of faculty, staff, and administrators will be identified in Fall of 2022 and charged with owning and being accountable for the identified priorities, calibrating, and aligning priorities across the institution going forward. VP Alexander stressed commitment to a process that will be transparent, give all stakeholders a voice in our future, will work to align priorities across our institution, and will embed accountability for change in our systems and processes needed to move forward. Vice Provost Alexander provided a timeline that includes the plan being presented to the Board of Trustees in November of 2022.

    2. <u>Action:</u> This is an information item.

    3. <u>Next Steps:</u> This is an information item.