



MEMORANDUM

To: University of Wyoming Board of Trustees

From: University of Wyoming Foundation

Re: Liaison Report for July 2022 meeting

Date: June 24, 2022

Thank you for this opportunity to update you on the activities of the University of Wyoming Foundation through our liaison officers, Trustees Marsh and Fall. Please see below.

UW FOUNDATION PRESIDENT BEN BLALOCK RETIRES

Ben Blalock—UW Foundation President and CEO and UW vice president for institutional advancement—retired June 30 following 26 years of service that has transformed philanthropy at UW. In 1996 when he arrived, UW raised around \$6 million annually, with an endowment of nearly \$40 million. Today, the annual fundraising average is \$50 million, and the endowment is nearly \$800 million—the largest in the Mountain West Conference and larger than many institutions with twice or three times the student enrollment.

John Stark, UW Foundation senior vice president for development, follows him in this role. Stark has been with the foundation for nearly 16 years, and prior to that, he was executive director of the Cowboy Joe Club and associate athletic director.

YTD PHILANTHROPY

As reflected in the monthly giving report through 5/31/22, year-to-date private support to UW is \$49,139,778. This total now reflects Research Grants from Private Resources. Counting Research Grants from Private Sources has been implemented according to the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) Global Reporting Standards. CASE is the origin for the Donor Bill of Rights and Global Reporting Standards, both of which have been overwhelmingly endorsed and used by university foundations.

MAJOR GIFTS

The first half of 2022 has seen the continued commitment and investment from UW's alumni and donors with the following noteworthy private gifts.

Ripple Gift Support Blockchain and Cryptocurrency

A gift from Ripple, a leading provider of enterprise blockchain and crypto solutions, is establishing a Ripple Blockchain Collaboratory at the University of Wyoming, which will foster innovation in



blockchain, cryptocurrency and cybersecurity to help transform the finance and technology industries. The collaboratory will be based in the UW Center for Blockchain and Digital Innovation, the College of Engineering and Applied Science and the College of Law. This funding will support UW undergraduate and graduate students interested in blockchain, cryptocurrency and cybersecurity as they pursue degrees and launch their careers, ensuring a skilled workforce for Wyoming’s technology future. Additionally, UW will operate an XRPL validator on campus, which performs the vital work of verifying transactions.

Watt Foundation Gift Helps Fight Invasive Species

A gift from the Joe and Arlene Watt Foundation of Sheridan will support the Institute for Managing Annual Grasses Invading Natural Ecosystems, or IMAGINE. The \$500,000 gift, which was doubled to \$1 million with state match funding, creates an excellence fund that supports this UW Sheridan Research and Extension Center initiative. This program provides collaborative applied and fundamental research and hands-on educational opportunities to fight the establishment and proliferation of invasive grasses that can degrade Wyoming lands, which will restore rangelands. These efforts focus on species such as cheatgrass, ventenata and medusahead through fundamental research, community science and creating next-generation partnerships.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

The UW Foundation Financial Services team is closing out the fiscal year and working with auditors on preliminary work. Additionally, the team is completing the analysis on 2X 4X reporting and reinvestment and working on adjusting reporting to match changes in organizational restructuring at the university. In further news, Jeremy Page, current UW Foundation controller, is retiring after 20 years of service.

INVESTMENT SERVICES

The estimated performance and endowment pool value through May 31 were - 6.9% and \$798.7 million. Both metrics were better than expected given the drawdown in public markets. Public Equities have fallen into bear markets and Public Fixed Income markets have endured historic losses. Analysts and strategists are predicting a recession for 2023, with some believing we are already in the midst of recession.

Utilizing Meketa, the foundation’s institutional investment advisor, the foundation updated its long-term asset allocation targets in line with improved long-run risk/return targets.

UW FOUNDATION BOARD MEETINGS

The summer UW Foundation Board meetings were held in Laramie at the Rochelle Gateway Center, June 16-17, 2022. Trustee Chairman John McKinley and President Ed Seidel were on hand to discuss the university’s fundraising priorities.

In addition, Reginald Slater, former Wyoming Cowboy basketball standout from 1989–92, was named to the UW Foundation Board of Directors. Slater began his four-year term on July 1. Slater—



Wyoming’s all-time leading rebounder and one of its greatest players of all time—dominated the boards during his tenure as a Poke. The “Big Cat” was named to the Wyoming Athletics Hall of Fame in 2002. After his time at Wyoming, Slater played professionally for several teams. He is now a successful entrepreneur and business owner in the Houston, Texas, area.

Moreover, Mary Shafer-Malicki was named chair of the board, replacing Tom Botts who will continue as a member of the board. Doug Stark was elected vice chair, and Lindsay Hooper was elected secretary. All are pre-eminent professionals in their fields, and they are long-serving members of the board. They began their new posts on July 1 and will serve in leadership for two years.