To: Prof. Steve Bieber, Chair, Academic Planning Committee

Scott Shaw, Chair, Faculty Senate

From: Kate Miller, Provost

 Anne Alexander, Associate Provost

Date: December 22, 2016

Re: Academic Program Elimination Proposals

Enclosed you will find materials regarding the proposed elimination of several academic programs. We ask that you distribute to members of the Faculty Senate. Included in these materials are:

1. A proposal for each program under consideration following the outlines of University Regulation 6-43, along with supporting material for the original proposal
2. A response from the affect College Dean, as required by University Regulation 6-43, for each program under consideration
3. A response from the affected Department/Program Head, as required by University Regulation 6-43, for each program under consideration
4. Additional responses from interested parties and stakeholders who responded during the 60-day comment period that ended December 16, 2016 for each program under consideration.

University Regulation 6-43 states that the Faculty Senate “shall” provide their written review and response to these program elimination proposals within 60 days of receiving the materials, taking into account holiday closures. As such, though you are receiving these materials in December, the 60-day period does not commence until the first day of Spring 2017 courses, January 23, 2017. **You review and response should be returned to Provost Miller by March 24, 2017. You may send your response to** **aalex@uwyo.edu** **and/or provide hard copy responses to Academic Affairs, Old Main 312, Campus.**

Of note as you proceed with your review:

1. With respect to the MA in German, MA in French, and BA in Russian, there are a number of responses that support language instruction generally. Where there is a specific program supported by a stakeholder response, it is organized within that program’s review, but most respondents wrote advocating the general idea of language learning, regardless of specific language. Some also mention the BA Secondary Education: Modern Languages as well. In total, 31 stakeholder responses were made to one or more of the languages proposals.
2. The largest number of stakeholder responses came in support of the BA in American Studies (53), comments on the reorganization of the Science and Mathematics Teaching Center (44), and in support of the MA in Sociology (42), MA in Philosophy (23), and BA in Secondary Education: Technical Education (21). Some more general comments were provided, as well. Stakeholder responses and comments came in for virtually all programs.
3. There are three programs that were originally proposed for elimination that Deans have requested be withdrawn from consideration for elimination. Provost Miller has agreed with their assessment. These are (1) the graduate programs in Adult and Postsecondary Education, (2) the MS in Environmental Engineering, and (3) the BS in Energy Systems Engineering. We have included these programs in this set of materials for your information only. Should you choose to comment and provide responses or reviews for these decisions, you are welcome to do so, but it is not required.

In your review of each program, we ask that you consider, weigh, and opine on the following, keeping a solid eye on the University of Wyoming’s core mission:

1. What are the strengths, merits, and/or benefits of the elimination proposal?
2. What are the costs or weaknesses of the proposal?
3. What consequences, positive or negative, would you foresee in elimination of the program?
4. What alternatives could be proposed in lieu of elimination?
5. What is your recommendation regarding elimination of the program?

If you have any questions regarding this material or the process itself, do not hesitate to let us know. Thank you for undertaking this important task.