



SENATE RESOLUTION #2421

TITLE: ASUW Support for University of Wyoming Tuition Increase

DATE: March 6, 2014

AUTHOR: President Kahler; Chief of Staff Haakinson; Director of Finance Iberlin

SPONSORS: Senators Blazovich, Haukaas, Powell, West

1. WHEREAS, the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (ASUW) recognizes the
2. responsibility to recommend tuition increases that benefit a large population of students; and,
3. WHEREAS, the ASUW Student Government has the responsibility to accurately represent
4. the sentiment of the entire student body; and
5. WHEREAS, the ASUW Student Government formed a Tuition Task Force team in the Fall
6. of 2013 to research feasible tuition increases for UW students; and,
7. WHEREAS, faculty at UW have been leaving their positions in search of higher paying
8. positions at universities elsewhere at an increasing rate; and,
9. WHEREAS, the data collected data (contained in Addendum A) from the Tuition Task Force
10. team to aid in the evaluation of tuition increases was recommended to the Board of Trustees.
11. THEREFORE, be it resolved the by Student Senate of the Associated Students of the
12. University of Wyoming (ASUW) that the ASUW recommend and support a 4% increase in
13. tuition for the Fiscal Year 2015 and Fiscal Year 2016; and,
14. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW recommend to the Board of Trustees
15. that tuition rates be evaluated and see if the tuition increases should be continued for the next
16. two years after the initial two years; and,
17. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the revenue that is directly generated from the
18. tuition increases be applied to faculty salaries.

Referred to: Student Outreach and Policy Committee

Date of Passage: _____ **Signed:** _____

(ASUW Chairperson)

**“Being enacted on _____, I do hereby sign my name hereto and
approve this Senate action.” _____**

ASUW President

Addendum A

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

ASUW Student Government
Dept. 3625 • Wyoming Union 020
1000 E. University Ave., Laramie, WY 82071-2000
(307) 766-5204

March 3rd, 2014

To: Board of Trustees, University of Wyoming
Dick McGinity, President of the University of Wyoming
Bill Mai, Vice President for Administration
Sara Axelson, Vice President of Student Affairs

From: Brett Kahler, ASUW President
Chris Haakinson, ASUW Chief of Staff
Tuition Task Force Committee

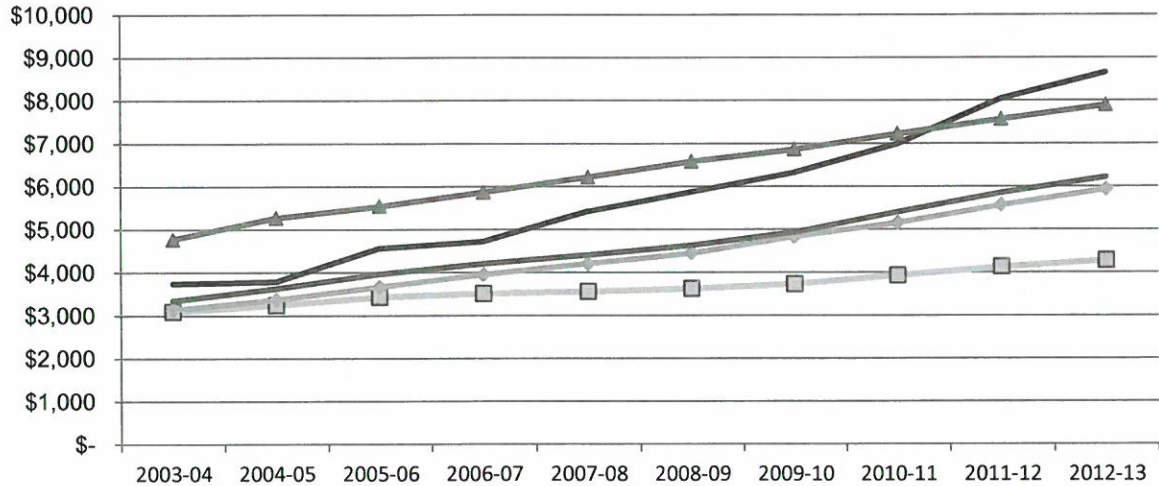
RE: **University of Wyoming Tuition**

Through recommendations made over the summer of 2013, a tuition task force committee was formed on behalf of ASUW to research and formulate whether a tuition increase would be beneficial to the campus of the University of Wyoming. The Tuition Task Force Committee consisted of five student volunteers: Kara Nazminia, Jim Meyer, Douglas Jordan, Heather Gibbs, and Morteza Akbarabadi. These student volunteers spent the majority of the first semester meeting with staff, faculty members, and different organizations to determine if a tuition increase would be beneficial. Another objective of the committee was to determine if there was an increase needed, how much. It was determined by the committee that tuition should be increased for the next two Fiscal Years and that the revenue generated should be applied to faculty salaries.

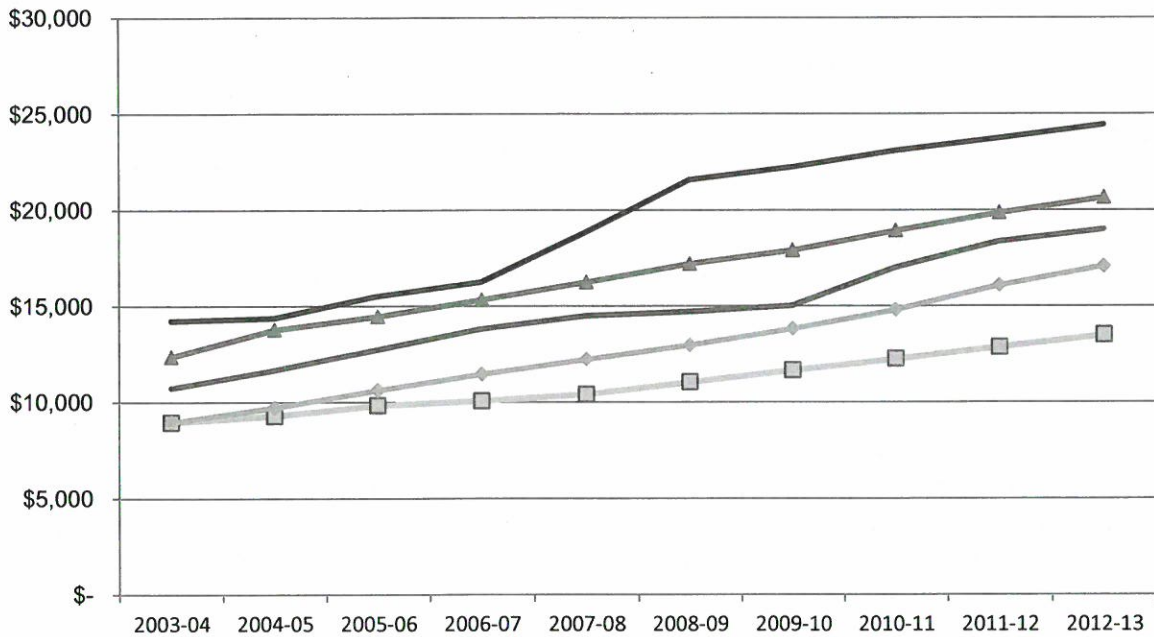
Admissions – From an admissions standpoint, Director of Admissions, Shelley Dodd stated that raising tuition would not decrease admissions numbers. Because the University of Wyoming has state-of-the-art facilities and top notch faculty, the Admissions Office feels that students will not be detracted from the University of Wyoming just because of tuition increases. Not to mention, the University of Wyoming continues to build facilities on campus to elevate admission numbers and retain the level of education.

Comparison of Other Universities – Five land-grant institutions across the region, including the University of Wyoming, were compared to each other regarding residential and nonresidential tuition as of 2013. Looking at the residential tuition graph, the University has remained the cheapest compared to its competitors regarding tuition costs. The same case can be stated for nonresidential tuition. Relatively speaking, beginning in the academic year 2003 – 2004, most of the universities had started at or around the same tuition base. Over time, the other

universities exponentially increased tuition, while the University of Wyoming remained the same, only increasing tuition marginally over a decade. Shown below are graphs comparing the University of Wyoming base tuition to other land-grant universities:

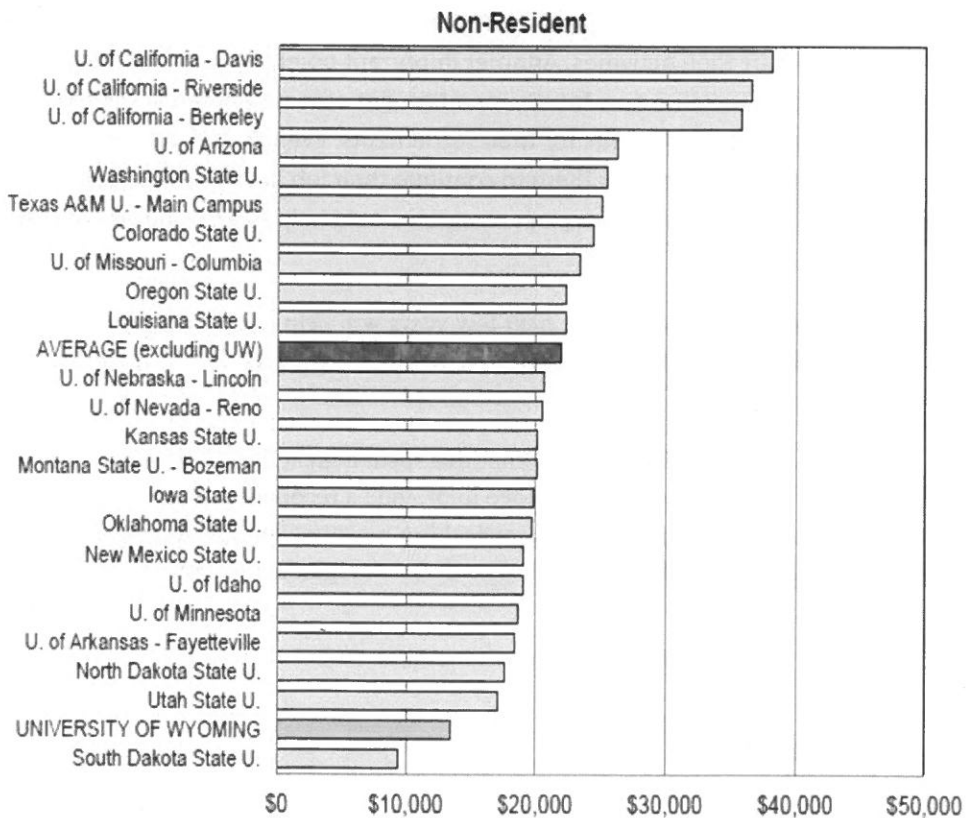
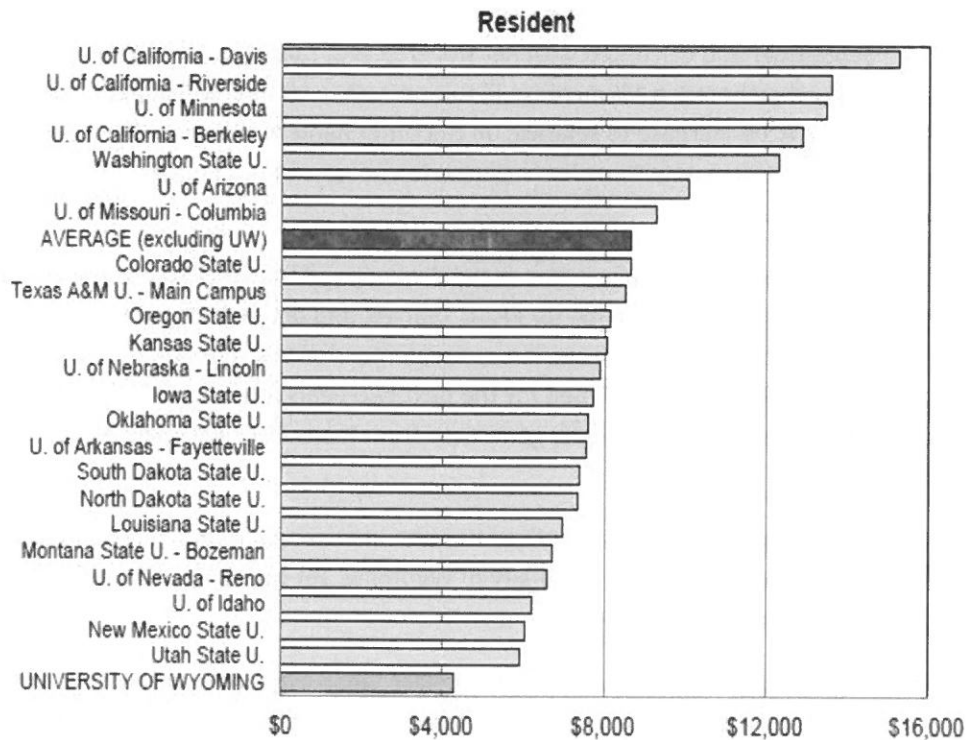


UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
 Colorado State University
 Utah State University
 University of Nebraska - Lincoln
 University of Idaho



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
 Colorado State University
 Utah State University
 University of Nebraska - Lincoln
 University of Idaho

Undergraduate Average Annual Tuition and Fees UW Selected Western Land-grant Comparators 2012-13



Comparison of Other Universities Continued – As seen above, the University of Wyoming is the least expensive when tuition is compared, yet the University maintains high quality facilities. This leaves the opportunity to increase tuition and still be in the “AVERAGE”.

Tuition – The Tuition Task Force Committee met with Interim Vice President of Fiscal Administration, Janet Lowe in late September and discussed with her the effects of raising tuition from a revenue aspect. As researched and gathered, a 1% increase in tuition across campus would generate approximately \$495,000. A 1% increase to salaries, on the other hand, would cost the university approximately \$1,750,000. Noticeably, in order to generate enough revenue to cover salary increases, tuition must be increased by 4%.

Based on multiple committee interactions, it was at the discretion of the Tuition Task Force Committee to increase University of Wyoming tuition 4% for Fiscal Year 15' and another 4% for Fiscal Year 16'. At the end of the second year of tuition increases, it was recommended that the process be evaluated and see if the tuition increases should be continued for the next two years after the initial two years. It was also stipulated that the revenue that is directly generated from the tuition increases be applied to professor salaries.

The Tuition Task Force Committee members believe that the increases in tuition and salaries will generate results that will retain faculty of University of Wyoming, yet the University of Wyoming will remain a competitor in terms of tuition cost.

It was also discussed, that extra incentives should be in place when attracting and retaining faculty for the University of Wyoming. Morteza Akbarabadi discussed with new faculty members of different universities, particularly in the Department of Engineering, one of the main incentives for them was to provide a comparable starting fund for the new faculty members to start their research and also having an appropriate facility to start their activities. Another important point that they mentioned was the tendency of the university to help the new faculty members get accommodated in the town and also getting help from the recommended agents for their settlements. Even though having a comparable salary was one of the main parameters for them to continue their job in the current department, having access to ever improving laboratories to carry out research would help them to decide at their current position.

Overall, increasing tuition marginally over the next few years will help retain and promote faculty at the University of Wyoming, but other efforts must be made to retain top-of-the-line faculty at the University of Wyoming.

Conclusion – Overall, the Tuition Task Force Committee spent a great deal of time researching and meeting with individuals to gather concrete evidence to provide a recommendation of whether or not tuition should increase, and by how much. This proposal is a recommendation and we believe that this information will aid the Board of Trustees in making a decision regarding tuition.