



SENATE RESOLUTION #2584

TITLE: Support for University and ASUW Cooperation with the ENDOW Initiative

DATE INTRODUCED: November 14, 2017

AUTHORS: President Wetzel, Chief of Staff Thomson-Lichty, Executive Simental

SPONSORS: Senator Defebaugh and Hungerford

1. WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (ASUW)
2. Student Government to represent our fellow students accurately; and,
3. WHEREAS, the State of Wyoming experienced a budget shortfall occurring during the 2017-
4. 2018 biennium budget due to revenue shortfalls from the slowing of mineral extraction
5. industries in the state, and;
6. WHEREAS, these budget cuts significantly affected students at the University of Wyoming
7. (UW), since much of UW's budget consists of block grant funding from the State of
8. Wyoming; and,
9. WHEREAS, Governor Matt Mead announced the creation of the Economically Needed
10. Diversity Options for Wyoming (ENDOW) Initiative in November 2016 at the Governor's
11. Business Forum; and,
12. WHEREAS, the ENDOW Initiative "will coordinate and expand ongoing efforts across the
13. state, as well as produce measurable results expanding the Wyoming economy" through the
14. creation of a long-term, state-wide economic development plan; and,
15. WHEREAS, as the only four year institution in the State, UW is important to the
16. economic development of Wyoming, as demonstrated in Addendum B; and,
17. WHEREAS, UW has been asked to provide input during the strategic planning process of the
18. ENDOW initiative; and,

19. WHEREAS, Governor Mead has acknowledged the importance of recruiting and retaining a
20. young, qualified workforce, many of whom may graduate from UW; and,
21. WHEREAS, student input is extremely important to understanding how to effectively retain
22. recent graduates to work within the State of Wyoming; and,
23. WHEREAS, improving job opportunities in relevant fields may increase the number of UW
24. graduates that are both offered jobs and accept those jobs within the State of Wyoming.
25. THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
26. (ASUW) Student Government supports collaboration among the Economically Needed
27. Diversity Options for Wyoming (ENDOW) Council and the University of Wyoming (UW),
28. and;
29. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW Student Government supports specific
30. collaborative and cooperative efforts with ASUW Student Government and the UW student
31. body; and,
32. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW Student Government will undertake
33. efforts, by appointing student representatives, to propose and coordinate a meeting with the
34. ENDOW Council at a convenient date prior to the conclusion of the 2017/2018 academic
35. year; and,
36. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the letter in Addendum A be sent to all members of
37. the ENDOW Council; and,
38. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the data and accompany analysis be included in
39. Addendum B.

Referred to: AT&S

Date of Passage: 11/28/2017 Signed: Jaymie Weber
(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on November 30th, 2017, I do hereby sign my name hereto and
approve this Senate action.” Benjamin D. Ward
ASUW President

Addendum A

Office of the President

Benjamin D. Wetzel
020 Wyoming Union
307-766-5234
bwetzel@uwyo.edu



The 105th Administration

Associated Students of the
University of Wyoming

To: Honorable Matt Mead – Governor, State of Wyoming, Greg Hill –
Co-Chair, ENDOW Council Executive Members
From: Benjamin D. Wetzel – ASUW President
Subject: ENDOW Council Engagement with University of Wyoming Students
Date: November 11, 2017

When Governor Mead announced the Economically Needed Diversity Options for Wyoming (ENDOW) Initiative in November of 2016, the University was among the many groups who was asked to have key input. It is no secret to the students of the University of Wyoming that it is not always easy to find a job within the State of Wyoming following graduation. The ENDOW Council's Socioeconomic Assessment Report released in August of 2017 stated; "Workforce is the single greatest inhibitor – and opportunity – for growth and stability." We could not agree more. The University of Wyoming saw the largest freshman class in history with an increase in enrollment this fall of 36 students. As our efforts continue to revolve around recruitment and retention, it is our goal to draw a strong Wyoming workforce. We can only hope to see an economy that will grow and prosper, providing adequate job markets and industries to support keeping the educated members of society.

The University surveys all graduating students about their future path, including those who are attending graduate/professional programs, have accepted job offers, or are still seeking a job after graduation. According to data from 2012-2016, less than 61% of students who were offered jobs following graduation, were offered jobs in Wyoming. The students that were offered jobs, on average only 47% accepted them. We as a University, a student body, and a state, have the unique opportunity to work together, form a community atmosphere conducive to keeping our students here, and develop our home.

The Associated Students of the University of Wyoming happily support the efforts of the ENDOW Council, and look forward to work with the Council for open, constructive dialogues with students. With such diverse backgrounds and desires, it is our hope to provide an insight to the Council to assist with the diversification of the economy and recruitment and retention of a young, dedicated workforce. We are excited for the opportunity to host you at a future ENDOW Council Meeting and work to benefit our beloved state and better understand the goals, wants, and needs of the new Wyoming workforce.

Sincerely,

Benjamin D. Wetzel

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Benjamin D. Wetzel", written over a horizontal line.

President
105th Administration – ASUW Student Government

Cc: Jerimiah Riemann – Office of the Governor of the State of Wyoming
Laurie Nichols – President, University of Wyoming

11.10.17

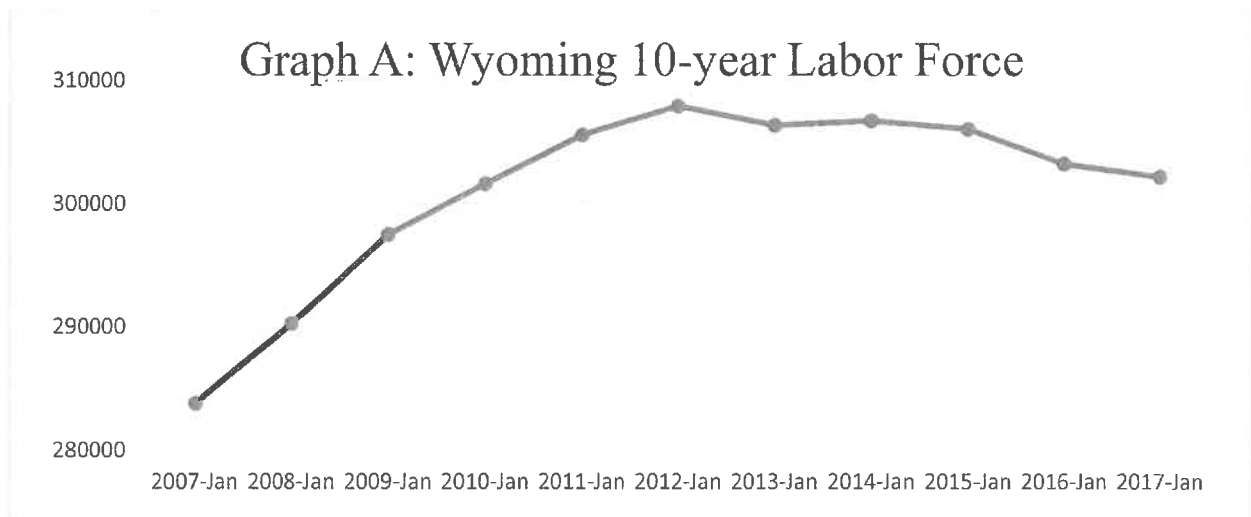
Addendum B

Report

The University of Wyoming is a key factor in supporting both long and short-run economic growth in the state. The graphs attached include data reported on enrollment by ethnicity, degrees awarded, university budget distribution and statewide factors pertinent to economic development in Wyoming. It is also important to note the positive effect of all economic transactions that occur as part of external revenues brought by university activity via enrollment, athletic events, research, visitors and a diverse market for startup businesses.

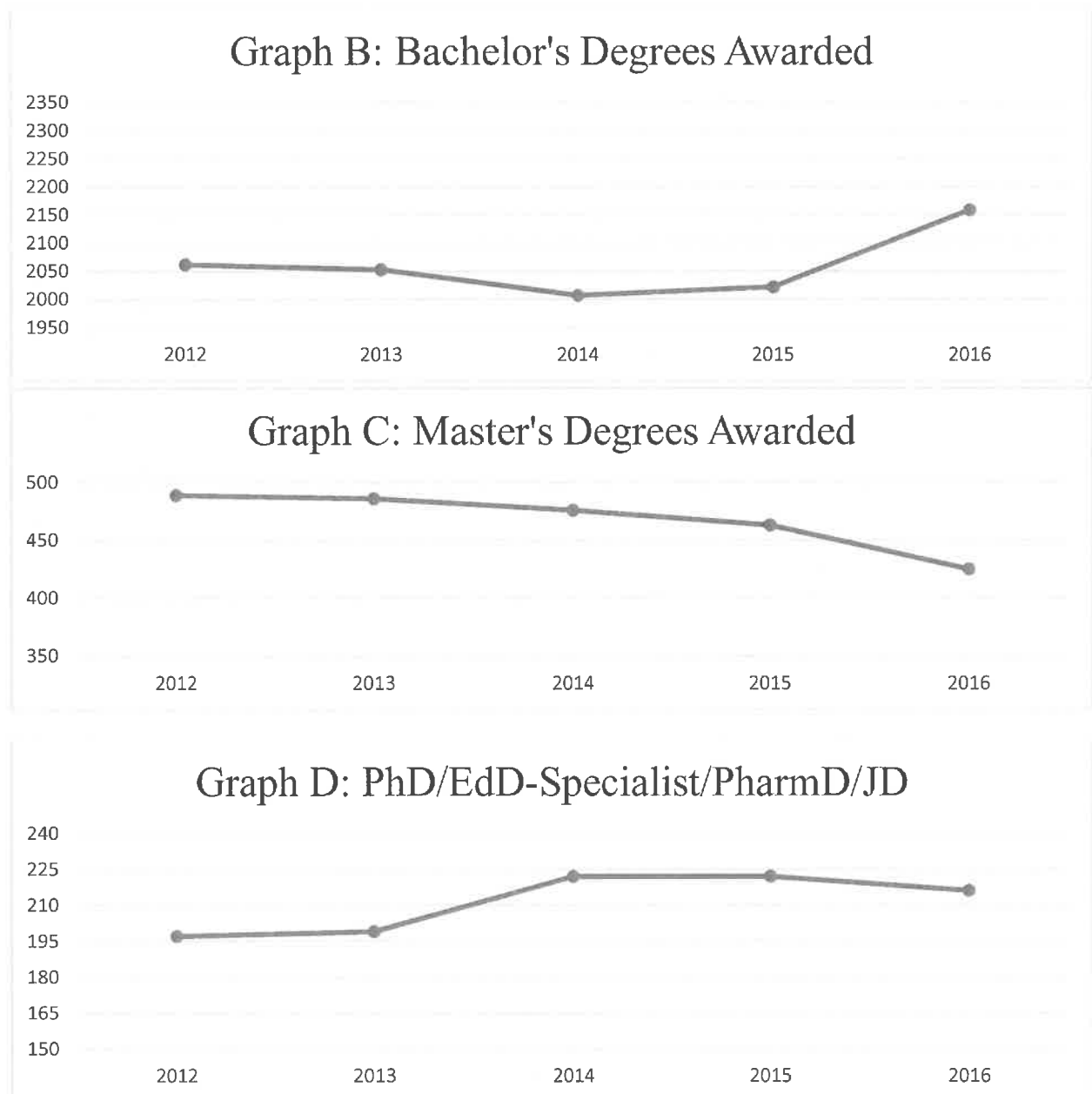
Graph A

A challenge facing the state economy is the decreasing labor force and the limited source of human capital. There are two issues with a decreasing labor force; numerically it causes an increase in the unemployment rate. It also discourages firms and small businesses from investing as their output is constrained as a result of a decrease in labor. This will have negative effects on any/all ENDOW initiatives; small businesses will have no incentive to grow if there is a limited LF.



Graph B, C, D

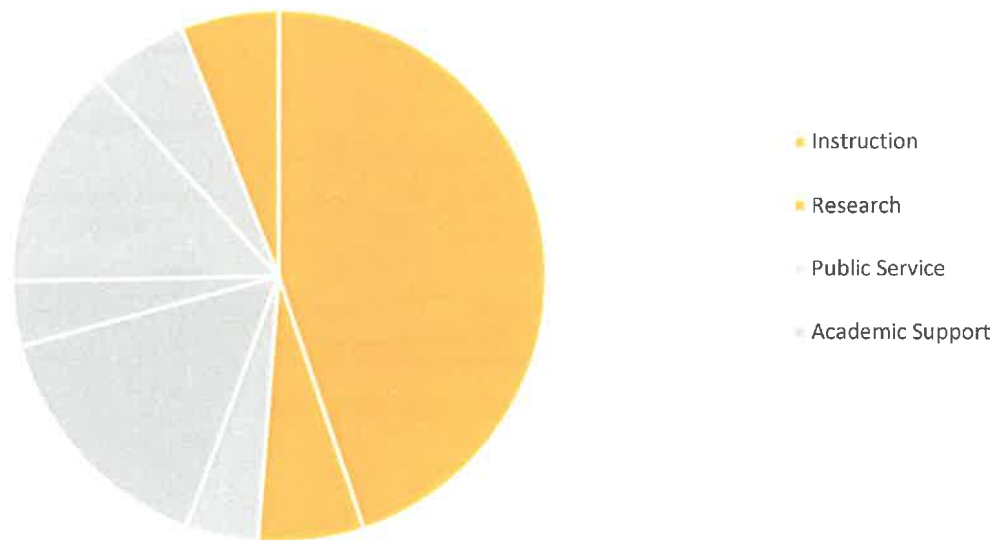
In an increasingly competitive job market, there has been a steady decrease in graduates pursuing a master's degree, PhD, JD. It can be concluded that recent economic downturn in the state has discouraged students from continuing their education. Conversely, stable economic growth can reverse this trend by increasing the value of a graduate degree as well as improving the skill level of human capital.



Graph E

The budget is representative of academic and administrative priorities relevant to the functions of the University. Outlined in gold are portions of the budget that have the highest return to the state of economy. Instruction, as mentioned above, increases the skill level of LF. Research allows UW to make cutting-edge developments that attract academics/researchers from around the world to our state. Said findings also have direct economic impact. Similarly, athletics bring external revenue via tourists and visitors. Making the most of UW budget expenditures that are not independent of state economic activity is paramount—also a reason collaboration with ENDOW is relevant.

Graph E: FY 2017 UW Operating Budget



Graph F

The state of Wyoming needs people. This graph portrays enrollment of international students and minorities which are an important source of population growth for the state according to the ENDOW socioeconomic analysis report. Diverse student enrollment is an asset to the university and to the state of Wyoming. A diverse population at UW increases the LF and the source of innovation much needed for any long-term economic growth in Wyoming.

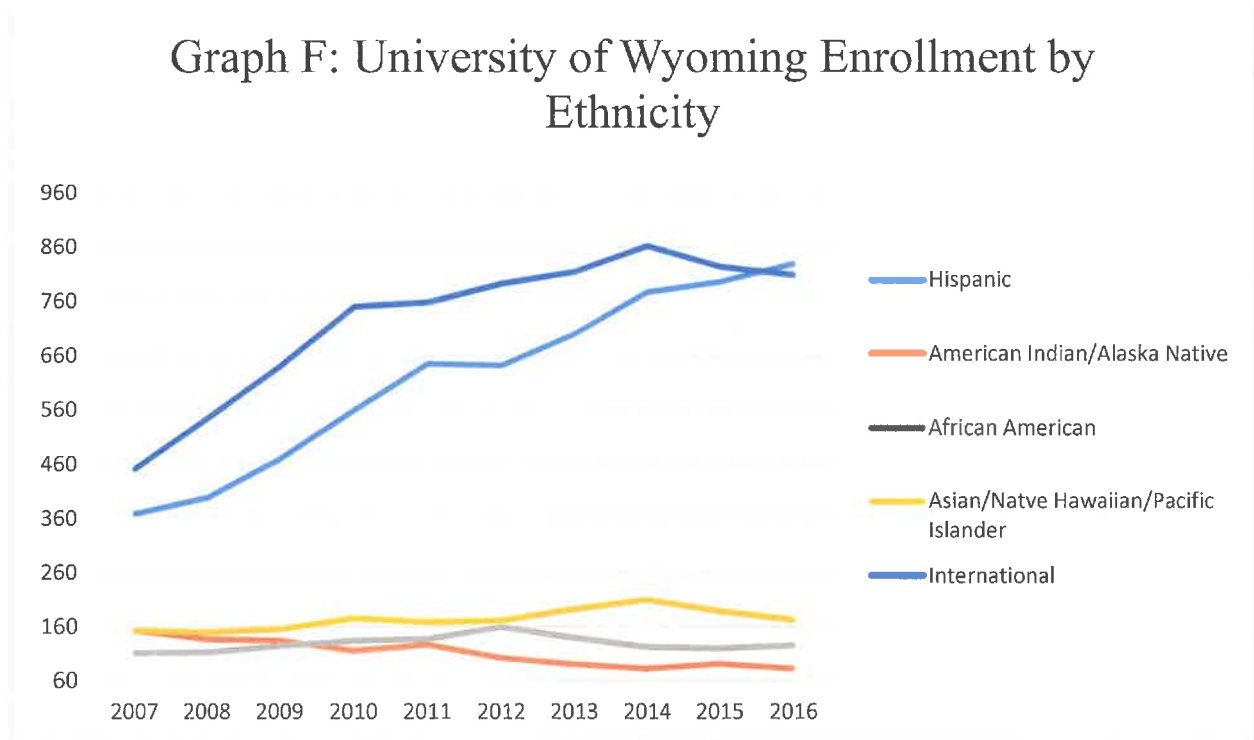


Table G

The Tax Foundation released their 2017 State Business Tax Climate Index. Wyoming consistently ranks first overall in best business tax climate, lowest individual income tax rate and sales tax rate. The tax code is often a major inhibitor of investment but Wyoming's business friendly rates should attract more entrepreneurs if this major state success is marketed effectively.

	State Business Tax Climate Overall Rank	Individual Income Tax Rate	Sales Tax Rate
1 Wyoming	1	1	6
2 South Dakota	2	1	32
3 Alaska	3	1	5
4 Florida	4	1	28
5 Nevada	5	1	41

Data sources

**Bureau of Labor Statistics*

**University of Wyoming Institutional Analysis Department*

**University of Wyoming Budget Office*

**University Center for Advising and Career Services*

