



SENATE RESOLUTION #3083

TITLE: ASUW Opposition to the Wyoming State Legislature Joint Appropriations Committee Recommendation to Cut \$40 Million from the University of Wyoming's Block Grant

DATE INTRODUCED: 01/30/2026

AUTHOR: Senators Golden, Hansen, Smith; First-Year Senator Paul

SPONSORS: Senators Cooper, Khan, Moore, Wellikson; First Year Senators Jordan, Mckee, Osterli, Rock, and Spencer; Safety, Wellness, and Advocacy Committee, Steering; President Medina, Vice President McGuire, Chief of Staff Hargett, Chief of Legislative Affairs Heffley, Director of Internal Public Affairs Heard; Student at Larges Hernandez-Lopez, Sosa, Garcia, Sanchez-Hernandez, Becerra, Reyes, Ryan, Belin, Ward, Carter, Wieburg, Smith, Gibbons, Eker, Muzquiz, Alday, Meija, Ruiz, Gonzalez, Zubia, Nava-Castillo, McAdams, Derksen, Parrill, Novotny, Hernandez Jimenez, Flores, Mora, Delgadillo, Lopez, Chacon, Tzompa; Middle East and North Africa Culture Club, Microbiology Student Association, Model United Nations, Wyoming Competitive Speech Team, Pre-Law Club, Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán of UWYO

1. WHEREAS, the purpose of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
2. (ASUW) is to serve our fellow students in the best manner possible; and,
3. WHEREAS, on January 13, 2026, the Wyoming State Legislature's Joint Appropriations
4. Committee (JAC) recommended a cut of \$40 million dollars, or 10.7%, of the total of the
5. University's block grants, as reflected in Addendum A, which directly harms UW
6. students, staff, faculty, alumni, and the state, as shown in Addendum B and,
7. WHEREAS, the University supports nearly 14,700 jobs, adding more than \$720 million
8. dollars in value annually; and,
9. WHEREAS, the estimated total earnings for alumni living in the state of Wyoming pool

10. in a total contribution of 1.36 billion dollars, as reflected in Addendum C; and,

11. WHEREAS, these proposed cuts may limit UW's ability to generate future revenue for

12. the state because the lack of support and job opportunity turns UW students away from

13. Wyoming. In 2019, of Wyoming's tertiary (post-high school) educated population,

14. 26.7% with a tertiary degree stayed in Wyoming, meaning that 73.3% of the Wyoming-

15. born population with a tertiary degree has left the state, as reflected in Addendum D;

16. and,

17. WHEREAS, recent higher education funding reductions to the University of Utah

18. totaling \$19.6 million, nearly half the amount of the proposed JAC cuts, resulted in the

19. elimination of 94 academic programs and 484 courses across their university, as

20. reflected in Addendum E; and,

21. WHEREAS, Wyoming maintains only one four-year institution, making comparable

22. outcomes likely and producing harmful statewide educational and workforce impacts if

23. similar budget reductions are enacted; and,

24. WHEREAS, the reduction of state funding will make it more challenging to keep the

25. University affordable, and a requirement of the Wyoming Constitution per Article 7

26. Section 16 is to keep the university "as nearly free as possible" as reflected in Addendum

27. F; and,

28. WHEREAS, these reductions are disproportionately distributed amongst the colleges as

29. the JAC exempted the College of Agriculture, Life Sciences and Natural Resources, and

30. the College of Education from these cuts, as reflected in Addendum A, which, according

31. to UW President Edward Seidel means "the impact to UW's other academic colleges

32. could be close to a 15.4 percent reduction," as reflected in Addendum G; and,

33. WHEREAS, Governor Mark Gordon recommend around \$374 million dollars in
34. block grant funds for 2027 and 2028, as reflected in Addendum H, but the JAC formally
35. recommended a reduced 334 million dollars, of which only 322 million dollars can be
36. used unrestricted because of extensive stipulations and footnotes, as reflected in
37. Addendum I; and,
38. WHEREAS, university enrollment is dwindling nationally and at the University, as
39. reflected in Addendum J, and making significant cuts may decrease the University’s
40. ability to provide flexible course offerings for students, with the likelihood of classes,
41. services, and majors being reduced or eliminated; thus, contributing to lower enrollment
42. and student success; and,
43. WHEREAS, these cuts could also limit UW’s ability to generate future revenue through
44. research grants and partnerships that depend on strong academic programs and stable
45. staffing; and,
46. WHEREAS, the University’s academic offerings across all disciplines are unified by a
47. commitment to student success, workforce readiness, critical thinking, and civic
48. responsibility, ensuring that every course contributes meaningfully to the preparation of
49. Wyoming’s future leaders and workers; and,
50. WHEREAS, the breadth of course offerings and programs at a low price point is what
51. attracts students in state and out-of-state to UW; and,
52. WHEREAS, these cuts would limit course offerings available to students and hinder the
53. ability of faculty to pursue research vital to the state of Wyoming, which will necessarily
54. harm academic freedom, promulgated by the University as “existing as a fundamental
55. requirement of the mission of the University” as reflected in addendum K, and as

56. reflected in addendum L; and,
57. WHEREAS, the Wyoming State Legislature has historically supported the
58. University's block grant, as seen in Addendum M.
59. THEREFORE, be it resolved that the ASUW stands in opposition of the Joint
60. Appropriations Committee's (JAC) recommendation to cut the University of
61. Wyoming's block grant of 40 million dollars; and,
62. THEREFORE, be it resolved that upon passage of this legislation, it be circulated to the
63. Vice President of Government and Community Affairs, Mike Smith, UW
64. President Seidel, Board of Trustees, the Wyoming State Legislature, and the JAC.

Referred to: _____ Committee of the Whole _____

Date of Passage: 2/3/26 Signed: Aidan McGuire
(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on 2/3/26, I do hereby sign my name hereto and approve this
Senate action.” _____

Paula Medina
ASUW President

Addendum A

The linked video is the Wyoming State Legislature's Joint Appropriations Committee deliberations regarding a proposed budget amendment to unit 6701, the \$40 million block grant cut to the University of Wyoming.

Link to Joint Appropriations Committee deliberations on January 13, 2026:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/XrGyCyP-fWY>

Deliberations on the amendment begin at **6:20** and proceed until **24:00**.

The stated exemption of the University of Wyoming College of Education and College Agriculture, Life Sciences, and Natural Resources from funding reductions due to the \$40 million cut occurs at the timestamp of **8:43** to **9:10**.

The statement of clarification for what percentage of the total proposed University of Wyoming State Block Grant would be cut (10.7%) with the passage of the \$40 million cut amendment occurs at the timestamp of **22:00** to **22:20**.

Addendum B

“If the Legislature’s proposed cuts come to pass, they would likely result in layoffs, given that a big chunk of the school’s budget is reserved for paying people — according to Chad Baldwin, the Vice President of Institutional Marketing, 77% of the 2026 unrestricted operating budget is earmarked for salaries, wages, and benefits.” - <https://wyofile.com/staring-down-possible-layoffs-university-of-wyomings-president-speaks-out-against-proposed-budget-cuts/>

Addendum C

State Economic Impact

- <https://www.uwyo.edu/news/2024/11/new-report-shows-growing-uw-economic-impact-on-wyoming.html>
 - “Supporting nearly 14,700 jobs and adding more than \$720 million in value annually.”
 - “Their [UW alumni living and working in Wyoming] estimated total earnings are about \$394 million annually, with a value-added impact of \$640 million to the state’s economy, bringing the total contribution to \$1.36 billion”

Addendum D

Wyoming Business State Retention Numbers

“Only 38% of all jobs in Wyoming require tertiary education, the second lowest of any US state. Additionally, our analysis shows that the returns to a tertiary degree in Wyoming are significantly below those of its peers. Unsurprisingly, the lack of demand for tertiary-educated workers leads many young Wyomingites with a tertiary degree to leave the state.”

“In 2019, 71.2% of the US working-age population with only a high school degree lived in the same state in which they were born, compared to 54.6% of the US working-age population with a tertiary degree. In Wyoming, these rates are much smaller, particularly among the tertiary-educated population: in 2019, 44.8% of the Wyoming-born working-age population with only a high school degree resided in Wyoming, compared to 26.7% with a tertiary degree. In turn, this means that 73.3% of the Wyoming-born population with a tertiary degree have left the state.”

- https://wyomingbusiness.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/WY_Workforce_Note.pdf

Addendum E

Source indicating the total amount of funding cut by the Utah State Legislature for land-grant and state universities in 2025, with direct impact on the University of Utah.

“University of Utah

- **Amount cut:** \$19.6 million.
- **Employee reductions:** Not at this time, but expected later.
- **Courses eliminated:** 484.
- **Majors, minors, or certificates slashed:** 94.”

“UVU’s Vice President of Finance Jim Mortensen echoed him, calling it “challenging.” And University of Utah President Taylor Randall said it has forced the school to quickly adjust to a “moment of reinvention.” The eight schools have had less than three months to come up with millions of dollars in cuts — the largest reduction to the Utah System of Higher Education in at least the last decade.”

<https://www.sltrib.com/news/education/2025/06/10/utah-university-budget-cuts-what/>

Addendum F

Wyoming Constitution Article 7. Section 16.

Sec. 16. Tuition free. The university shall be equally open to students of both sexes, irrespective of race or color; and, in order that the instruction furnished may be as nearly free as possible, any amount in addition to the income from its grants of lands and other sources above mentioned, necessary to its support and maintenance in a condition of full efficiency shall be raised by taxation or otherwise, under provisions of the legislature.

Addendum G

Communication from President Ed Seidel, published on January 20, 2026.

A Confounding Crossroads Moment for Wyoming's University

By Ed Seidel

The University of Wyoming was created in 1886, four years before Wyoming became a state. We often make note of this piece of history to show the inextricable connection between the university and this place we call home, but there is more to it than that.

Wyoming became a state in 1890 because the people of the territory saw a need to organize a government to, in large measure, provide services to improve their quality of life. Over the years, the list of services delivered to the citizens of Wyoming by their state government -- things like highways, K-12 schools, law enforcement, certain health care services, and water and natural resources management -- has become what we consider basic infrastructure.

But, before all of that, Wyoming made a university. Wyoming's founders considered higher education such an important piece of infrastructure that they created the university even before statehood. Why? Because they knew it was fundamental to the state's future.

UW was formed under the federal Morrill Act of 1862, which called for the creation of public universities to, among other things, "promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life," specifically emphasizing "agriculture and the mechanic arts." The state constitution also directed that an education at Wyoming's university be "as nearly free as possible."

From that modest start, Wyoming elected officials have, over the past nearly century and a half, led the building of a world-class land-grant university, still dedicated to those founding principles of accessible, high-quality education, and research and service for the benefit of the people of the state. Wisely, in my opinion, they've also chosen to direct the state's resources to a single flagship university, which has allowed a breadth and depth of programs that are the envy of some institutions in multi-university states.

That breadth and depth are now in jeopardy. The Legislature's Joint Appropriations Committee voted Jan. 13 to cut the state's funding of the university in the next biennium by \$40 million -- or almost 11 percent of what UW receives from the state. The committee also exempted our College of Agriculture, Life Sciences and Natural Resources and College of Education from those cuts, meaning the impact to UW's other academic colleges could be closer to a 15.4 percent reduction.

UW has accepted its fair share of reductions as the state's economy has ebbed and flowed over the years, but the JAC's vote -- coming at a time when state finances are not in crisis -- goes against Wyoming's heritage of prioritizing access to high-quality education for its people. And it would force reductions in programs and services that are bound to be felt by the people of Wyoming, along with making it much harder to keep UW "as nearly free as possible."

We have not determined exactly what we would cut if the JAC recommendation becomes law. But, to put things in context, the entire budget -- including all sources of revenue, not just the state block-grant portion -- of UW's College of Business is just over \$13 million per year and the College of Education almost \$8 million, close to the combined total of the JAC's proposed \$20 million annual reduction.

Any perception that the university's operations budget has grown over the past decade is not

accurate. Amounts have gone up and down with the state's fortunes, and in times of plenty the state has invested a lot of money in facility construction, but the UW block grant was larger in 2013 (\$371 million) than it is today (\$366 million), not even considering the \$40 million cut proposed. And this doesn't take into account the impact of over 30 percent inflation on the university's buying power, or the fact that UW employees as a whole have not received pay adjustments since July 2023.

Simply stated, a cut of this magnitude would mean a reduction in programs that students choose and services the state relies on. We simply won't be able to continue providing everything we currently provide.

We encourage the people of Wyoming and their lawmakers to consider just what their university does for the state. Over the past few months, a number of UW leaders have published op-eds pointing out what their units contribute to the people of Wyoming. Primarily, it's delivering a great education to our students and the future workforce of Wyoming -- but also research that boosts the state's key industries, programs that stimulate our economy, and NCAA Division I athletics programs that unite and bring pride to our people. UW is a unique place that offers opportunities for thousands of students and generates many hundreds of millions of dollars of economic impact annually.

Regardless of what the Legislature decides, we will continue striving to do those things. But this proposed \$40 million cut would mean we'd be unable to do as much as the people of Wyoming need, expect and deserve. It would cause damage that will last years. That's a confounding situation at a time when state government is not suffering financially. It's also contrary to what Wyoming's founders intended, to what generations of Wyomingites have built, and to what future generations will need.

Ed Seidel is the 28th president of the University of Wyoming.

Addendum H

Gordons Recommendation

Governor Gordon's proposed budget for the University of Wyoming. Pulled from
<https://sites.google.com/wyo.gov/budget-department/home/individual-agency-budget-requests?authuser=0>

2027 - 2028 BIENNIUM

DEPARTMENT BUDGET SUMMARY TABLE

67

DEPARTMENT UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING							DEPT 067
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Description	Code	Base Budget 2027-2028	Standard Budget	Total Dept Exception Request	Total Budget Request	Governor's Exception Changes	Governor's Recommendation
DIVISION							
STATE AID	6700	401,227,647	398,833,433	21,885,783	420,719,216	(2,800,000)	417,919,216
SCHOOL OF ENERGY RESOURCES	6800	42,857,808	21,107,808	12,090,000	33,197,808	0	33,197,808
TIER 1 ENGINEERING	6900	18,584,703	18,584,703	0	18,584,703	0	18,584,703
NGAR MOU	9600	1,528,316	1,528,316	0	1,528,316	0	1,528,316
ENDOWMENTS	9700	88,900,000	0	20,000,000	20,000,000	(7,500,000)	12,500,000
TOTAL BY DIVISION		553,098,474	440,054,260	53,975,783	494,030,043	(10,300,000)	483,730,043
OBJECT SERIES							
PERSONNEL	0100	67,692,862	69,798,648	0	69,798,648	0	69,798,648
GRANTS & AID PAYMENT	0600	485,405,612	370,255,612	53,975,783	424,231,395	(10,300,000)	413,931,395
TOTAL BY OBJECT SERIES		553,098,474	440,054,260	53,975,783	494,030,043	(10,300,000)	483,730,043
SOURCES OF FUNDING							
GENERAL FUND/BRA	G	534,098,474	440,054,260	53,975,783	494,030,043	(10,300,000)	483,730,043
OTHER FUNDS	Z	19,000,000	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL BY FUNDS		553,098,474	440,054,260	53,975,783	494,030,043	(10,300,000)	483,730,043
AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES							
TOTAL AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES							

2027 - 2028 BIENNIUM

DIVISION BUDGET REQUEST SUMMARY TABLE

25

DEPARTMENT UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING							DEPT 067
DIVISION STATE AID							DIV NO 6700
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Division	Code	Base Budget 2027-2028	Standard Budget	Total Dept Exception Request	Total Budget Request	Governor's Exception Changes	Governor's Recommendation
UNIT							
BASE FUNDING	6701	357,880,611	355,486,397	21,600,000	377,086,397	(2,800,000)	374,286,397
STATE MATCHING FUND - ATHLETIC COMPETITIVENESS	6704	10,200,000	10,200,000	0	10,200,000	0	10,200,000
BRUCellosis TESTING RESEARCH	6708	891,880	891,880	0	891,880	0	891,880
UW FAMILY MEDICAL RESIDENCY PRACTICE (UWFMRP)	6711	14,801,609	14,801,609	285,783	15,087,392	0	15,087,392
WWAMI MED ED INSTRUCTION/CONTRACT	6721	14,228,818	14,228,818	0	14,228,818	0	14,228,818
DENTAL CONTRACTS	6722	3,024,729	3,024,729	0	3,024,729	0	3,024,729
ACCELERATED NURSING DEGREE PROGRAM	6723	200,000	200,000	0	200,000	0	200,000
TOTAL BY UNIT		401,227,647	398,833,433	21,885,783	420,719,216	(2,800,000)	417,919,216
OBJECT SERIES							
PERSONNEL	0100	67,692,862	69,798,648	0	69,798,648	0	69,798,648
GRANTS & AID PAYMENT	0600	333,534,785	329,034,785	21,885,783	350,920,568	(2,800,000)	348,120,568
TOTAL BY OBJECT SERIES		401,227,647	398,833,433	21,885,783	420,719,216	(2,800,000)	417,919,216
SOURCES OF FUNDING							
GENERAL FUND/BRA	G	401,227,647	398,833,433	21,885,783	420,719,216	(2,800,000)	417,919,216
TOTAL BY FUNDS		401,227,647	398,833,433	21,885,783	420,719,216	(2,800,000)	417,919,216

Addendum I

Governor Gordon's proposed block grant budget for 2027 – 2028. Pulled from Wyofile.
<https://wyofile.com/staring-down-possible-layoffs-university-of-wyomings-president-speaks-out-against-proposed-budget-cuts/>

“What came out of the Legislature’s Joint Appropriations Committee last week was a far cry from Gordon’s recommendation of about \$374 million in block grant funds for 2027 and 2028, or roughly \$187 million per year (Gordon recommended other state funding as well for the university, but that money would be earmarked for specific purposes, whereas the school can use block grant funding however it sees fit). The committee reduced Gordon’s suggestion to about \$334 million. They also added a number of footnotes that specify how some of this money can be used, bringing the total unrestricted funding to roughly \$322 million or around \$161 million per year.”

Addendum J

Passed 22-0-0



SENATE RESOLUTION #2951

TITLE: ASUW Acknowledgement of Enrollment Cliff and Decline
DATE INTRODUCED: 02/27/2024
AUTHOR: Senator Schliebe
SPONSORS: Senator Gomelsky, Senator Grimm, Senator Hennigar, Senator Keasling, Senator Grimm, Senator Saint, Director of Community and Governmental Affairs Bouma, Director of Student Organizations and Outreach Murphy

1. WHEREAS, the purpose of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
2. (ASUW) is to serve our fellow students in the best manner possible; and,
3. WHEREAS, college enrollment nationally has been declining due to cultural perceptions
4. of higher education, decrease in birth rates, COVID-19, tuition inflation, student
5. migration trends, and the looming enrollment cliff; and,
6. WHEREAS, as seen in addendum A the University of Wyoming has seen a decrease of
7. fall total enrollment numbers from a peak of 13,929 students in the fall of 2012 to 10,913
8. students in the fall of 2023; and,
9. WHEREAS, as seen in addendum B the enrollment cliff, which is the “decline in college
10. enrollment numbers in the United States” due to the decline in birthrates since the
11. 2008 Great Recession, needs to be accounted for and proactively addressed; and,
12. WHEREAS, there is predicted to be a decline in 18-year-olds, thus reducing the
13. enrollment pool of students; and,
14. WHEREAS, as seen in addendum B it is predicted that enrollment numbers in the
15. Western states may decrease a further 2.5-7.5%, as opposed to nearly 15% in more
16. Eastern states due to the Enrollment Cliff and national trends; and,
17. WHEREAS, this is a national issue and a regional issue; and,
18. WHEREAS, the first step to addressing an issue is acknowledgment; and,
19. WHEREAS, a decrease in college enrollment may lower the relative quantity and/or
20. quality of participation in student organizations, campus activities, and campus
21. interactions; and,
22. WHEREAS, acknowledging the problem and working to reduce the impact of the
23. enrollment cliff is vital to reduce the harm created towards campus entities; and,

Passed 22-0-0

- 24. WHEREAS, there is a multitude of student organizations with varying levels of
- 25. interactions with the University administration; and,
- 26. WHEREAS, organizations with lower levels of interaction with University
- 27. administration may be unaware of potential difficulties facing the University; and,
- 28. WHEREAS, ASUW has a responsibility to inform and mitigate potential risks posing the
- 29. University; and,
- 30. WHEREAS, ASUW has an obligation to assist students and student organizations in the
- 31. best manner possible through accurate representation.
- 32. THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Associated Students of the University of
- 33. Wyoming is committed to a sustained effort to bring awareness to and address the
- 34. decline in enrollment to the decline in enrollment; and,
- 35. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the Associated Students of the University of
- 36. Wyoming encourage organizations to reach out to either Student Orgs Office and/or
- 37. ASUW to find ways to increase retention, recruitment, and marketing
- 38. efforts to lessen the impact of the enrollment cliff.

Referred to: HOPE and AD&P

Date of Passage: March 5th, 2024

Signed:

(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on March 5th, 2024,

I do hereby sign my name hereto

and approve this Senate action.”

Kameron Mufatto
ASUW President

Passed 22-0-0

Addendum A

Total Enrollment Numbers at the University of Wyoming¹

The statistics cited in the resolution are cited from the following sources. More information about the enrollment cliff is available via the following links.

Year	UW Total Fall Enrollment	UW Total Spring Enrollment
2023	10,913	10,463
2020	11,829	11,545
2018	12,450	12,138
2016	12,607	13,098
2014	13,638	13,444
2012	13,922	13,751
2010	13,476	13,459
2008	13,106	13,065
2006	13,203	12,725
2004	13,162	12,825

The chart above displays the enrollment numbers since 2004. The University of Wyoming provides statistics on enrollment since 1997, the graph above uses 2-year increments to display trends, rather than annual numbers. Fall and Spring numbers are shown to emphasize retention numbers between semesters. As seen above there has been a decrease in enrollment since 2012.

Addendum B

Research Behind Enrollment Cliff

The statistics cited in the resolution are cited from the following sources. More information about the enrollment cliff is available via the following links.

Statistica

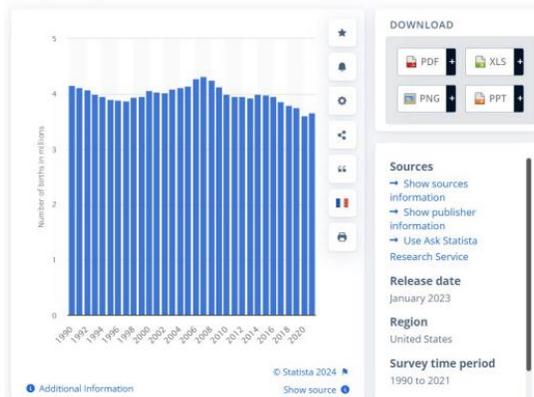
“The ‘enrollment cliff’, a phenomenon referring to a decline in college enrollment numbers in the United States, has generally been attributed to a drop in fertility during the Great Recession. Between 2008 and 2011, the birth rate in United States fell abruptly, and despite an economic recovery facilitated within the next decade, the birth rate did not bounce back. As a result, the college-age population has been in decline, with the total number of enrollment for the fall term in the United States falling from 19.9 million in 2017 to 18.2 million in 2022. Within

¹ Office of Institutional Analysis. *Enrollment Summaries*. University of Wyoming.
<https://www.uwyo.edu/oia/student-data/enrollment-summaries.html>

Passed 22-0-0

this time period, the sector with the highest enrollment numbers in the U.S. was public 4-year colleges, which had 7.8 million students enrolled in the fall term in 2017. Demonstrating the tip of the enrollment cliff, this number fell to 7.6 million by 2022. Along with this decline in enrollment, the number of potential high school students wishing to attend college may have been further impacted by the recent COVID-19 pandemic, in which the switch to online learning was estimated to lead to an additional 1.1 million high-school dropouts in the United States².”

Number of births in the United States from 1990 to 2021
(in millions)



The graph above shows the declining birthrate within the United States from 1990 to 2021, with a gradual decline since 2007, arguably caused by the 2008 economic recession. Birthrates have been on a steady decline starting in 2008³.

College and University Professional Association for Human Resources⁴

“U.S. Birthrate Drops 4th Year in a Row, Possibly Echoing the Great Recession”

“U.S. Births Fell to a 32-Year Low in 2018; CDC Says Birthrate Is in Record Slump”

² Korhonen, Veera. (2023). *The Enrollment Cliff in the United States – Statistics & Facts*. Statista. <https://www.statista.com/topics/10608/the-enrollment-cliff-in-the-united-states/#topicOverview>

³ Korhonen, Veera. (2023). *Birth rate in the United States from 1990 to 2021*. Statista. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/195943/birth-rate-in-the-united-states-since-1990/>

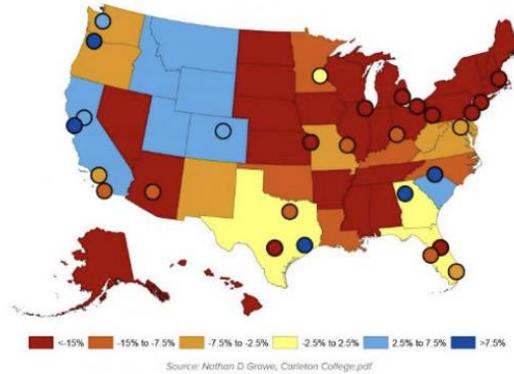
⁴ Kline, Missy. (2019). *The Looming Higher Ed Enrollment Cliff*. College and University Professional Association for Human Resources. <https://www.cupahr.org/issue/feature/higher-ed-enrollment-cliff/>

Passed 22-0-0

“The U.S. Birthrate Is Still Falling”

“College Students Predicted to Fall by More Than 15 Percent After the Year 2025”

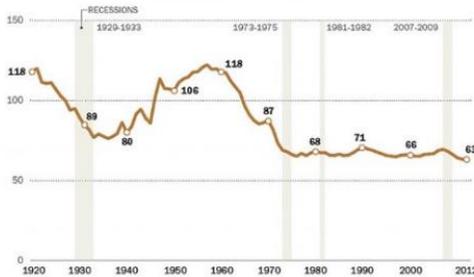
Forecasted growth and decline in college-going students, 2012-2029



The figure above displays forecasted growth and decline in college-going students from 2012-2029. While Eastern and Mid-West states are expected to experience a 15% decline, Western University’s enrollment is expected to experience a drop of 2.5%-7.5%.

Fertility Often Rises and Falls with Economic Cycles

Annual number of births per 1,000 women of childbearing age



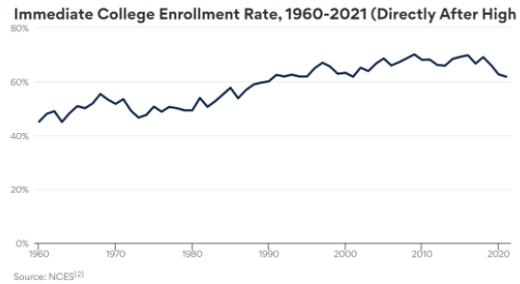
Sources: Statistics calculated using data obtained from U.S. Census Bureau, National Center for Health Statistics and Heuser, Robert L. Fertility tables for birth cohorts by color. U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. DHEW Publication No. (HR)A(78)-1152

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

The figure above displays the historic trend of birth rates during economic crises.

Passed 22-0-0

Best Colleges⁵



The graph above shows immediate college enrollment rate trends, emphasizing the decrease in immediate enrollment rates since mid-2000's.

⁵ Welding, Lyss. (2024). *College Enrollment Statistics in the U.S.* BestColleges.
<https://www.bestcolleges.com/research/college-enrollment-statistics/>

Addendum K

UW Reg 2-15

III. POLICY

Education flourishes only when Academic Personnel have both freedom and responsibilities in the conduct of their official duties. Academic freedom applies to these duties which include: teaching activities, extension and outreach; research and other scholarly work and creative activities; academic service; professional service; and shared governance. Adopting a system of freedoms and responsibilities helps ensure that the university will serve as a forum in which ideas may be examined openly and rigorously, without implying institutional endorsement. Although many of these freedoms are protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they also exist as a fundamental requirement of the mission of the university.

The university adheres to the principles of the 1940 "Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure," by the American Association of University Professors. The following expresses the meaning of that statement, updated for current values.

Academic freedom in teaching protects the rights of Academic Personnel to teach according to their expertise. Academic Personnel are entitled to freedom in discussing their subject. Academic Personnel have a responsibility to ensure that their teaching is effective and consistent with the standards of the discipline, understanding that disciplines may have diverse points of view on any given subject. Teaching may involve controversial material; however, with academic freedom in the classroom, Academic Personnel also have the responsibility to respect others' freedom to express disagreement and alternate opinions.

Addendum L

Passed 19-0-0



SENATE RESOLUTION #3030

TITLE: Support of Intellectual Integrity and Opportunity
DATE INTRODUCED: 02/04/2025
AUTHOR: Senator Schliebe
SPONSORS: Senators Christensen, Culp, Holt, Keasling, Rzeszut, and Saint

1. WHEREAS, the purpose of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
2. (ASUW) is to serve our fellow students in the best manner possible; and,
3. WHEREAS, learning is a dynamic, reflexive process that requires a copious amount of
4. information that engages and progresses intellectual thought; and,
5. WHEREA'S, intellectualism is a process that requires engaging with and understanding
6. complex and, at times, controversial ideas and literature; and,
7. WHEREAS, intellectualism allows a free market of ideas, values, and expressions
8. within a given community that can advance social, technological, and structural
9. conditions of society; and,
10. WHEREAS, this includes the ability to research divisive topics, critique controversial
11. discourse, and produce new ideas; and,
12. WHEREAS, this free market can only occur in an environment where freedom of
13. intellectual thought and expression are valued and enforced; and,
14. WHEREAS, as seen in Addendum A, ASUW passed a resolution during the 111th
15. Administration that supports freedom of speech and expression; and,
16. WHEREAS, the opportunity to pursue intellectual endeavors is essential to participating
17. in free speech and expression.
18. THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Associated Students of the University of

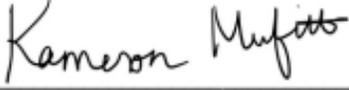
Passed 19-0-0

19. Wyoming (ASUW) Student Government supports and advocates for a community of
20. intellectual integrity and opportunity; and,
21. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that ASUW encourages the pursuit of intellectual
22. diversity and the protection of intellectual thought; and,
23. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to President
24. Seidel, the Provost Office, the Board of Trustees, and the State Legislature upon its
25. passage.

Referred to: ALL STANDING COMMITTEES

Date of Passage: February 11th 2025 Signed: 
(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on February 11th 2025, I do hereby sign my name

hereto and approve this Senate action.” 

ASUW President

Passed 19-0-0

Addendum A

WHEREAS, ASUW reaffirms that intellectual diversity, free expression, and intellectual thought do not extend discriminatory harassment; and WHEREAS, ASUW supports policies that combat all forms of discrimination and encourages the university to foster an inclusive environment for all students, as an inclusive social environment is essential to an intellectual community

Passed 11-10-1



SENATE RESOLUTION #2912

TITLE: Freedom of Expression
DATE INTRODUCED: 10/23/24
AUTHOR: Senator Saint
SPONSORS: Senators Bogani, Brown, Meester, Rzeszut, Relaford, Gornelsky, President Smith, Vice President Petri, First-Year Senators Fink and Harper, Young Americans for Liberty at University of Wyoming, Turning Point USA at University of Wyoming, Students for Life, National Student Speech and Language Association, Wyoming Spanish Club

1. WHEREAS, the purpose of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
2. (ASUW) is to serve our fellow students in the best manner possible; and,
3. WHEREAS, freedom of expression has been a paramount, bedrock principle in
4. America and more specifically, Wyoming; and,
5. WHEREAS, it is the purpose of a university to provide a neutral forum for all
6. ideas to be freely expressed on campus without hindrance in pursuit of truth,
7. education, and knowledge; and,
8. WHEREAS, it is the duty of ASUW as the student government of the
9. University of Wyoming to assist in the pursuit of said values by protecting the
10. voices of all students regardless of background; and,
11. WHEREAS, the University of Wyoming has recently committed itself to upholding
12. the principles of freedom of expression which is stated in Addendum B.
13. THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Associated Students of the University of
14. Wyoming (ASUW) Student Government that the ASUW advocates for the free
15. expression of all students; and,

Passed 19-0-0

Passed 11-10-1

16. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that upon passage a copy be sent to the
17. Dean of Students office, the ASUW President's office, the ASUW Vice President's
18. office, the university president's office, Residence Life, the office of Student Affairs,
19. the Student Orgs office, the Branding Iron, the Board of Trustees, the DEI office, and
20. electronically circulated among the student body; and,
21. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that this resolution stands immediately upon
22. passage.

Referred to: Steering, Outreach, Programming, and Elections, Advocacy,
Diversity, and Policy

Date of Passage: October 31st, 2023. Signed: Kameron Mufson
(ASUW Chairperson)

"Being enacted on October 31st, 2023, I do hereby sign my name hereto
and approve this Senate action." SABER SMITH
ASUW President

Passed 19-0-0

Passed 11-10-1

Addendum B

Statement of the University of Wyoming Principles

From their very founding, both the State of Wyoming and University of Wyoming (UW) have regarded equality as a source of strength and pride. When Wyoming gained statehood in 1889, its Constitution enshrined this commitment to equal rights throughout the new "Equality State" and declared that UW "shall be equally open to students of both sexes, irrespective of race or color." The University's longstanding aspiration to be inclusive of and accessible to people from a range of diverse backgrounds, ideas, and perspectives inspires UW's ongoing commitment to creating a supportive community of openness, tolerance, and respect.

As the state's flagship university, UW pursues excellence as a land-grant research institution dedicated to advancing knowledge and understanding for the public good. Central to this mission is the University's nonpartisan and nonsectarian commitment to learning and creating knowledge with academic freedom and integrity, a respect for intellectual freedom and legal rights of equality and free expression, and the open, civil, and constructive exchange of ideas. Inspired by the Code of the West and Wyoming's unique spirit of rugged individualism, UW advances the frontiers of teaching, research, and creative activity through open inquiry independent from the undue influence of donors, elected officials, ownership interests, or other external parties.

The university plays a unique role in society by providing a forum for the deliberation and debate of public issues. UW embraces the understanding that "the university is the home and sponsor of critics; it is not itself the critic," as stated in the 1967 Kalven Report on institutional neutrality. Accordingly, while University leaders will make decisions about matters that further UW's educational mission, they do not, on principle, commit the University in ways that are outside of its core academic purpose. This adherence to impartiality reaffirms the intellectual freedom of all at UW to seek and receive information without restriction and enjoy unfettered access to all expression of ideas through which any side of a question, cause, or movement may be explored.

The fulfillment of the University's academic mission in the service of the common good rests upon the recognition of the value of scholarly expertise to society and the protection of faculty members' freedom in teaching, research, and deliberation. UW therefore adheres to the American Association of University Professors' 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure. This includes providing academic personnel at the University with necessary freedom to pursue research and creative activities in their areas of expertise; participate in the governance of the University and express their judgments about matters that bear on the University's mission; share their thoughts through extramural expression; and teach their subject in the classroom. When academic personnel speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline.

Academic freedom helps preserve a climate of ongoing inquiry at UW where ideas are openly shared and rigorously examined. The role of the university teacher is not to indoctrinate. Students are responsible for learning in their course of study material reflecting scholarly standards, understandings, and expertise, including that which may challenge their existing beliefs. At the same time, instructors must take care not to present untested or controversial claims as settled truth without letting students take reasoned exception. In both teaching and scholarly endeavors, partisan interests—whether those of University personnel or those of

Passed 19-0-0

Passed 11-10-1

government, religious, corporate, or political groups—should never supersede sound academic judgment, principles, and procedures.

In accordance with the nation's First Amendment protections and the right to free speech enshrined in the Constitution of the State of Wyoming, UW recognizes and respects the liberty of students, faculty, and staff as private citizens to express their opinions and identities, including concerns they may have about public institutions and the larger society. At a public university, it is inevitable that the ideas and beliefs of different members of the UW community or visitors to campus will conflict with one another. UW does not shield individuals from the free expression of ideas and criticism, including that which community members may find uncomfortable, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive. The expression of criticism must respect the legal right of others to express themselves without serving to obstruct, censor, or otherwise interfere with the rights of others to hear those ideas.

As stated in the University of Chicago's 2014 Principles on Freedom of Expression, "the freedom to debate and discuss the merits of competing ideas does not, of course, mean that individuals may say whatever they wish, whenever they wish." Free expression has legal limitations, some examples of which include expression that is obscene or defamatory; constitutes a genuine threat or discriminatory harassment; incites imminent violence or other lawless action; unjustifiably invades privacy; interferes with the free expression rights of others; or otherwise stands in violation of the law. UW may reasonably place content-neutral limitations on the time, place, and manner of expression to ensure the University's ordinary educational, scholarly, and administrative functioning. Nevertheless, these are narrow exceptions. In line with UW's foundational commitment to cultivating an environment where even controversial ideas may be openly heard, scrutinized, and debated, the University is dedicated to respecting the legal free expression rights of its students, staff, faculty, and visitors.

The University of Wyoming strives to support and model a culture of respectful engagement in which even the most difficult or challenging of ideas can be expressed, received, and contested with grace through the practice of civil discourse and constructive dialogue. In so doing, UW encourages people with diverse backgrounds and values to speak, write, live, and learn together in a welcoming, inclusive, and intellectually stimulating environment that celebrates free expression and intellectual and academic freedom. This reflects Wyoming's spirit of equality and civic connection across difference, allowing students, faculty, and staff to thrive as members of a vibrant university community where critical thinking, creativity, innovation, and independent thought can flourish.

Addendum M

Screenshots of the Wyoming State budget (2024 HB0001) as approved and amended for the University of Wyoming including all footnotes. Pages 31-35

ORIGINAL HOUSE
BILL NO. HB0001

ENGROSSED

ENROLLED ACT NO. 50, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SIXTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2024 BUDGET SESSION

APPROPRIATION	GENERAL FUND	FEDERAL FUNDS	OTHER FUNDS	TOTAL APPROPRIATION
FOR	\$	\$	\$	\$

nonstate sources to the greatest extent possible. This appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose. It is the intent of the legislature that this appropriation not be included in the Wyoming tourism board's standard budget for the immediately succeeding fiscal biennium.

Section 067. UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

PROGRAM

State Aid ^{1., 2., 3., 4., 5., 12., 13.}	401,227,647			401,227,647
School of Energy Res. ^{6., 7., 8., 9.}	23,857,808		19,000,000 S13	42,857,808
Tier 1 Engineering	18,584,703			18,584,703
NCAR MOU	1,528,316			1,528,316
Endowments & Matching ^{10., 11., 12., 14.}	<u>39,500,000</u>			<u>39,500,000</u>
TOTALS	<u>484,698,474</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>19,000,000</u>	<u>503,698,474</u>

AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES

Full Time	0
Part Time	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	<u>0</u>

1. Of this general fund appropriation, three million dollars (\$3,000,000.00) is to fund graduate assistantship stipends. This appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose.

2. Of this general fund appropriation, two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000.00) is for building artificial intelligence expertise. Expenditure of this appropriation is conditioned upon a match of funds in the ratio of one dollar (\$1.00) of appropriated general funds to not less than one dollar (\$1.00) of matching funds from any person. For purposes of this footnote, "person" includes an individual, partnership, corporation, joint stock company or any other association or entity, excluding all public entities. It is the intent of the legislature that this appropriation not be included in the University of Wyoming's standard budget for the immediately succeeding fiscal biennium.

3. Of this general fund appropriation, one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) is to increase the library collections' biennial budget. This appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose.

4. (a) Of this general fund appropriation, ten million dollars (\$10,000,000.00) is appropriated for the purpose of providing a state match

ENROLLED ACT NO. 50, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SIXTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2024 BUDGET SESSION

APPROPRIATION	GENERAL FUND	FEDERAL FUNDS	OTHER FUNDS	TOTAL APPROPRIATION
---------------	-----------------	------------------	----------------	------------------------

FOR \$ \$ \$ \$

for funds received by the University of Wyoming from athletic booster organizations or persons donating funds to be used solely for athletic programs. This appropriation shall:

(i) Be retained by the state treasurer for distribution in accordance with the provisions of this footnote;

(ii) Be expended for the purposes of:

(A) Authorized recruitment of prospective student athletes to the University of Wyoming and expenses associated with participation in intercollegiate athletics including summer school attendance, nutrition, tutoring, team travel and costs directly related to participation in competition;

(B) Athletic training equipment.

(iii) Not be used for salaries or capital construction projects;

(iv) To the extent funds are available, be matched on a quarterly basis by the state treasurer for each cash or cash equivalent contribution actually received by the University of Wyoming for the purposes specified in this footnote for the period beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2026 by distributing to the University of Wyoming an amount equal to the amount of qualifying contributions for the quarter.

(b) The appropriation specified in subsection (a) of this footnote shall not be transferred or expended for any purpose not specified in this footnote and any unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30, 2026.

5. Of this general fund appropriation, two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00) is to support the University of Wyoming rodeo team.

6. Of this other funds appropriation, seventeen million dollars (\$17,000,000.00)S13 is for demonstrations of coal solvent extraction and a coal-derived asphalt road. This appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose. It is the intent of the legislature that this appropriation not be included in the University of Wyoming's standard budget for the immediately succeeding fiscal biennium.

7. Of this other funds appropriation, two million dollars (\$2,000,000.00)S13 is appropriated for the purpose of providing a state match for funds received

ENROLLED ACT NO. 50, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SIXTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2024 BUDGET SESSION

APPROPRIATION	GENERAL FUND	FEDERAL FUNDS	OTHER FUNDS	TOTAL APPROPRIATION
---------------	-----------------	------------------	----------------	------------------------

FOR \$ \$ \$ \$

by the University of Wyoming or donated funds to be used solely to support research, scholarships or endowments for the school of energy resources. Distribution of this appropriation is conditioned upon a match of funds in the ratio of one dollar (\$1.00) of appropriated other funds to not less than one dollar (\$1.00) of matching funds from any nonstate source. This appropriation shall be retained by the state treasurer for distribution in accordance with W.S. 21-16-904. This appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose. It is the intent of the legislature that this appropriation not be included in the University of Wyoming's standard budget for the immediately succeeding fiscal biennium.

8. Of this general fund appropriation, two million dollars (\$2,000,000.00) is for building and continuing nuclear energy scholarship, research and training capacity at the University of Wyoming. This appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose. It is the intent of the legislature that this appropriation not be included in the University of Wyoming's standard budget for the immediately succeeding fiscal biennium.

9. Of this general fund appropriation, seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000.00) is to administer, develop and implement an incentive innovator competition related to lithium extraction, development or use. This appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose. It is the intent of the legislature that this appropriation not be included in the University of Wyoming's standard budget for the immediately succeeding fiscal biennium.

10. (a) Of this general fund appropriation, twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000.00) is appropriated to provide a state match for funds received by the University of Wyoming or donated funds in accordance with the following:

(i) Not less than ten million dollars (\$10,000,000.00) is conditioned upon a match for a permanent endowment under W.S. 21-16-901 through 21-16-904. All state matching distributions from the account are appropriated solely to support endowments for priorities identified and approved by the University of Wyoming board of trustees;

(ii) Up to two million dollars (\$2,000,000.00) is conditioned upon a match for purposes of expenditures for priorities identified and approved by the University of Wyoming board of trustees.

(b) Distribution of the appropriation specified in subsection (a) of this footnote is conditioned upon a match of funds in the ratio of one dollar

ENROLLED ACT NO. 50, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SIXTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2024 BUDGET SESSION

APPROPRIATION	GENERAL	FEDERAL	OTHER	TOTAL
FOR	FUND	FUNDS	FUNDS	APPROPRIATION
	\$	\$	\$	\$

(\$1.00) of appropriated general funds to not less than one dollar (\$1.00) of matching funds from any nonstate source. This appropriation shall be retained by the state treasurer for distribution in accordance with W.S. 21-16-904 regardless of whether the match is for purposes of a permanent endowment under paragraph (a) (i) of this footnote or for expenditure by the University of Wyoming under paragraph (a) (ii) of this footnote.

11. (a) Of this general fund appropriation, twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000.00) is appropriated to match research grants and contracts related to flow through porous media. It is the intent of the legislature that this appropriation not be included in the University of Wyoming's standard budget for the immediately succeeding fiscal biennium. This appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose. Of this general fund appropriation, twelve million five hundred thousand dollars (\$12,500,000.00) is effective July 1, 2025, and twelve million five hundred thousand dollars (\$12,500,000.00) is effective April 1, 2026. Expenditure of this appropriation is conditioned upon the University:

(i) Securing a match of funds in the ratio of one dollar (\$1.00) of appropriated general funds to not less than one dollar (\$1.00) of matching funds from any other source;

(ii) Conducting all computational and practical research to the greatest extent reasonably possible with University of Wyoming students within Wyoming;

(iii) Performing research on geologic formations and energy extraction opportunities that may be found within Wyoming;

(iv) To the extent possible, developing any feasibility studies, small-scale experiments or large-scale projects associated with research funded by this appropriation within Wyoming.

12. No funds from this appropriation shall be expended on the office of diversity, equity and inclusion at the University of Wyoming or on any diversity, equity and inclusion program, activity or function.

13. A portion of this general fund appropriation may be expended to conduct the purposes of this footnote. The University of Wyoming shall review opportunities, feasibility and costs associated with expanding medical education and training for Wyoming students, including broader use of WICHE, expanded agreements with WWAMI and new relationships with public universities in the western regional United States. The results of the review and

ORIGINAL HOUSE
BILL NO. HB0001

ENGROSSED

ENROLLED ACT NO. 50, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SIXTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2024 BUDGET SESSION

APPROPRIATION	GENERAL	FEDERAL	OTHER	TOTAL
FOR	FUND	FUNDS	FUNDS	APPROPRIATION
	\$	\$	\$	\$

recommendations shall be reported to the joint education interim committee and joint appropriations committee not later than October 1, 2024.

14. Of this general fund appropriation, two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000.00) is appropriated for the purpose of providing a state match for funds received by the University of Wyoming or donated funds to be used solely for support for excellence in research, education and extension in ranch and rangeland management, agronomy and soil science. Distribution of this appropriation is conditioned upon a match of funds in the ratio of one dollar (\$1.00) of appropriated general funds to not less than one dollar (\$1.00) of matching funds from any other source. This appropriation shall be retained by the state treasurer for distribution in accordance with W.S. 21-16-904. Notwithstanding W.S. 9-2-1008, 9-2-1012(e) and 9-4-207, any unexpended, unobligated monies from this appropriation shall not revert until June 30, 2030.

Section 069. WICHE

PROGRAM				
Administration & Grants ¹	<u>5,432,417</u>			<u>5,432,417</u>
TOTALS	5,432,417	0	0	5,432,417

AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES
Full Time 0
Part Time 0
TOTAL 0

1. Of this general fund appropriation, nine hundred sixty-five thousand dollars (\$965,000.00) is for student contracts entered into beginning July 1, 2024. Scholarships awarded from this appropriation shall be allocated giving priority to students pursuing higher education in disciplines with repayment requirements in accordance with W.S. 21-16-202(b)(iv).

Section 070. ENHANCED OIL RECOVERY COMM

PROGRAM				
Commission & Support	1,000,792			1,000,792
Tech. Outreach & Research	<u>3,748,737</u>			<u>3,748,737</u>
TOTALS	4,749,529	0	0	4,749,529

AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES
Full Time 0
Part Time 0
TOTAL 0