

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
Biocontainment Facility (BSL3) Staffing Progress Report

Submitted June 1, 2019

To the Joint Appropriations Committee and the Joint Agriculture, State and Public
Lands and Water Resources Interim Committee

[Pursuant to HEA 51, 2019 Session laws, Chapter 80, Section 2, Section 067, FN 8]

Legislative requirement: HEA 51, 2019 Session laws, Chapter 80, Section 2, Section 067, FN 8 states: “Of this general fund appropriation, two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00) shall only be authorized for transfer to the University of Wyoming if a director of the biosafety level three (3) laboratory is hired and the laboratory is at least ninety percent (90%) staffed by March 30, 2020. Not later than June 1, 2019 the University of Wyoming shall submit a report to the joint appropriations committee and joint agriculture, state and public lands and water resources interim committee on the optimal staffing levels for the laboratory and a timeline for achieving the optimal staffing levels. Not later than December 1, 2019, the University of Wyoming shall submit a report to the joint appropriations committee and joint agriculture, state and public lands and water resources interim committee on the university’s plan to fully staff the laboratory.”

Staffing report: The University of Wyoming Biocontainment Facility (UWBF), commonly called the “BSL-3 Lab,” will be coming online for initial operations within the next 6 months. This will add significant workload for staff and faculty in the Department of Veterinary Sciences (VESC). Recognizing this as a potential problem, the Wyoming State Legislature and University of Wyoming President Nichols requested a review of the staffing levels for the UWBF and a timeline to achieve optimal staffing.

To establish baseline staffing, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (College) requested information from comparable labs through the American Biological Safety Association (ABSA). Fourteen institutions responded, and results are summarized on the next page (Table 1). Current staffing at the UW Biocontainment Facility is shown in the middle column with proposed additional staffing in the fourth column. The 14 responding institutions reported a range in total BSL3 staffing from 6-38 individuals with a median of 14. Job titles and job descriptions vary significantly among institutions, so strict comparisons are difficult. However, this data provides a reasonable basis for estimating comparable staffing.

Based on this data, the College estimates that 100% staffing of the UWBF should consist of 9 staff members of whom 5 are already employed at UW. Three of the positions required to achieve 100% staffing, including the UWBF Scientific Director, are budgeted in the FY20 budget, two in the College’s regular FY 20 budget and the third position as an exception request to the University of Wyoming Board of Trustees to be added within the University’s FY20 budget (Table 2). The fourth position has been requested by the College to be an exception request to the state legislature for the FY21 budget as an incremental addition to the block grant (Table 2). Job descriptions and the position requisition process for the three FY20 hires has been initiated and recruiting will proceed over the next 4-6 months. Thus, the UWBF will achieve 90%

staffing by March of 2020 and 100% in FY21, meeting the requirements of the legislative budget footnote.

Table 1. Comparison of Biocontainment Safety Laboratory Level 3 Staffing (FTE)

Personnel	Salary Lines (FTE)			
	Median of BSL3 Comparables*	Current UW BSL3	Additional UW Requested BSL3	Overall Total for 100% staffing at UW BSL3
Principal Investigators	3.5	0	2	2
Responsible Officer	1.0	1 (Madeline Dalrymple)		1
Alternate Responsible Officer	1.0	1 (Will Laegreid)	0	1
Administrative	0.0	0	1	1
Lab manager	0.0	1 (Denise Merrill)	0	1
Maintenance/engineers	0.3	2 (UW Facilities Engineering Staff)		2
Janitorial	0.0	0	0	
Security	0.0	0	0	
Safety	0.0	0	0	
IT	0.0	0	0	
Lab technicians	1.5	0	1	1
Occupational Health	0.0	0	0	
TOTAL Personnel	14.0	5	4	9

*14 facilities responded to our request for data. Use of the median seemed more representative than the mean. e.g. In the “Lab Technicians” category, five facilities employed between 8 and 21 professionals, but the other 9 facilities employed between 0 and 3 for a mean of 5.5 and a median of 1.5.

Table 2. Budgeting the four additional UW Requested UWBF Salary Lines

Personnel	Salary Lines		
	FY 20 Budget	FY 20 Budget Exception	FY21 Budget
	90% BSL-3 Staffing		100% BSL-3 Staffing
Principal Investigators	1		1
Administrative	1		
Lab technicians	0.33	0.67	
TOTAL Salary Lines	2.33	0.67	1