



August 9, 2024

To: Executive Team

Parag Chitnis, Vice President for Research & Economic Development, Co-Chair

Bill Mai, Vice President for Campus Operations, Co-Chair

Mohammad Piri, Director, Center for Innovation of Flowthrough Porous Media, Special Advisor

Membership

Jeff Hammerlinck, Director, WyGISC and Associate Director, School of Computing

Jay Gatlin, Director, Science Institute and College of Agriculture, Life Sciences, and Natural Resources

Ray Fertig, Faculty Senate Chair

Holly Krutka, Executive Director, School of Energy Resources (or delegate)

Arun Pradhan, Deputy Vice President, Research & Innovation

Cameron Wright, Dean, College of Engineering & Physical Sciences (or delegate)

Advisors

Kevin Carman, Provost and Executive Vice President

Tara Evans, Vice President and General Counsel

Alex Kean, Vice President for Budget and Finance

Mike Smith, Vice President for Governmental Affairs & Community Engagement

Re: Enhancing Research Capacity Working Group

In line with our 2023+ Strategic Plan and as an emerging R1 institution, the University of Wyoming must continue to invest in its capacity to conduct, support, and translate research that benefits the state of Wyoming and the world. In service of this goal, the university has begun exploring the potential for a research park that promotes productive collaborations between academia and industry partners in a wide range of sectors. As the idea of a research park has begun to take hold, the University has been presented with a unique opportunity, catalyzed by the Center of Innovation for Flow Through Porous Media, to partner with ThermoFisher Scientific to create access to cutting-edge scientific equipment that will expand UW's research capacity across campus. The partnership with ThermoFisher Scientific is an important step forward in establishing a research park and can be a model for how the university can work together with industry to achieve common objectives. Specifically, I ask that:

1. Dr. Piri and VP Mai contract a consultant to determine the technical requirements, and associated costs, to accommodate the ThermoFisher Scientific equipment including, but not limited to square footage, power,

cooling, weight, vibration, and storage. Dr. Piri has completed a preliminary technical requirements analysis, which will greatly assist in this process.

2. To better inform the R&D needs for a research park, please work with research groups across campus including those in CEPS, CALSNR, SER, the SI, COIFPM, as well as with key existing industry partners, to understand research instrumentation and space needs across campus (liaising with the university space committee) and to develop use cases. Explore how the ThermoFisher Scientific equipment and partnership may help to meet some of these needs.
3. Provide recommendations on how the ThermoFisher Scientific equipment can be housed, including, but not limited to, renovation of existing space or the creation of new space. A budget and recommendations on funding sources should also be provided. Keep
4. Develop a plan to ensure campus-wide access to research equipment, including the ThermoFisher Scientific equipment, and the data it generates are available to all interested parties on campus and to possible industry partners. I would like to see a visionary integration of scientific instruments, data services, and computing facilities that connects to our AI Initiative, including facilities that are being developed at NWSC, along the lines of what is articulated in recent DOE and other reports (see, e.g., [ASCAC recommendations](https://science.osti.gov/-/media/ascr/ascac/pdf/reports/2024/FinalReport_May_2024_2370379.pdf) from May, 2024<sup>1</sup>).

I will schedule a kick-off meeting to further articulate my vision and expectations for this working group. I have asked Vice Presidents Chitnis and Mai to co-chair this working group. I ask that they submit an interim report to me by December 2024 and a final report by April 2025.

I appreciate in advance your assistance, collaboration, and input on this important topic.

Cc: President's Cabinet

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<sup>1</sup> [https://science.osti.gov/-/media/ascr/ascac/pdf/reports/2024/FinalReport\\_May\\_2024\\_2370379.pdf](https://science.osti.gov/-/media/ascr/ascac/pdf/reports/2024/FinalReport_May_2024_2370379.pdf)