

Energy Resources Council Meeting

Minutes

May 18, 2012

UW Conference Center – Hilton Garden – Laramie, WY

8:00am – 10:45 am

ERC Members Present:

Ron Harper, Paul Lang, Rob Wallace, Kit Jennings, Carl Bauer, Jim Bowzer, Indy Burke, Dave Palmerlee, Tom Buchanan and Rob Hurlless (Governor's representative)

ERC Members Absent:

Tom Lockhart

SER Staff in Attendance:

Mark Northam, Mary Byrnes, Diana Hulme, Don Roth, Cath Harris, Nadia Kaliszewski, Pam Henderson, Bob Ballard

Others Attending:

Ben Blalock, Chris Spooner

Action Items from Meeting:

1. Minutes of March 30, 2012 - Approved
2. Executive Session to discuss SER personnel
3. Cost of ERC and Task Force Meetings to be prepared.

Agenda:

8:00 a.m.

Call to Order

- 1) Minutes from March 30, 2012
- 2) End of FY13 Budget Review & FY13/14 Budget Reduction Plan
- 3) EIC Ribbon Cutting – Roles of ERC, Who to Invite
- 4) Strategy Implementation
 - a. Recruitment
 - b. Fund Raising
 - c. Building Planning
- 5) Updates:
 - a. Academics – Faculty Job Descriptions, Program Stats
 - b. Research – RFP's, Equipment Awards
 - c. Outreach – China Conference, Upcoming events
- 6) Legislative Reports – Timeline & Plan for presentation to legislative committee
- 7) Other Business
- 8) Executive Session
- 9) Adjourn

The meeting was called to order at 8:00am by Chairman Harper

Chairman Harper asks that an “executive session” be added to the agenda for the ERC members to discuss personnel. A motion was made by Kit Jennings, seconded by Paul Lang, and motion passed unanimously.

Minutes from March 30, 2012:

Action Taken: A motion to accept the minutes from March 30, 2012 was made by Carl Bauer, seconded by Kit Jennings. Motion passed unanimously.

End of FY13 Budget Review & FY13/14 Budget Reduction Plan

Mark reviewed the end of the biennium sweep of unspent monies from SER programs and the re-deployment of the funds through the purchase of equipment and instruments which will add value to the UW energy programs and to support SER’s strategic plan. This was accomplished through an RFP process for one time major equipment awards. Ron Harper noted that the list of equipment (pages 24 – 26 of notebook) was a good investment.

Mark discussed the budget reduction of 8% (816,000) for FY13/FY14 due to the downturn in state revenues. The proposed cut, if activated, would reduce matching funds for grants and graduate assistantships.

Additionally, faculty that are hired to support the new strategy will be funded regardless of the budget reduction. Currently SER’s budget for salaries represents 40% of the total budget. The budget structure of SER poses a greater margin to support salaries from other programs, such as, matching grants, seed money for the Centers of Excellence and graduate assistance.

EIC Ribbon Cutting – Roles of ERC, Who to Invite

Ben Blalock discussed that Mary Byrnes and Chris Spooner will work together to receive input from the ERC to develop and invitation list for the ribbon cutting of the Energy Innovation Center which is anticipated to be at the November 16th ERC/BOT meeting.

Strategy Implementation

- **Recruitment:** Mark discussed that the job descriptions are posted and that recruitment is underway. The positions are:
 1. Multi-departmental search committees for positions in Geomechanics and High Temperature Catalysis have been formed and a draft job description developed. This description reflects SER’s novel recruitment and performance requirements.
 2. Further searches are anticipated in areas that will establish core expertise in hydrocarbon recovery from unconventional reservoirs. These may include but are not limited to Petroleum Systems and Petrophysics.
 3. The College of Business and SER have searches for positions that will contribute to the MBA-Energy program.
 4. Mohammad Piri is the first hire for unconventional reservoirs.

- **Fund Raising:** Ben Blalock shared the entire \$15M of matching funds will be achieved by July 1, 2012.
- **Building Planning:** Ben Blalock discussed the Tier One Blue Ribbon Task Force to develop a coordinated programmatic and facility vision for the College of Engineering & Applied Sciences, and the Energy Research Center and associated facilities including the redesign/modernization of the College of Engineering and the STEM building. The Taskforce will meet June 2nd to set their roles.
- **Updates:**
 - Academics – Faculty Job Descriptions have been posted, (please see above notes regarding Recruitment) and in addition there has been advancement on developing the Landman certification program is on for Fall 2012.
 - Research – RFP's for 3-D visualization and matching grants are out for response and the RFP for In situ recovery of Uranium is being developed. Equipment award RFP is finished and decided.
 - Outreach – Upcoming events were reviewed and are detailed on page 27 of the notebook. K-12 energy school lesson plans are being requested with a call for lessons and a citizen's guide of energy resources in Wyoming is being prepared.

Legislative Reports:

Rob Hurless will discuss with the Minerals committee June 14-15 in Riverton the letters being sent from the CCTF regarding expansion of the Trona to Glass study and greater definition of the \$9 Million advanced conversion technology grant - please see the CCTF May 18, 2012 minutes for complete details.

Next Meetings:

- August 24, 2012
- November 16, 2012

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am

Respectfully Submitted:

Ron Harper
Chairman

Tom Lockhart
Vice-Chairman