

## **Energy Resources Council (ERC)**

### **Minutes**

**March 23, 2018**

*EIC, BP Center*

**8:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

#### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM by Vice Chairman, Senator Anderson

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

##### **ERC Members Present**

Carl Bauer, Mindy Benson, Vello Kuuskraa, Dave Emery, Tom Botts, Senator James Anderson, and Cindy Crane

##### **ERC Members Absent**

Jeane Hull, WY House Representative Mike Greear, Laurie Nichols, Dave True and Rob Wallace

##### **SER Staff in Attendance**

Mark Northam, Diana Hulme, Rob Hurless, Trish Steger, Pam Henderson, Rachel Ferrell, Emma Jane Alexander, Kipp Coddington, Richard Horner, Kyle Summerfield, Matt Wittstock, Trish Steger, Cindy Ishkanian and Carrie Ver Burg,

##### **Others in Attendance**

Brett Befus, Cole Bundy

#### **MEETING ITEMS BY DETAIL:**

##### **Approval of Agenda**

*Action:* A motion was made by Ms. Crane to accept the agenda as presented. It was seconded by Mr. Kuuskraa. Motion passed without objection.

##### **Approval of November 2017 Minutes**

*Action:* A motion was made by Mr. Bauer to accept the minutes with one change: Rob Wallace present. It was seconded by Mr. Kuuskraa. Motion passed without objection.

##### **SER Budgets**

*Summary:* The FY18 operating budget is on track for expenditures although current actual reports do not fully reflect this. SER supported forty-nine graduate assistants across campus this fiscal year. There are still numerous concerns with the ability to view reports in WyoCloud. Mapping the old financial system to the new system is challenging and the correction implementation is going slow in this development process. The system is not calculating correct expenditures. For example, the system will recognize expenditures for the Piri Group loan, but it is difficult for the SER accountants to find them or view them. There appears to be some comingling of federal/state dollars and UW block grant funds. It needs to be firmly understood that SER appropriated funds need to remain separated from the UW block grant, but getting the new system to function with this reality continues to pose problems. SER accountants are

maintaining a keen eye on this issue and will continue to utilize a shadow system until such time as these issues are fully corrected. It was agreed that further discussion of the ERC's role in assisting SER needs regarding the WyoCloud system should take place at the next ERC meeting. The FY19 budget projection is in place. SER and Carbon Management were approved for \$19M. Carbon Management will begin the new fiscal year with \$2M. It is anticipated that a new faculty hire will take a leading role in the carbon management project. This new position will transit to a fulltime engineering position after five years. The Anadarko endowment is being converted into a chair position. SER has cut the funding for the Business college faculty position by 50% and will continue to decrease the amount granted over the next three years until it is zeroed out. All center budgets have been put on a schedule to reduce funding in accordance with their new agreements. Plans are in development for the Foundation accounts and will be discussed at the next ERC meeting.

## **DIVISION UPDATES**

Full copies of all SER division reports are available in the **March 2018 ERC Notebook** or upon request.

### **Research and Outreach**

*Additional Comments:* The third year of the CERC project has commenced. Lead project manager, John Jiao will be traveling to China in April to conduct a seminar. Dr. Fan's carbon capture technology is executing a non-disclosure agreement with the National Carbon Capture Center, which is also a member of CERC. An open house for all the Centers of Excellence will be hosted by SER on April 28, 2018 in the Energy Innovation Center. The recently completed videos for each of the Centers will be available for viewing. The videographer, Sam Mallory has done such an outstanding job on the videos that Enhanced Oil Recovery has also commissioned him to produce videos for their institute. A draft of the SER newsletter was presented to the council. ERC members were asked to provide their feedback to Kim Shannon.

### **CEGR (formerly EE&P/CMI)**

*Additional Comments:* Mr. Coddington explained that the Department of Energy has not yet designated their areas of funding for the upcoming year. There is much uncertainty and this makes it difficult to gauge future potential funding opportunities at this time. Mr. Coddington will be meeting with Wyoming Geographic Information Science Center (WYGIS) to evaluate areas of research that have already been studied, but that perhaps could be re-visited, to evaluate other opportunities for economic development within the state.

### **Carbon Engineering**

*Additional Comments:* Dr. Horner informed the Council he would be returning to Japan in June. No other comments were available.

### **3D Visualization Lab**

*Additional Comments:* The center is currently working with CEGR to provide public outreach and will continue this effort in the future. The center is currently upgrading their

Software/hardware and lamping. Software/hardware is usually done every 2-3 years while lamping is an annual necessity. A 360 degree camera was also recently purchased.

### **Academic**

*Additional Comments:* Ms. Henderson announced Sam Mallory, a current SER student in the professional land man program has been designated as a UW outstanding graduate. The advising office will be moving to the west wing of the Energy Innovation Center in July 2018 and the new additional advisor should be hired near that time. The job market is beginning to pick up and most of the graduates should have placements. SER is still struggling with getting employers to recruit from UW, but progress is being made in this area.

### **EORI**

*Additional Comments:* Dr. Carpenter explained the MOU between UW & EORI is currently undergoing revision. President Nichols directed Dr. Northam to review for revisions based on three areas: System for hiring/firing; management of research; and contracts. It is hoped it will be finalized by the next ERC meeting and ready for review by the Council. EORI has received a request from the Joint Minerals committee to complete a study. They are awaiting the Joint Minerals meeting in May to receive the criteria for the study.

### **Foundation Activities**

*Summary:* Mr. Brett Befus indicated to the Council the major focus for SER in the coming year would be to raise \$20 million through fundraising. A two-year plan is in development to complete this project and will be presented to the Council when finalized.

### **Legislative Update**

*Summary:* SER will receive its full appropriation request of \$19 million dollars. The Science Initiative took a \$15 million dollar loss of funding which will now need to be raised by UW. SER has been tapped to assist with raising those funds. The Office of Research will take the lead in this effort. Mr. Boswell will be retiring from UW at the end of March 2018. In parting, he advised SER, in the next few years, would need to start showing the total amount of monies they bring into UW other than just gifts. More lobbying efforts with the House of Representatives is needed and SER should host more outreach events geared toward them.

### **UW Office of Research & Economic Development**

*Summary:* Dr. Ed Synakowski was introduced to the Council as the new Vice President for Research and Economic Development. Prior to coming to UW, Dr. Synakowski held the position of associate director of science in the Department of Energy. Previously he led the Fusion Energy Program at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California and has held a number of positions at Princeton University's Plasma Physics laboratory. Dr. Synakowski earned his bachelor's degree in physics at John Hopkin's University and received his Ph.D. in physics from the University of Texas. Dr. Synakowski current focus is to "get his feet settled." He is actively engaged in meeting his important contacts and colleagues, as well as to develop an office reorganization plan. Dr. Synakowski will also be a professor in the UW Department of Physics and Astronomy.

**Flameless Pressurized Oxy-Combustion (FPO) Presentation**

*Summary:* Mr. Horner provided the council with a presentation (Ppt. available upon request) on Flameless Pressurized Oxy-Combustion.

**April in D.C.**

*Summary:* President Nichols has developed a management team to travel to Washington D.C. to engage in discussion regarding economic development for the State of Wyoming. Dr. Northam and Mr. Coddington will represent SER.

**New Business**

*Summary:* The ERC members requested a change of date for the June meeting due to calendar conflicts. Ms. Steger will contact the members when a new date has been established.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Bauer proposed adjournment to enter into an executive session for the purpose of discussing SER personnel and it was seconded by Ms. Crane. There were no objections. The meeting was formally adjourned at 12:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeane Hull  
Chairwoman

James Anderson  
Vice-Chairman