STAFF SENATE RESOLUTION 247

Title: Staff Senate Support for UW 23/24 Budget Priorities at the State Legislature
and Increased Funding for Faculty and Staff Salaries

Date: February 1st, 2023

Author: President Tim Nichols

Sponsors: Member-at-Large Nicole Nelson, Treasurer Van Cleave, Senator Tess
Kilwein, Secretary Meghan Monahan, Senator Adam Comeau, Senator Dean
Gallegos, and Senator Li Teng

1. WHEREAS, the purpose of the Staff Senate of the University of Wyoming
2. is to uphold the interests and wellbeing of University of Wyoming Staff; and,
3. WHEREAS, the University of Wyoming (UW) is the only land-grant and flagship
4. university in the state of Wyoming that receives substantial funding annually from the
5. State of Wyoming, as authorized and appropriated by the Wyoming State Legislature;
6. and,
7. WHEREAS, President Seidel has made supplemental budget requests and budget
8. priorities for UW for this fiscal year as explained in Addendum A; and,
9. WHEREAS, some of these priorities read as follows in an article from the Casper Star
10. Tribune, “The University of Wyoming will make a supplemental budget request of
11. $54.65 million to the Wyoming Legislature for unforeseen financial needs this academic
12. year … more than $13 million to go toward capital construction projects that have been
13. impacted by inflation. The projects include buying scientific equipment in the new
14. Science Initiative Building and building a roundabout at 22nd Street … An additional
15. $4.3 million is requested to help with inflation in other areas, such as campus utilities,
16. insurance premiums and operating costs of UW extension centers;” and,
17. WHEREAS, Staff Senate acknowledges the importance of continuing to upgrade campus
18. facilities and buildings to improve student experiences on campus; and,
19. WHEREAS, an increase in faculty and staff salaries is also recommended, as shown by
20. the quote “$14.5 million, is earmarked for increasing salaries of university staff and
21. faculty. If approved, the university will increase wages to a minimum of $15 per hour, as
22. well as relative increases for higher-paid employees.”; and,
23. WHEREAS, the article from the Casper Star Tribune continues to read, “The request
24. comes at a time when staff at the university have voiced concerns over issues with low
25. wages and overwhelming workloads during UW Board of Trustees meetings. There are
26. now several hundred employees at the university who make less than $15 per hour,
27. Baldwin said. While the university announced base pay raises for employees in May, the
28. increases were more of a “Band-Aid” fix than a change that adequately addresses issues
29. of inflation and increased housing costs, UW Staff Senate President Tim Nichols told
30. trustees during a meeting in July.”; and,
31. WHEREAS, Staff Senate represents the critical role which staff occupy in the daily
32. occurrences on campus which make classes and student experiences seamless; and,
33. WHEREAS, Staff Senate acknowledges the role which faculty occupy in student success
34. and retention on campus in their academic pursuits.
35. THEREFORE, be it resolved Staff Senate supports in full the UW supplemental budget
36. requests and priorities for the FY23/24 Budget; and,
37. THEREFORE, be it further resolved Staff Senate supports continued efforts from UW
38. Administration, the Board of Trustees, and the Wyoming State Legislature to raise
39. faculty and staff salaries; and,
40. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that upon passage of this resolution it will be sent
41. to all relevant lawmakers in the Wyoming State legislature as deemed appropriate by
42. the Staff Senate President in consultation with the Vice President of Government Affairs.

Date of Passage: ____________________________

“Being enacted on ________________, I do hereby sign my name hereto and approve this
Senate action.” ____________________________

Staff Senate President, Tim Nichols
Addendum A

August 24, 2022
Abby Vander Graaff Laramie Boomerang Via Wyoming News Exchange

“LARAMIE — The University of Wyoming will make a supplemental budget request of $54.65 million to the Wyoming Legislature for unforeseen financial needs this academic year. If approved, UW officials say the additional money will account for gaps in the university budget created by inflation and help address low wages for university staff and faculty members.

“This is very much in line with what you may have seen in previous years,” UW spokesperson Chad Baldwin said of the request.

He said it’s normal for the university to make supplemental budget requests because it is difficult to know exactly how much money will be needed at the time the Legislature makes its budget allocations. The requests also are tailored to the amount of money and programs the Legislature has in any given year.

This year, Gov. Mark Gordon noted that budget requests should be emergency in nature, with some flexibility in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing issues with inflation.

The request includes more than $13 million to go toward capital construction projects that have been impacted by inflation. The projects include buying scientific equipment in the new Science Initiative Building and building a roundabout at 22nd Street.

An additional $4.3 million is requested to help with inflation in other areas, such as campus utilities, insurance premiums and operating costs of UW extension centers.

The largest chunk of the request, $14.5 million, is earmarked for increasing salaries of university staff and faculty. If approved, the university will increase wages to a minimum of $15 per hour, as well as relative increases for higher-paid employees.

“We understand that there is some movement in the Legislature for a possible second round of salary increase funding, and we want to make sure they’re considered,” Baldwin said.

The request comes at a time when staff at the university have voiced concerns over issues with low wages and overwhelming workloads during UW Board of Trustees meetings. There are now several hundred employees at the university who make less than $15 per hour, Baldwin said.

While the university announced base pay raises for employees in May, the increases were more of a “Band-Aid” fix than a change that adequately addresses issues of inflation and increased housing costs, UW Staff Senate President Tim Nichols told trustees during a meeting in July.

The newest round of raises will only be given if the supplemental budget request is approved and would go into effect in the upcoming fiscal year, Baldwin said. The proposal will be discussed with the governor in September or October and go before the Joint Appropriations Committee in December, according to UW Board of Trustees documents.”
Addendum B

DEPARTMENT UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

2023 - 2024 BIENNIAL DEPT 067

DEPARTMENT BUDGET SUMMARY TABLE

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**GASB PRUES**

**Fiscal Year**

| 2023-2024 |

**FUND/BUDGET RESERVE ACCOUNT**

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<th>Funds Available</th>
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**SCHOOL FOUNDATION PROGRAM (SFP)**

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<td>1,748,060,120</td>
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**Governor's Recommendation - Appropriations**

School Tuition Revenue 2023-2024 (Section 4.30) | 1,748,060,120 |

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<th>General Revenue and Necessary Revenues (Section 4.30)</th>
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**General Revenue and Necessary Revenues (Section 4.30)**

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**SCHOOL CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNT (SCCA)**

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**Legislative Appropriations**

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Addendum C

2023 STATE OF WYOMING 23LSO-0407

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>GENERAL FUND</th>
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1. **Section 067. UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**

2.

3. **PROGRAM**

4. State Aid 1., 2., 10., 11., 12. $304,913,013 $304,913,013

5. Family Medical Residency $315,773,013 $315,773,013

6. WWAMI Medical Education 3. $14,801,609 $14,801,609

7. School of Energy Res. 4. $16,283,547 $16,283,547

8. 5., 6. $22,444,000 $22,444,000

9. Tier 1 Engineering $37,218,000 $37,218,000

10. NCAR MOU $7,984,703 $7,984,703

11. 13. $13,084,703 $13,084,703

12. Endowments 6 Matching 7. $1,528,316 $1,528,316

8., 9., 10., 11., 12., 13., 14., 15. $25,000,000 $25,000,000

16. $31,500,000 $31,500,000

17. ____________ ____________ ____________

18. **TOTALS** $369,379,300 $0 $25,000,000 $394,379,300

19. $405,189,188 $430,189,188

20.

21. **AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEES**

22. Full Time 0

23. Part Time 0

24. **TOTAL** 0

25.

26. 1. (a) Of this general fund appropriation, ten million dollars ($10,000,000.00) is appropriated for the purpose of providing a state match
(a) There is appropriated forty-eight million eight hundred fifty thousand dollars ($48,850,000.00) from the general fund to the state auditor for salary adjustments of general funded employees and vacant positions whose salary is not prescribed by law for the fiscal period commencing July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024 as specified in this section. From this appropriation, the state auditor shall distribute this appropriation as follows:

(i) Twenty-eight million four hundred eighty thousand two hundred ninety dollars ($28,480,290.00) for distribution among the executive branch agencies, including statewide elected officials, pursuant to subsection (b) of this section for employees and vacant positions of the executive branch, the commission on judicial conduct and ethics, the Wyoming business council, Wyoming energy authority and the community college commission but not including any agency or entity specified in paragraphs (ii) or (iii) of this subsection;

(ii) Twelve million two hundred sixty-nine thousand three hundred forty-five dollars ($12,269,345.00) to the University of Wyoming pursuant to subsection (b) of this section for employees and vacant positions of the University of Wyoming, the University of Wyoming medical education program, school of energy resources and the enhanced oil recovery commission;

(iii) Six million four hundred ninety-seven thousand four hundred forty-seven dollars ($6,497,447.00) to the community college commission to be allocated among the community colleges in proportion to the