

Approved May 15, 2025

THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES
OF THE TRUSTEES
March 26-28, 2025
PUBLIC SESSION

University of Wyoming

Vision

Use our unique strengths to make Wyoming and the world a better place.

Mission

As Wyoming's university, we unlock the extraordinary in every person through education, research, innovation, engagement, and service.

Values

- Access to an affordable, high-quality education.
- Real-world education where students learn by doing.
- A welcoming and supportive learning community fostered by integrity, inclusivity, freedom of expression, and respect.
- The growth, health, and leadership capacity of all members of the university community.
- Wyoming's wild and working lands as an asset to be utilized, understood, stewarded, and treasured.
- Our partnership and engagement with Wyoming communities in the creation and exchange of knowledge and resources.
- Our role as a catalyst for innovation and economic vitality.

(Accepted January 2023)

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE BOARD
OF TRUSTEES
March 26-28, 2025
UW Conference Center
Laramie, Wyoming**

As will be reflected in the public and executive session meeting minutes, the Board of Trustees of the University of Wyoming met in Laramie, Wyoming, on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, Thursday, March 27, 2025, and Friday, March 28, 2025. Committee Meetings were held on Wednesday, March 26, 2025. The Board's business meeting was held on Friday, March 28, 2025.

TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
BOARD MEETING AGENDA
March 26-28, 2025
UW Conference Center
Laramie, Wyoming

WORK SESSIONS

Introduction, New Trustees	6
Legislative Relations Committee, John McKinley (Chairman)	
Legislative recap, Smith.....	6
Facilities Contracting Committee, Carol Linton (Chairman)	
Modifications to UW Regulation 6-4 (Use of University Building, Grounds and Services), Mai/Holland/Evans	6
Research Excellence Presentation: Rare Earth Elements and Opportunities for Wyoming, Chitnis/Quillinan/T. Brown	7
Update on UW Regulation 2-13 (School of Computing), Turpen/Mai/Kean.....	7
Update from University President Ed Seidel	8
UW Foundation Fundraising Priorities, Seidel/Stark	8
Biennium Budget Committee, Laura Schmid-Pizzato (Chairman)	
Update on Physician’s Assistant Program, Hardigan/Smith.....	9
Spring Enrollment Census Information, K, Moore.....	9
Tier I Engineering Progress Report, Wright	9
Roll Call	10

Trustee Committee Reports

Academic and Student Affairs Committee	11
Biennium Budget Committee	11
Facilities Contracting Committee	12
Fiscal and Legal Affairs Committee	13
Legislative Relations Committee.....	13
Research and Economic Development Committee.....	14

Business Meeting

Roll Call	14
Approval of Minutes	14
Annual Election of Board Officers	14
Discussion: Trustee Committee Appointments	15
Update: University President’s Comprehensive Evaluation.....	15

Reports

ASUW, Kameron Murfitt	15
Staff Senate, Adam Comeau	15

Faculty Senate, Ray Fertig.....	15
Wyoming Community College Commission, Ben Moritz	16
Public Comment.....	16
Committee of the Whole	
Liaisons to other Boards Reports	16
Other Action Taken at Meeting	17
Information Only Items.....	18
Date of Next Meeting.....	18
Adjournment	18
Executive Session Information	18-21

Thursday, March 27, 2025
UW Conference Center

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Introduction: New Trustees (Grear, Ulrich, Walters) -- Brown

Trustee Kermit Brown gave a brief introduction of new Board members; Mike Grear, Paul Ulrich, and Tom Walters. Each provided a short statement and expressed their appreciation to Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon for his appointment to the UW Board of Trustees.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Legislative Relations Committee – McKinley (Chairman)

- **Legislative Recap – Smith**

Trustee John McKinley reported the university is implementing legislative requirements under the guidance of general counsel and University President Ed Seidel. While no supplemental budget was approved, several bills impact the university, and compliance is expected by July 1, 2025. Vice President for Government Affairs and Community Engagement Mike Smith expressed gratitude to the university community for its responsiveness to legislative inquiries during the 2025 Legislative Session. Smith announced the 2026 Legislative Budget Session begins on February 9, 2026, and acknowledged the increased national interest in higher education.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Facilities Contracting Committee – Linton (Chairman)

- **Modifications to UW Regulation 6-4 (Use of University Buildings, Grounds and Services) – Mai/Holland/Evans**

Vice President and General Counsel Tara Evans, Vice President for Campus Operations Bill Mai, and UW Police Chief Josh Holland stood for questions related to proposed modifications to UW Regulation 6-4, governing firearms on campus in response to legislation passed during the 2025 Legislative Session. Evans clarified statutes related to permitted and constitutional-carry on campus, stating that to conceal carry in campus buildings one must have issued to them a state concealed carry permit. Trustee Kermit Brown stated that in November 2024 the Board had an opportunity to adopt a rule regarding concealed carry, which failed by a voice vote of 6-5. Trustee Brown emphasized that this change to campus regulation is governed by legislative action and statute. Trustee Michelle Sullivan noted that university students had advocated against the legislation during the 2025 Legislative Session and stated for the record that she stands by her no vote. Trustee David Fall concurred, reiterating that the change to university regulation is in response to legislative action. In response to an inquiry from Trustee Brown, Holland outlined exceptions to the concealed carry rule, such as athletic events, laboratories with volatile substances, and the Early Childhood Education Center. Holland directed the campus community to the FAQ document in Board materials, which will be available on the UWPD website. Evans discussed the signage that will be installed to provide proper guidance. University President Ed Seidel highlighted the thorough and informative process conducted to prepare the campus for compliance with the new legislation. Trustee John McKinley stated that input from the campus and its stakeholders provided a roadmap to address and request appropriate future exceptions.

Modifications to UW Regulation 6-4 (Use of University Buildings, Grounds, and Services)

03-27-2025 @ 10:56 a.m.

Trustee Carol Linton moved the Board authorize modifications to UW Regulation 6-4 to comply with the concealed carry of firearms pursuant to Wyo. Stat. §6-8-105, effective July 1, 2025. Trustee Tom Walters seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Brad Bonner was absent from the vote.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Research Excellence Presentation: Rare Earth Elements and Opportunities for Wyoming – Chitnis/Quillinan/T. Brown

Vice President for Research and Economic Development Parag Chitnis introduced a presentation on the University of Wyoming's rare earth element initiative (REE), led by Scott Quillinan, Senior Director of Research at the School of Energy Resources (SER), and Tyler Brown, Interim Program Manager of the Minerals Group at SER. Quillinan outlined the program's origins with a \$400,000 grant from the Wyoming Legislature in 2016, which has since grown into a nationally recognized initiative. SER has built a multidisciplinary network of collaborators across fields such as geosciences, chemistry, and law, and now ranks alongside institutions like Penn State and West Virginia University. The research targets both conventional mineral deposits and unconventional sources like coal seams, fly ash, and produced water. Partnerships have expanded to include national laboratories and local communities like Gillette and Campbell County, which are co-funding a pilot REE extraction plant. Brown emphasized the strategic and national importance of securing a domestic supply chain for critical minerals and REEs, given the U.S. dependence on foreign imports—particularly from China. Brown noted the role of these materials in defense, technology, and clean energy, highlighting Wyoming's strong position due to its coal resources, infrastructure, and ongoing projects. A 10% increase in coal production could yield 1,000 jobs and \$75 million in state revenue. Brown stated that SER has led two Department of Energy CoreCM Phase I projects and is now advancing in Phase II, securing over \$12.5 million in funding. The program is expanding through a hub-and-spoke model of Technology Innovation Centers (TICs), aiming to make Wyoming a central player in the national supply chain. In response to Board questions, Brown identified permitting delays as a key barrier, while Quillinan noted plans to hire new faculty and researchers to support REE extraction. Brown also pointed out that while much of the technology used abroad originated in the U.S., innovation is needed to stay competitive. He confirmed that trona is being evaluated as a potential REE source.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Update on UW Regulation 2-13 (School of Computing) – Turpen/Mai/Kean
University President Ed Seidel recused himself from the discussion. Interim Provost Scott Turpen provided an overview of the university's academic reorganization under UW Regulation 2-13, a process designed to ensure strategic alignment, transparency, and institutional excellence.

The reorganization centers on transitioning the School of Computing (SoC) into an independent academic unit. Established in 2022 within the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences (CEPS), SoC was intended to operate independently. In January 2025, the Board of Trustees formally directed the provost's office to initiate this transition. Turpen stated key factors driving the reorganization include strengthening the university's leadership in interdisciplinary computing education and research, expanding SoC's mission to enhance collaboration across departments, and launching new academic programs, including a Bachelor of Science in Applied Computing and Data Science in Fall 2025. Turpen stated SoC has demonstrated administrative readiness and financial autonomy, ensuring a smooth transition without impacting the CEPS budget, further stating the move will enhance research opportunities and industry partnerships. Turpen reported that campus stakeholder engagement has been a priority, with consultations involving faculty, staff, and external partners. Turpen stated the transition process follows a structured timeline and the evaluation request was initiated on February 3, 2025, with a proposal submitted by February 28. It was noted that administration will present the final recommendation to the Board during its April 2025 meeting, and, if approved, the transition will take effect in July 2025. A joint implementation committee from CEPS and SoC will oversee the next steps. In response to inquiry from Trustee Tom Walters, School of Computing Director Gabrielle Allen stated the SoC will not require separate accreditation. In response to inquiry from Trustee Michelle Sullivan, Allen discussed shared

faculty appointments with various units and the interdisciplinary nature of the curriculum. Trustee Kermit Brown remarked that computational science touches every degree and is essential to student success.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Update from University President Ed Seidel

University President Ed Seidel reported the university is making significant strides in student recruitment and retention, enhancing the student experience, and enrollment numbers are trending positively, particularly among Wyoming residents. President Seidel shared his experience touring the new student housing, and reported that marketing efforts, such as the university's Super Bowl ad featuring former UW Cowboy Football player Josh Allen, have significantly boosted applications and engagement. President Seidel further stated fundraising efforts are progressing, with a new endowed professorship model enhancing faculty retention and recruitment. President Seidel went on to state the university's AI Initiative is attracting industry partnerships and securing external funding, including a \$4M National Science Foundation grant. In response to inquiry from Trustee McKinley, President Seidel reported an increase in fall to spring student retention. Trustee Michelle Sullivan directed Trustee McKinley to the [Academic and Student Affairs Committee materials](#) for detailed information. In response to inquiry from Trustee Brad LaCroix, President Seidel stated it is unknown whether the new student housing has impacted student enrollment. President Seidel reported administration will examine programming that might attract prospective students. President Seidel reported the university will honor the legacy of Senator Alan K. Simpson with a Celebration of Life on March 29, 2025, at the Arena Auditorium.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: UW Foundation Fundraising Priorities – Seidel/Stark

Vice President for Institutional Advancement John Stark introduced Senior Vice President for Development Jill Higham and Vice President for Communications and Strategic Initiatives Toby Marlatt. Stark noted that Foundation Board Chair Doug Stark was absent due to calving season. Stark outlined the Foundation's ongoing priorities: student success, faculty excellence, and institutional excellence. In Fall 2022, the Board allocated funds in these areas, which were matched by private gifts, totaling \$10 million. A similar \$10 million appropriation from the Legislature in March 2024 was also matched, with all funds fully subscribed by December 2024. These investments created new scholarships, enrichment funds, and faculty support across campus. Stark stated that the current fiscal year has seen approximately \$45 million in private support, with a goal of exceeding \$60 million by June 30, potentially marking a third consecutive record year. Stark reported on the steps toward launching the first university-wide comprehensive fundraising campaign in two decades. Stark stated that to assess readiness, the UW Foundation has engaged BWF, a national fundraising consultancy, and a 15-member external task force—including trustees, deans, and former Foundation Board members—is guiding the process.

Stark stated that a final report with recommendations will be presented in July 2025. If approved, the campaign would span 7–10 years, starting with a silent phase before a public launch. Stark emphasized the campaign's success will depend on Board approval, leadership alignment, and sustained donor engagement. Regardless of the decision, the process will strengthen fundraising capacity and campus engagement. In response to Board query, Stark explained that a comprehensive campaign would support both foundational priorities and capital projects. Trustee John McKinley suggested including a research park project, which University President Seidel confirmed is under early planning considerations and could involve public-private partnerships.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Biennium Budget Committee – Schmid-Pizzato (Chairman)

• **Update on Physician’s Assistant Program – Hardigan/Smith**

College of Health Sciences Dean Patrick Hartigan provided an update on the progress of establishing a Physician’s Assistant (PA) program at the university. Hartigan stated he identified six key focus areas, including hiring a program director, securing space for education, simulation, and standardized patient training, addressing competition among PA programs, and emphasized a focus on curriculum innovation, rural healthcare, and student support services. Hartigan discussed the salary package and efforts toward hiring a suitable program director. Hartigan stated space needs have been met within the College of Health Sciences, except for the anatomy lab, where options are still being assessed. Hartigan also highlighted potential collaborations with the University of Utah’s and the University of Washington’s Med-X program, though these would require legislative and administrative discussions. When asked about a timeline, Hartigan projected a best-case scenario for launching the program in Fall 2027. Trustee Carol Linton inquired about accreditation, to which Hartigan explained the multi-step process requiring adequate clinical sites, faculty, and facilities. Final accreditation would come after graduating the first class. Trustee David Fall questioned student interest, noting low historical demand for PA programs in Wyoming, with only two current students in the Med-X program and limited WICHE enrollments. Trustee Mike Greear asked about legislative support. Trustee Tom Walters stated the PA program was initiated by the legislature, not the university. Trustee Walters recalled discussions in the legislature comparing the PA program to past legislative discussion proposing a medical school at the university. Trustee Walters stated the goal is to train and retain healthcare providers in Wyoming rather than losing them to out-of-state programs. Trustee Walters stated the legislature provided \$7.5 million to launch the program, and acknowledged future funding needs. In response to inquiry from Trustee Kermit Brown, Hartigan concluded that current institutional support is sufficient to move forward.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Spring Enrollment Census Information – K. Moore

Vice Provost for Enrollment Management Kyle Moore reported that the total overall student headcount is up 1.4%. Moore reminded the Board that the spring semester is not necessarily an “intake” semester and discussed outreach efforts to students who had expressed interest in the university in the fall but did not enroll, as well as initiatives to encourage their enrollment in the spring. In response to inquiry from Trustee Carol Linton, Moore stated he would follow up with geographic specific information. In response to an inquiry from Trustee Michelle Sullivan, Moore discussed the demographics of students who enroll in the spring. Moore noted that the transfer headcount remained steady, while first-time student enrollment had increased slightly. Moore attributed the decline in first-time student enrollment in the fall and the increase in spring enrollment to nationwide issues with FAFSA. In response to an inquiry from Deputy Policy Advisor to Governor Mark Gordon, Lachelle Brant, Moore described the express transfer agreement between the university and Laramie County Community College. Moore discussed the co-advising structure, access to the university, and campus engagement. In response to an inquiry from Trustee Kermit Brown, Moore outlined efforts to align common course numbering and report progress to the legislature.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Tier I Engineering Progress Report – Wright

During the January 2025 Board meeting, Trustee Michelle Sullivan directed Interim Provost Scott Turpen to guide the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences (CEPS) Dean Cam Wright in preparing a report for the Board’s March 2025 meeting. The report would address Tier 1 Engineering and its progress in meeting the metrics outlined in the 2012 Wyoming Governor’s Energy, Engineering, Stem Integration Task Force report, and addressed in 2013 Tier 1 Engineering Initiative document (Governor’s Task Force), and the 2014 Tier 1 Engineering Initiative implementation plan (Governor’s Task Force). A [report](#)

providing detailed response to 16 goals with several appendices is included in the Board's March 2025 meeting materials. Wright walked the Board through his written report, and his response to each goal as written. Wright reported on progress made, and noted challenges such as turnover in the college, as well as budgetary constraints. Trustee Michelle Sullivan asked Wright to conclude his report to allow the Board an opportunity for response and questions.

Trustee Jim Mathis expressed concern that much of the documentation focused on past achievements (2011–2013) without enough emphasis on future goals. Wright responded by referencing University President Ed Seidel's CEPS 2030 Report, highlighting new strategic areas such as AI, quantum science, and rare earth elements. Trustees expressed frustration over the lack of a concise, updated summary. Trustee Carol Linton referred to the submitted materials as a "356-page document dump" lacking a clear vision and expressed concern about certain negative or unclear language in the submitted report. Trustee Michelle Sullivan asked about processes in place for tracking student success within the College of Engineering. Wright emphasized that data are continuously tracked across areas like outreach, advising, major changes, GPA, and scholarship impact—but noted some limitations due to FERPA. Trustee John McKinley raised a concern about the long-standing Tier 1 goals, noting that they are now more than a decade old. From his perspective, it's unclear whether those original goals are still guiding the university's direction or if new goals have been established over time. Trustee McKinley noted that for an institution to remain successful, goals must evolve regularly, ideally on a yearly basis. Trustee McKinley asked for a straightforward summary of the progress made on the original Tier One goals, and on future goals. In response, Wright stated that he didn't feel he was authorized to change the original Tier 1 goals, which led to conversations with members of the original Tier 1 task force. Wright noted that through these discussions it became clear that while the task force members understood that priorities shift over time they did not offer to reconvene to create a new set of goals. Wright stated that under President Seidel's leadership the college embarked on a year-long project aimed to reevaluate where the institution currently stands, where it wants to go by the year 2030, what it will take to get there, and how success will be measured which resulted in the CEPS 2030 report. Trustee Linton told Wright that in its request he provide an update on progress, the Board wanted to see "a vision." Trustee Linton acknowledged the quality of the professors and research being conducted, but said she felt much of the accomplishments may not have been under or due to Wright's leadership. The Board requested that during the Board's May 2025 meeting, Wright articulate his vision for the future and how his leadership would guide the college toward Tier 1 status. Trustee Kermit Brown invited Wright to provide a more focused, actionable update at that time.

Roll Call

At 3:31 p.m. Thursday, March 27, 2025, Executive Director and Deputy Secretary RoseMarie London took roll.

The following Trustees were present: Kermit Brown (Chairman); David Fall, Mike Greear, Brad LaCroix, Carol Linton, Jim Mathis, John McKinley, Laura Schmid-Pizzato (Treasurer); Michelle Sullivan (Vice-chairman); Paul Ulrich; and Tom Walters. Trustee Brad Bonner (Secretary) was absent from the meeting.

Ex-officio Trustees present: University President Ed Seidel; and Wyoming Community College Commission Executive Director Ben Moritz. ASUW President Kameron Murfitt, State Superintendent for Public Instruction Megan Degenfelder, and Governor Mark Gordon were absent from the meeting. Wyoming Department of Education Chief Communications Officer Linda Finnerty attended on behalf of Superintendent Degenfelder; and Senior Policy Director for Governor Gordon Lachelle Brant attended on behalf of Governor Mark Gordon.

Trustee Committee Reports

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Academic and Student Affairs Committee – Michelle Sullivan (Chairman)
Trustee Michelle Sullivan stated the Academic and Student Affairs Committee received an update from Interim Provost Scott Turpen regarding attention toward enrollment, recruitment, and retention, as well as improvements to student support. Trustee Sullivan directed the Board's attention to the March 2025 committee report for more information. Trustee Sullivan stated that *Saddle Up* is making a difference to students in terms of retention. Trustee Jim Mathis congratulated the academic affairs team on its progress.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Biennium Budget Committee – Laura Schmid-Pizzato (Chairman)
Trustee Laura Schmid-Pizzato proposed the following action recommended by the Biennium Budget Committee:

Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer ***03-27-2025 @ 3:37 p.m.***

Trustee Laura Schmid-Pizzato moved the Board authorize administration to negotiate with and hire the top candidate for Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, as discussed in executive session and subject to an additional full criminal, financial, and asset background inquiry. If negotiations fail with the top candidate, administration is authorized to negotiate with and hire the second candidate, as discussed in executive session and subject to the same additional full criminal, financial, and asset background inquiry. Trustee Carol Linton seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Brad Bonner was absent from the vote.

UW Business Fee Book I ***03-27-2025 @ 3:44 p.m.***

In accordance with UW Regulation 7-11, Trustee Laura Schmid-Pizzato moved the Board approve the Fiscal Year 2026 Business Fee Book recommendations as presented on page 42-73 in the Biennium Budget Committee materials. Trustee Schmid-Pizzato further moved there be no increase in fees associated with parking permits on lines 51-85 for Fiscal Year 2026, and to table the fees associated with expedited proposal fees for research on lines 355-358 until the May 2025 meeting. Trustee Carol Linton seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Brad Bonner was absent from the vote.

UW Business Fee Book II ***03-27-2025 @ 3:45 p.m.***

In accordance with UW Regulation 7-11, Trustee Laura Schmid-Pizzato moved the Board approve the additional Academic Year 2025-2026 student fee book proposal as presented on page 54 in the Biennium Budget Committee materials. Trustee Carol Linton seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Brad Bonner was absent from the vote.

Foundation quarterly report on matching funds

03-27-2025 @ 3:46 pm

Trustee Laura Schmid-Pizzato moved the Board authorize administration to transfer two hundred twenty thousand seven hundred ninety-one dollars and forty-six cents (\$220,791.46) of the previously committed funds from the special projects reserve to satisfy the matching obligation of funds raised by the UW Foundation. Trustee Carol Linton seconded the amendment. The motion carried. Trustee Brad Bonner was absent from the vote.

Transportation Plane Rate Setting for FY26

03-27-2025 @ 3:47 p.m.

In accordance with UW Regulation 7-11, Trustee Laura Schmid-Pizzato moved the Board keep the transportation plane hourly charge at the current Fiscal Year 2025 rate for Fiscal Year 2026 and encourage administration to figure out ways to maximize use of the plane. Trustee Brad LaCroix seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Brad Bonner was absent from the vote.

UW Regulation 12-3 Motor Vehicle and Tribal License Plate Programs

03-27-2025 @ 3:47 p.m.

Trustee Laura Schmid-Pizzato moved the Board approve changes made to UW Regulation 12-3 as presented on pages 98-102 in the Biennium Budget Committee materials. Trustee Brad LaCroix seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Brad Bonner was absent from the vote.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Facilities Contracting Committee – Carol Linton (Chairman)
Trustee Carol Linton proposed the following action recommended by the Facilities Contracting Committee:

Real Property Quitclaim Deed

03-27-2025 @ 3:48 p.m.

Trustee Carol Linton moved the Board accept the real property quitclaim deed to the university as discussed in executive session and subject to the university receiving a clean title opinion. Trustee Linton further moved the Board direct administration to proceed with obtaining a water rights inventory of the property separate and apart from the transfer of the quitclaim deed. Trustee Brad LaCroix seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Brad Bonner was absent from the vote.

War Memorial Stadium West Stands Renovation – Furnishings Contract

03-27-2025 @ 3:49 p.m.

Trustee Carol Linton moved the Board authorize administration to execute agreements between Owner and Contractor, as defined in the Executive Summary located on page 3 of the FCC meeting materials, for a combined amount of four hundred thirty-eight thousand four hundred forty dollars and sixty cents (\$438,440.60) for the War Memorial Stadium West Stands Renovation project, to be funded out of the Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment Budget. Trustee Brad LaCroix seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Brad Bonner was absent from the vote.

***War Memorial Stadium West Stands Renovation – Environmental Graphics Change Order
03-27-2025 @ 3:50 p.m.***

Trustee Carol Linton moved the Board authorize administration to execute a contract change order with GE Johnson Construction Wyoming in the not-to-exceed amount of three hundred forty-six thousand seventy-two dollars (\$346,072.00) for the War Memorial Stadium West Stands Renovation project to be funded from the project Administration Environmental Graphics Budget. Trustee Tom Walters seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Brad Bonner was absent from the vote.

***War Memorial Stadium West Stands Renovation – IT Change Order
03-27-2025 @ 3:50 p.m.***

Trustee Carol Linton moved the Board authorize administration to execute a contract change order with GE Johnson Construction Wyoming in the not-to-exceed amount of two hundred eighteen thousand one hundred sixty dollars (\$218,160.00) for the War Memorial Stadium West Stands Renovation project funded from the Administration Technology Budget. Trustee Brad LaCroix seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Brad Bonner was absent from the vote.

***Wyoming Public Radio – Torrington, WY – Site Lease Extension with Eastern Wyoming College
03-27-2025 @ 3:52 p.m.***

Trustee Carol Linton moved the Board authorize administration to sign the site lease extension for the Wyoming Public Radio (WPR) tower site with Eastern Wyoming College in Torrington, WY. Trustee Tom Walters seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Brad Bonner was absent from the vote.

***Wyoming Public Radio – Torrington, WY – Site Lease Extension with Central Wyoming College
03-27-2025 @ 3:53 p.m.***

Trustee Carol Linton moved the Board authorize administration to sign the site sub-lease extension for the Wyoming Public Radio (WPR) tower site with Central Wyoming College in Torrington, WY. Trustee Brad LaCroix seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Brad Bonner was absent from the vote.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Fiscal and Legal Affairs Committee – Brad Bonner (Chairman)

Trustee Michelle Sullivan provided a report on behalf of the Fiscal and Legal Affairs Chairman Brad Bonner. Trustee Sullivan remarked it was her first meeting as a member of the committee. Trustee Sullivan discussed the risk management phased in cost allocation plan to address inflationary factors. Trustee Sullivan stated the committee received an annual review of the investment and management of university funds, with no recommended changes. Trustee Sullivan reported the committee received a quarterly report from PFM Asset Management. Trustee Sullivan updated the Board on the RFP process for an external auditor to occur in June 2025. Trustee Sullivan discussed the update from Internal Audit Director Whit Madere, and his proposed modifications to the risk assessment of the university and directed the Board to the committee materials for more information. Trustee David Fall reported the internal audit office under Madere is now fully staffed.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE Legislative Relations Committee – John McKinley (Chairman)

Trustee John McKinley stated Vice President for Government Affairs and Community Engagement Mike Smith provided update earlier in the day, and there was nothing further to report.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Research and Economic Development Committee – David Fall (Chairman)
Trustee David Fall discussed the research excellence presentations to the Research and Economic Development Committee from AI seed grant recipients as follows: Peter Walker, Melissa Morris “*Handwritten Text Recognition: Using AI to make 18th-Century Missionary Records Publicly Accessible*”; Diksha Shukla “*Enhancing Rural Resilience through Adaptive Learning Systems Powered by Neuro-Symbolic AI Models*”; Zoe Kriegel, Diksha Shukla “*Tracking Facial Movements Using AI for Rural Telehealth Speech Therapy*”; Dane Taylor “*Migration Connectivity Analysis and Design with Topology and AI*”; and Ben Koger “*Statewide AI-Driven Pronghorn Monitoring.*”

Friday, March 28, 2025
UW Conference Center
Business Meeting
9:45 a.m.

Roll Call

At 10:41 a.m. on Friday, March 28, 2025, Executive Director and Deputy Secretary RoseMarie London took roll.

The following Trustees were present: Kermit Brown (Chairman); David Fall, Mike Greear, Brad LaCroix, Carol Linton (via video conference), Jim Mathis, John McKinley, Laura Schmid-Pizzato (Treasurer); Michelle Sullivan (Vice-chairman); Paul Ulrich; and Tom Walters. Trustee Brad Bonner (Secretary) was absent from the meeting.

Ex-officio Trustees present: University President Ed Seidel; and Wyoming Community College Commission Executive Director Ben Moritz. ASUW President Kameron Murfitt, State Superintendent for Public Instruction Megan Degenfelder; and Governor Mark Gordon were absent from the meeting.

Approval of meeting minutes
03-28-2025 @ 10:41 a.m.

Trustee Paul Ulrich moved the Board approve the February 19, 2025, executive and public session meeting minutes. Trustee Tom Walters seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Brad Bonner was absent from the vote.

Annual Election of Board Officers (effective May 1, 2025) – Brown/McKinley/Linton
Election of Board Officers
03-28-2025 @ 10:42 a.m.

Trustee Carol Linton moved to nominate the slate of candidates for UW Board of Trustees Officers May 1, 2025, through May 1, 2026, as follows: Kermit Brown (Chairman); Michelle Sullivan (Vice Chairman); Laura Schmid-Pizzato (Treasurer); and Brad Bonner (Secretary). Trustee Dave Fall seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Brad Bonner was absent from the vote.

Discussion: Trustee Committee Appointments – Brown

Trustee Kermit Brown reported there was no change to the trustee appointments to the Trustees Education Initiative Governing Board, and that new committee assignments were circulated to trustees. Trustee Brown further noted the Ad Hoc Committee on Private Support has sunset effective May 1, 2025.

Update: UW President's Comprehensive Evaluation – Brown

Trustee Kermit Brown reported the Board has directed that a comprehensive evaluation be conducted per the university president's employment contract, the results of which will be reviewed by the Board during its May 2025 meeting.

Reports

ASUW – President Kameron Murfitt was absent from the meeting, and did not provide a report.

Staff Senate – President Adam Comeau

Staff Senate President Adam Comeau thanked the Biennium Budget Committee for the opportunity to address staff concerns regarding campus parking permit costs. Comeau expressed appreciation that the Board had decided not to raise parking permit prices for the upcoming fiscal year, noting that this decision supports staff morale amid ongoing financial challenges and inflation. Comeau also highlighted the upcoming Staff Recognition Day, scheduled for Monday, April 7, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Arena Auditorium. Staff will be granted 2.5 hours of release time to attend the event. Comeau reported that the event is sponsored by the Staff Senate, UniWyo Federal Credit Union, Pepsi/Admiral Beverages, the UW Foundation, the Office of the President, and private donors and will feature twenty-seven awards totaling \$41,000 in cash and gifts. Comeau concluded his report by announcing that the May 2025 Board of Trustees meeting will be his last as Staff Senate President, and that he will be succeeded by Jesse Grosinger, Business Manager in the Engineering and Physical Sciences Dean's Office. Comeau expressed confidence in Grosinger's leadership potential and his commitment to strengthening staff organization and representation. Chairman Brown thanked Comeau for his service as Staff Senate President.

Faculty Senate – Chairman Ray Fertig

Faculty Senate Chairman Ray Fertig reported that the Senate is still awaiting a response to its proposed changes to the upcoming Next Generation University Studies Program (NextGen USP), with implementation now expected to be delayed until Fall 2027. Fertig noted that the Faculty Senate and the Provost's Office have reached a general agreement on increased faculty involvement in student recruitment. This collaboration has been well received and is viewed as a positive step toward improving enrollment efforts. Fertig further reported that faculty are actively working on suggested revisions to University Regulations 2-2 (Academic Personnel Dispute Resolution), and 2-8 (Appointment, Evaluation and Removal of Academic Administrators) prompted by issues identified within the College of Health Sciences. Fertig discussed ongoing conversations with the Office of General Counsel and other stakeholders regarding concealed carry laws, the implications of House Bill 147, and related federal directives, and emphasized that faculty are deeply concerned about the uncertain impacts on classroom safety, federal investigations, international student enrollment, and federal funding priorities and procedures. Fertig identified faculty salaries as a critical and persistent issue, noting that they remain significantly below national averages. Recently, seven offers were extended to faculty candidates, none of whom accepted; five formally declined, citing low salary offers as the primary reason. Fertig reported that the remaining faculty are facing increased teaching loads and diminished research productivity. Fertig cautioned that the university risks losing mid-career and senior faculty to institutions offering \$20,000–

\$30,000 more in starting salaries, along with guaranteed annual raises of three percent. Fertig stressed that faculty strongly urge the administration to make regular and competitive salary increases the top budget priority for both faculty and staff. The Board discussed the cost of living in Wyoming and its impact on the recruitment and retention of faculty and staff. It acknowledged the need to develop sustainable and competitive solutions to secure the University's future. University President Ed Seidel, and Trustees Kermit Brown, and Michelle Sullivan expressed appreciation for Fertig's leadership and advocacy.

Wyoming Community College Commission – Executive Director Ben Moritz

Wyoming Community College Commission Executive Director Ben Moritz reported positive enrollment trends across the state's community colleges, with headcount up 4.4% and full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment up 5.1%, indicating students are taking more credits post-pandemic. While 75% of students remain part-time, average credit loads are increasing. Moritz reported that Gillette College is on track for Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation by Fall 2026, possibly sooner, and discussed a new policy now requires university input on any new bachelor's degree programs proposed by community colleges, promoting collaboration and addressing concerns early. Moritz proposed administrative rule changes allowing each college to offer more than two bachelor's programs await the Governor's signature, but the university collaboration policy is already in effect. Moritz also discussed the Wyoming Innovation Partnership's (WIP) transition to a sustainable administrative home outside the Governor's Office, highlighting ongoing collaboration between university and community colleges. Moritz went on to discuss funding, stating community colleges face a projected \$7 million annual loss due to decreased federal grants and recent property tax changes, including residential rate cuts and new business exemptions. Moritz stated that the impact varies by institution, with Sheridan, and Laramie County Community Colleges (LCCC) most affected and Gillette, and Western Wyoming Community Colleges less so due to mineral revenue. Though a recapture and redistribution model exist, Moritz noted it offers limited relief. Planning is complicated by delayed revenue estimates and a 16-month lag in financial adjustments. Colleges are considering tuition hikes and exception requests. In response to Board request for clarifying information, Moritz confirmed LCCC faces the largest loss—about \$1.8 million annually.

Public Comment *[Scheduled for Thursday, March 27, 2025, 11:00 a.m.]*

There was no public comment during the March 26-28, 2025, UW Board of Trustees meeting.

Committee of the Whole
Regular Business

Board Committee Reports *[Scheduled for Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.]*

Trustee Committees - *[Note: Committees of the Board will provide reports during the regular work sessions and will not have a formal report to provide during the Business Meeting.]*

Liaison to Other Boards – *[Written reports are provided to the Board in advance of the meeting.]*

- UW Alumni Association Board – Laura Schmid-Pizzato & Jack Tennant
- Foundation Board – Brad Bonner & David Fall
- Haub School of Environment & Natural Resources – Michelle Sullivan
- Energy Resources Council – Paul Ulrich
- Cowboy Joe – John McKinley

OTHER ACTION TAKEN AT MEETING

Academic Personnel Report

03-28-2025 @ 11:17 a.m.

Trustee Michelle Sullivan moved the Board approve the academic personnel report as provided. Trustee Tom Walters seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Brad Bonner was absent from the vote.

Administrative Staff

03-28-2025 @ 11:18 a.m.

Trustee Michelle Sullivan moved the Board approve the administrative staff action as discussed in executive session. Trustee Jim Mathis seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Brad Bonner was absent from the vote.

Non Academic Personnel I

03-28-2025 @ 11:18 a.m.

Trustee Dave Fall moved the Board approve the non-academic personnel action as discussed in Executive Session. Trustee Jim Mathis seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Brad Bonner was absent from the vote.

BRAND Appeal

03-28-2025 @ 11:18 a.m.

Trustee Dave Fall moved the Board approve the loan cancellation due to undue hardship as identified in executive session. Trustee Brad LaCroix seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Brad Bonner was absent from the vote.

Thermo Fisher Quotation for Avizo Software for Materials Science and Geosciences and Amira Software for Life Sciences

03-28-2025 @ 11:18 a.m.

Trustee Dave Fall moved the Board authorize administration to execute the Thermo Fisher Quotation for the Avizo Software for Materials Science and Geosciences and Amira Software for Life Sciences. Trustee Michelle Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Brad Bonner was absent from the vote.

Amendment No. 1 to Research Project Plan with Hess Corporation

03-28-2025 @ 11:19 a.m.

Trustee Dave Fall moved the Board authorize administration to executive Amendment No. 1 to the Research Project Plan with Hess Corporation. Trustee Michelle Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Brad Bonner was absent from the vote.

Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Wyoming and Wyoming Crop Improvement Association

03-28-2025 @ 11:19 a.m.

Trustee Michelle Sullivan moved the Board authorize administration to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between University of Wyoming and Wyoming Crop Improvement Association. Trustee Brad LaCroix seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Brad Bonner was absent from the vote.

Non Academic Personnel II
03-28-2025 @ 12:41 p.m.

Trustee Laura Schmid-Pizzato moved the Board authorize administration to move forward on the personnel item as discussed during executive session. Trustee David Fall seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustee Brad Bonner was absent from the vote

Information Only Items: *[no action, discussion, or work session]*

- Annual Report: Faculty workload (per UW Regulation 2-9) *[postponed from November 2024]* – Turpen/Benham-Deal
- Contracts and Procurement Report (per UW Regulation 7-2) – Evans
- Capital Construction Report – Brown/Mai
- Foundation Monthly Giving Report – Stark

Date of Next Meeting: April 16, 2025 (video conference)

The public session was adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

Executive Session Information

[The UW Board of Trustees met in Executive Session on Thursday, March 27, 2025, and Friday, March 28, 2025, in person and via video conference.]

Executive Session I

Thursday, March 27, 2025

UW Conference Center

The University of Wyoming Board of Trustees called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. Trustee Michelle Sullivan moved the Board enter Executive Session

1. To consider the appointment, employment, right to practice or dismissal of a public employee and to consider accepting or tendering offers concerning wages, salaries, benefits, and terms of employment during all negotiations (16-4-405(a)(ii) and 16-4-405(a)(x))
2. To consider acceptance of gifts, donations and bequests which the donor has requested in writing to be kept confidential (16-4-405(a)(viii)); and
3. To consider or receive any information classified as confidential by law (16-4-405(a)(ix))

Trustee Tom Walters seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The session was attended by:

- Trustees Kermit Brown (Chairman), David Fall, Mike Greear, Brad LaCroix, Carol Linton, Jim Mathis, John McKinley, Laura Schmid-Pizzato (Treasurer), Michelle Sullivan (Vice Chairman), Paul Ulrich, and Tom Walters. Brad Bonner (Secretary) was absent from the meeting.

- Ex-officio members UW President Ed Seidel, and Executive Director of the Wyoming Community College Commission Ben Moritz. ASUW President Kameron Murfitt, State Superintendent for Public Instruction Megan Degenfelder, and Governor Mark Gordon were absent from the meeting. Deputy Policy Director Lachelle Brant attended on Governor Gordon's behalf.
 - Interim Provost Scott Turpen
 - Vice President and General Counsel Tara Evans
 - Deputy General Counsel Paula Whaley
 - Vice President for Government Affairs and Community Engagement Mike Smith
 - Vice President for Budget and Finance Alex Kean
 - Executive Director and Deputy Secretary RoseMarie London
 - Desktop Support Team Manager Margarita Rovani

And the following administrators attended during their respective topics:

- Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs David Bagley
- Vice President for Campus Operations Bill Mai
- Neltje Center Director Beth Venn
- Deputy Vice President for Research and Innovation Arun Pradhan
- Petroleum Engineering Professor Mohammad Piri
- Vice President for Institutional Advancement John Stark
- College of Health Sciences Dean Patrick Hardigan

Executive Session II

March 27, 2025

UW Conference Center

Trustee Michelle Sullivan moved the Board enter Executive Session at 4:01 p.m.

- To consider or receive any information classified as confidential by law (16-4-405(a)(ix))

Trustee Jim Mathis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The session was attended by:

- Trustees Kermit Brown (Chairman), David Fall, Mike Greear, Brad LaCroix, Carol Linton, Jim Mathis, John McKinley, Laura Schmid-Pizzato (Treasurer), Michelle Sullivan (Vice Chairman), Paul Ulrich, and Tom Walters. Brad Bonner (Secretary) was absent from the meeting.
- Ex-officio members UW President Ed Seidel, and Executive Director of the Wyoming Community College Commission Ben Moritz. ASUW President Kameron Murfitt, State Superintendent for Public Instruction Megan Degenfelder, and Governor Mark Gordon were absent from the meeting. Deputy Policy Director Lachelle Brant attended on Governor Gordon's behalf.
- Interim Provost Scott Turpen
- Vice President and General Counsel Tara Evans
- Vice President for Government Affairs and Community Engagement Mike Smith
- Vice President for Budget and Finance Alex Kean
- Executive Director and Deputy Secretary RoseMarie London

- Desktop Support Team Manager Margarita Rovani
- Associate Vice President for Institutional Marketing Chad Baldwin

Executive Session III

March 28, 2025

UW Conference Center

The University of Wyoming Board of Trustees called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. Trustee Michelle Sullivan moved the Board enter Executive Session

1. To consider the appointment, employment, right to practice or dismissal of a public employee and to consider accepting or tendering offers concerning wages, salaries, benefits, and terms of employment during all negotiations (16-4-405(a)(ii) and 16-4-405(a)(x))
2. To consider or receive any information classified as confidential by law (16-4-405(a)(ix)); and
3. On matters concerning litigation to which the governing body is a party or proposed litigation to which the governing body may be a party (16-4-405(a)(iii))

Trustee Tom Walters seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The session was attended by:

- Trustees Kermit Brown (Chairman), David Fall, Mike Greear, Brad LaCroix, Carol Linton (via video conference), Jim Mathis, John McKinley, Laura Schmid-Pizzato (Treasurer), Michelle Sullivan (Vice Chairman), Paul Ulrich, and Tom Walters. Brad Bonner (Secretary) was absent from the meeting.
- Ex-officio members UW President Ed Seidel, and Executive Director of the Wyoming Community College Commission Ben Moritz. ASUW President Kameron Murfitt, State Superintendent for Public Instruction Megan Degenfelder, and Governor Mark Gordon were absent from the meeting.
 - Interim Provost Scott Turpen
 - Vice President and General Counsel Tara Evans
 - Deputy General Counsel Paula Whaley
 - Vice President for Government Affairs and Community Engagement Mike Smith
 - Vice President for Budget and Finance Alex Kean
 - Executive Director and Deputy Secretary RoseMarie London
 - Desktop Support Team Manager Margarita Rovani

The following administrators attended during their respective topics:

- Vice President for Campus Operations Bill Mai
- College of Health Sciences Patrick Hardigan
- Associate Vice President for Campus Operations Mike Samp
- Director of Emergency Management and Health and Safety Chad Bade
- Vice President for Research and Economic Development Parag Chitnis
- Professor of Petroleum Engineering Mohammad Piri
- Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Dave Bagley
- Associate Vice President for Human Resources Bob Link

Executive Session IV
March 28, 2025
UW Conference Center

Trustee Michelle Sullivan moved the Board enter executive session at 11:36 a.m.

1. To consider the appointment, employment, right to practice or dismissal of a public employee and to consider accepting or tendering offers concerning wages, salaries, benefits, and terms of employment during all negotiations (16-4-405(a)(ii) and 16-4-405(a)(x))

The motion was seconded and carried.

The session was attended by:

- Trustees Kermit Brown (Chairman), David Fall, Mike Greear, Brad LaCroix, Carol Linton, Jim Mathis, John McKinley, Laura Schmid-Pizzato (Treasurer), Michelle Sullivan (Vice Chairman), Paul Ulrich, and Tom Walters. Brad Bonner (Secretary) was absent from the meeting.
- Ex-officio members UW President Ed Seidel. Executive Director of the Wyoming Community College Commission Ben Moritz, ASUW President Kameron Murfitt, State Superintendent for Public Instruction Megan Degenfelder, and Governor Mark Gordon were absent from the meeting.
- Interim Provost Scott Turpen
- Vice President and General Counsel Tara Evans
- Senior Associate General Counsel Jenna Martin
- Vice President for Government Affairs and Community Engagement Mike Smith
- Associate Vice President for Communications and Marketing Chad Baldwin
- Vice President for Budget and Finance Alex Kean
- Associate Vice President for Human Resources Bob Link
- Executive Director and Deputy Secretary RoseMarie London
- Desktop Support Team Manager Margarita Rovani

Respectfully submitted,



RoseMarie London
Executive Director and Deputy Secretary, UW Board of Trustees