



**MEETING OF THE
TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**

August 13, 2025

PUBLIC SESSION REPORT

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)



TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, August 13, 2025
Via Video Conference/Old Main Boardroom, Old Main 206
Laramie, Wyoming

OFFICIAL MEETING SCHEDULE/AGENDA

Wednesday, August 13, 2025
Via video conference

8:00 a.m. Call to order

8:05 a.m. Roll call

Disconnect public call and reconnect for Executive Session

8:10 – 9:45 a.m. Executive Session [see executive session agenda]

Disconnect Executive Session call and reconnect for public session and discussion/action by the Board.

9:55 – 10:30 a.m. Public Session

Agenda Items for Discussion/Approval:

1. Discussion: UW Board of Trustees DRAFT Meeting Minutes
 - a. July 16-17, 2025, Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes (public and executive session)
2. *Biennium Budget Committee* – Schmid-Pizzato (Chairman)
 - a. Consideration and Action:
 - i. Supplemental Budget Request4/6
 - ii. Native American Student Enrollment and Retention.....5/8
3. Discussion: Presidential Search Next Steps – Brown/Bonner

Proposed Items for Action

1. Academic Personnel Report
2. Contracts, agreements, procurements over \$2 million or 10 years in length
3. *Fiscal and Legal Affairs Committee*

New Business

Selection of 2026 Trustees Out-of-Town Meeting Location -- Brown

~10:30 a.m. Adjourn

Date of Next Meeting – September 24-26, 2025, Laramie

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: FY2027-28 Biennium Exception Budget Request, Schmid-Pizzato/Kean

SESSION TYPE:

- Work Session
- Information Session
- Other
- [Committee of the Whole – Items for Approval]

APPLIES TO STRATEGIC GOALS:

- Yes (select below):
 - Institutional Excellence
 - Student Success
 - Service to the State
 - Financial Growth and Stability
- No [Regular Business]

Attachments are provided with the narrative.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Exception budget requests are submitted as part of the state’s biennium budget process in odd-numbered calendar years.

PRIOR RELATED BOARD DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS: The Biennium Budget Committee met on June 5, 2025, to discuss potential exception budget requests. The full board received an updated list of exception budget priorities on July 16, 2025. Following the July discussion the Budget Committee met again on August 1, 2025, to review and prioritize exception requests to be submitted as part of the state’s budget process. The Biennium budget exception request shall be submitted to the State Budget Department by Friday, August 29, 2025.

WHY THIS ITEM IS BEFORE THE BOARD:

The Biennium Budget Committee is responsible for working with the University administration as it develops and submits the University’s budget requests to the Governor as a state agency, including the 067 University of Wyoming operating budget.

ACTION REQUIRED AT THIS BOARD MEETING:

Approval of the FY2027-2028 biennium exception budget request for the University of Wyoming as provided in the supplemental materials.

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move to authorize Administration to submit the State Exception Budget Request as shown in the supplemental material.

PRESIDENT’S RECOMMENDATION:

The President Recommends approval.

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Native American Student Enrollment and Retention Follow Up,
Schmid-Pizzato, Seidel, Kean, Stark**

SESSION TYPE:

- Work Session
- Information Session
- Other
- [Committee of the Whole – Items for Approval]

APPLIES TO STRATEGIC GOALS:

- Yes (select below):
 - Institutional Excellence
 - Student Success
 - Service to the State
 - Financial Growth and Stability
- No [Regular Business]

Attachments are provided with the narrative.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In response to the Board of Trustees direction to form a working group at the September 2024 board meeting, John Stark and Alex Kean met with representatives from the Northern Arapahoe and Eastern Shoshone Business Councils to discuss how best to support Native American students from the Wind River Reservation. The discussions revolved around the concept of establishing a new endowment that will generate enough expendable income to cover the cost of tuition and mandatory fees for undergraduate programs at the University. The Budget Committee discussed the endowment concept at the May 14, 2025 meeting and directed administration to draft an endowment agreement including the criteria discussed. The full board of trustees reviewed the draft agreement on July 17, 2025 and recommended additional changes. Administration presented a new draft agreement to the Budget Committee on August 1, 2025 for review.

PRIOR RELATED BOARD DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS:

The Board of Trustees have allocated time to address and dialogue matters related to improving the recruitment and retention of tribal students since July of 2023. The board discussed this topic on Thursday, July 13, 2024, Thursday, September 26, 2024, Thursday, May 15, 2025, and July 17, 2025.

WHY THIS ITEM IS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE:

Follow-up discussion to update the Board on Native American Student Enrollment and Retention.

ACTION REQUIRED AT THIS BOARD MEETING:

Request that the UW Board of Trustees approve the establishment and initial funding of a new quasi-endowment.

PROPOSED MOTION: I move the full Board to authorize administration to sign the Memorandum of Understanding to establish the Wind River Promise Fund as shown on page 15, 16 and 17 of the August 1, 2025, Biennium Budget Committee materials and to direct administration to transfer up to \$2,250,000 from unrestricted operating investment income earned in Fiscal Year 2026 to fund the account. Of the aforementioned funds \$2,000,000 shall be managed and invested as if they were a permanent endowment with the remaining \$250,000 being available for immediate appropriation.

PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:

The President Recommends approval.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: FY2027-28 Biennium Exception Budget Request, Schmid-Pizzato/Kean

Prioritized List of Budget Requests for FY2027-2028 State Budget:

Priority	Description	Department Request	
		Amount	One-Time/Recurring
1	Employee Compensation Increases	\$ 18,000,000	Two Years of funding - Recurring
2	Block Grant Inflationary Funds	\$ 25,000,000	Two Years of Funding - Recurring
3	Matching Funds	\$ 20,000,000	One-Time
4	Career and Technical Education (CTE)	\$ 5,000,000	One-Time Construction
		\$ 1,000,000	One-Time Equipment
5	Athletic Operating Support	\$ 6,000,000	Two Years of funding - Recurring
6	Critical Minerals Initiative	\$ 300,000	Two Years of funding - Recurring
		\$ 4,500,000	One-Time
7	AI Initiative	\$ 2,500,000	One-Time - Match Requirement
8	Internship Program	\$ 2,300,000	Two Years of funding - Recurring
9	Clinician Assistant Professor - Casper Family Medicine	\$ 285,783	Two Years of funding - Recurring
	Total:	\$ 84,885,783	Of the request \$33,000,000 is for one-time expenses and \$51,885,783 is for ongoing funding.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Native American Student Enrollment and Retention,
Schmid-Pizzato, Seidel, Kean, Stark

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING: UNIVERSITY FUNDS

Wind River Promise Fund

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING is entered into as of the [DATE] day of [MONTH] 2025 by and between the University of Wyoming (hereinafter UW) and the UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING FOUNDATION (hereinafter FOUNDATION).

1. UW has transferred funds contained in UW Account #[XX-XXX] to FOUNDATION in the amount of \$2,250,000.00.
2. UW requests and FOUNDATION agrees to manage and invest \$2,000,000.00 of the aforementioned funds as if they were a permanent endowment, with the remaining \$250,000.00 being available for immediate appropriation, until further notice from UW as provided in Paragraphs 5 and 6 below.
3. The Fund hereby created will be known as the **Wind River Promise Fund** (hereinafter FUND). The purpose of the FUND is to support students enrolled at the University of Wyoming (UW) by providing scholarships to eligible individuals, in alignment with the University's land-grant mission and pursuant to the commitments outlined in the Memoranda of Understanding executed on the 26th day of April, 2022, between the UW and the federally recognized sovereign nations of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes.

Scholarship awards from the FUND shall be subject to the following criteria:

- Recipients must be an enrolled member of the Eastern Shoshone Tribe or the Northern Arapaho Tribe.
- Recipients must be a Wyoming resident as defined by University regulation and have graduated from a Wyoming high school.
- The scholarship is intended to cover up to the full cost of undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees contingent upon available funds. If the funds available for appropriation are insufficient to cover the full cost of undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees, each qualified recipient will receive a prorated amount based on total funds available.
- Recipients must be in good academic standing, as defined by University regulations.
- Recipients must be enrolled as full-time students, as defined by University regulations.
- Recipients must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) annually.
- Each scholarship may be renewed for up to eight (8) semesters contingent upon continued eligibility or until the recipient has been awarded their first bachelor's degree. Once the scholarship has been initiated the recipient has six (6) academic years to receive the full scholarship benefit.

Expenditures from this FUND shall be authorized by UW in its sole discretion. Said account shall be UW's funds and held by and invested by the FOUNDATION. Only the funds available

for appropriation¹ (FAFA) shall be available for expenditure unless approved by the UW President, upon recommendation by the UW Board of Trustees.

4. For as long as the FUND is managed and invested as if it were a permanent endowment, it will be subject to the terms and provisions of the FOUNDATION'S Statement of Investment Policies, Objectives and Guidelines except the provisions contained within the 'Funds Available for Appropriation' section thereof. The FUND shall also forgo the waiting period to begin payout into FAFA.
5. UW, at any time and in its sole discretion, may elect to cease FOUNDATION'S management and investment of all or any portion of the FUND as a permanent endowment.
6. FOUNDATION will use its best efforts to transfer funds requested by UW in accordance with Paragraph 5 above as soon as possible, but reserves the right to transfer such funds over a period not longer than twelve (12) months, depending upon the amount of the request and the cash flows of the endowment pool. The amount transferred will be the net fair market value of the FUND on the date of transfer from to [UW].

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO FOLLOW

¹ See W.S. § 17-7-304(a). Also known as annual distributions from the FUND.

RECOMMENDED by:

[Alex Kean, Vice President Budget and Finance]

Date: _____

ACKNOWLEDGED as follows:

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING:

[Dr. Edward Seidel, President]

Date: _____

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING FOUNDATION:

[John D. Stark, CEO/President]

Date: _____