Approved August 19, 2026

THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

OF THE TRUSTEES

July 14-15, 2026

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
July 14-15, 2026
The Roundhouse
Evanston, Wyoming

As will be reflected in the public and executive session meeting minutes, the Board of Trustees of the University of Wyoming met on Tuesday, July 14, and Wednesday, July 15, 2026, for its annual out-of-town meeting which included its annual joint meeting with members of the Wyoming Legislature. The Board's business meeting was held on Wednesday, July 15, 2026. The Board also participated in a behind-the-scenes tour of the Roundhouse and Machine Shop.

TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
BOARD MEETING AGENDA
July 14-15, 2026
Evanston, Wyoming

WORK SESSIONS

Tuesday, July 14, 2026
Meeting Location: Portland Rose Room, Roundhouse, Evanston, Wyoming

The UW Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 14, 2026. Executive Director and Deputy Secretary RoseMarie London called roll.

Trustees present: Brad Bonner (Treasurer); Kermit Brown; David Fall; Mike Greear; Brad LaCroix (via video conference); Carol Linton (Secretary); Jim Mathis; John McKinley; Laura Schmid-Pizzato (Vice Chairman); Michelle Sullivan (Chairman); Paul Ulrich; and Tom Walters.
Ex-officio members present: University President Shane Reeves; ASUW President Sam Kaiser; and Wyoming Community College Commission Executive Director Laurel Ballard. Governor Mark Gordon, and State Superintendent for Public Instruction Megan Degenfelder were absent. Senior Policy Advisor Lachelle Brant attended on Governor Gordon's behalf.

Trustee Carol Linton moved the Board enter executive session:

1. Regarding 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))

The session was attended by:

- Trustees: Brad Bonner (Treasurer); Kermit Brown; David Fall; Mike Greear; Brad LaCroix (via video conference); Carol Linton (Secretary); Jim Mathis; John McKinley; Laura Schmid-Pizzato (Vice Chairman); Michelle Sullivan (Chairman); Paul Ulrich; and Tom Walters.
- Ex-officio members: University President Shane Reeves; ASUW President Sam Kaiser; and Wyoming Community College Commission Executive Director Laurel Ballard. Governor Mark Gordon; and State Superintendent for Public Instruction Megan Degenfelder were absent. Senior Policy Advisor Lachelle Brant attended on behalf of Governor Gordon.
- Interim Provost Anne Alexander
- Vice President and General Counsel Tara Evans
- Executive Director and Deputy Secretary RoseMarie London
- Director of Academic Technology Services Margarita Rovani
- Executive Vice President Kraig Sheetz

Trustee Jim Mathis seconded the motion. The motion carried. The Board reconvened the public session at 8:40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: <u>Opening Remarks</u> – Sullivan
Trustee Michelle Sullivan expressed appreciation to the City of Evanston and discussed how it is important that the Board visit Wyoming communities. Trustee Sullivan welcomed the University of Wyoming's 29th President Shane Reeves. President Reeves introduced Executive Vice President Kraig Sheetz.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: <u>University President Shane Reeves' Remarks</u>
University President Shane Reeves described his vision for the university, emphasizing the institution's unique role as the intellectual and connective force for the state. Reflecting on his return to Wyoming, President Reeves stated the university's responsibility to engage communities across the state, strengthen relationships with stakeholders, and listen carefully through planned campus and statewide outreach efforts to identify common themes and priorities. President Reeves stated athletics and the UW Foundation

as strategic accelerants that can advance the institution's mission while underscoring the importance of creating an engaging student experience that fosters intellectual curiosity, leadership, ethical decision-making, and civil discourse. President Reeves discussed the need to prepare graduates to thrive in an era shaped by artificial intelligence, strengthen the University's R1 research enterprise through recruitment of top talent and Wyoming-focused research, expand strategic communications, develop a leader-scholar program, and cultivate a culture that prioritizes institutional success over individual interests.

In response to Trustee Brad Bonner, President Reeves stressed that enrollment growth begins with admissions and a personalized student experience, with athletics serving as an important recruitment tool. Responding to Trustee David Fall, President Reeves discussed the opportunity for Wyoming to become a national leader through research aligned with the state's natural resources and economic priorities. In response to Faculty Senate Chairman Rob Godby, President Reeves reaffirmed his commitment to shared governance, noting that while inclusive decision-making may not always be the most efficient approach, long-term strategic decisions require listening, transparency, honesty, and active leadership rather than "pass-through leadership."

Additional discussion focused on strengthening the university's partnerships with the state and its citizens. In response to Governor Mark Gordon's Senior Policy Advisor Lachelle Brant, President Reeves acknowledged the importance of deepening his understanding of the relationship between the university and state government and observed that skepticism toward the institution often reflects broader perceptions of higher education. In response to Trustee Mike Greear, President Reeves said retaining graduates in Wyoming may require broader policy solutions, and Wyoming-centered research can create compelling career opportunities within the state. In discussion with Wyoming Community College Commission Executive Director Laurel Ballard, President Reeves highlighted the need to reassess resource allocation and priorities to rebuild stronger partnerships with Wyoming's community colleges and expand opportunities for non-traditional students. Trustee Kermit Brown reinforced the importance of collaboration between the university and the community colleges, citing Governor Gordon's expectation for cooperative engagement and the Legislature's adoption of common course numbering. Trustee David Fall encouraged President Reeves to maintain a visible presence throughout Wyoming, while ASUW President Sam Kaiser emphasized creating a campus environment that actively engages students and encourages them to contribute to the university community.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Annual UW Foundation Fundraising Priorities – Reeves, Stark
Vice President for Institutional Advancement John Stark noted that UW Foundation Senior Vice President for Development Jill Higham; UW Foundation Vice President for Strategic Initiatives Toby Marlatt; and UW Foundation Senior Associate Vice President for Development Brett Befus were present at the meeting. Stark introduced the UW Foundation Board Chairman Scott McDonald, CEO of the *Starz* network, who assumed the role July 1, 2026. McDonald addressed the Board and discussed a "record setting" fundraising year which achieved a milestone of ~$100 million in private support per Council for the Advancement and Support in Education (CASE) guidelines. In response to inquiry from Trustee Michelle Sullivan, Stark reported the UW Foundation has long followed these standards of reporting. Stark discussed the importance of alignment among university leadership, the Board of Trustees, and the UW Foundation Board, and the established priorities of student success, faculty success, and institutional excellence. In response to inquiry from Trustee Tom Walters, Stark stated he would provide information during a future meeting on specific use of funds that are student-focused. Stark further stated there was less interest in the matching fund program this year and went on to discuss building a culture around

endowed and named faculty positions and directed the Board's attention to the Spring 2026 of *UWyo Magazine* which highlights Excellence in Higher Education Endowment Funds.

Comprehensive Campaign
Vice President for Institutional Advancement John Stark reported the UW Foundation continues preparations for the university's first comprehensive fundraising campaign in more than 20 years, in alignment with the University of Wyoming's Strategic Plan. Stark reported the UW Foundation has engaged BWF Zuri to strengthen fundraising infrastructure, campaign readiness, donor engagement, prospect management, and campaign planning. Stark noted that since the Board's last discussion around launching the comprehensive campaign in March 2026, the UW Foundation has worked with academic units across campus to identify and refine fundraising priorities through extensive planning sessions. Stark stated the next phase of planning will focus on finalizing campaign priorities, strengthening the campaign vision and messaging, expanding donor engagement, and developing recommendations for the Board's future consideration. Stark requested the Board affirm its support for the comprehensive campaign and authorize the UW Foundation, in collaboration with the President, to proceed with the next phase of campaign planning and implementation. Trustee Michelle Sullivan noted that in 2025 BWF Zuri stated the university was not ready to launch a campaign. In response, Stark discussed the campaign timeline and stated the university will enter the "leadership phase" which may last two to three years. University President Shane Reeves encouraged the university launch a campaign now stating, "It is time."

Comprehensive Campaign
07-14-2026 @ 10:37 a.m.
Trustee Brad Bonner moved the Board affirm its support for the University of Wyoming's comprehensive campaign efforts and authorize the University of Wyoming Foundation, in collaboration with the President, to proceed to the next phase of a campaign, including refinement of campaign priorities, continued donor engagement, campaign vision and messaging, and development of any recommendations for future Board consideration. Trustee David Fall seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Annual UW Fundraising Priorities
07-14-2026 @ 10:39 a.m.
Trustee David Fall moved the Board approve the Fiscal Year 2027 UW Fundraising Priorities as presented in the July 2026 Board Report. Trustees Jim Mathis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

UW Foundation State Appropriated Matching Funds
Stark discussed the state appropriated matching funds during the 2026 Legislative Session and referenced the significant role of state endowment matching funds in advancing philanthropy, noting that the program has supported more than $237 million in endowment, academic, and athletic initiatives over approximately 25 years. Trustees discussed the allocation of $10 million in newly appropriated matching funds, balancing the UW Foundation's request for flexibility with the Board's responsibility to establish clear priorities and ensure support for both student success and faculty excellence. Stark stated that matching funds should serve as a force multiplier that expands the impact of private gifts rather than as a discount to donors.

UW Foundation State Appropriated Matching Funds
07-14-2026 @ 10:40 a.m.
Trustee Brad Bonner moved the Board approve that the allocation of the State Legislature's $10 million endowment matching pool be used to support endowments advancing the university's strategic priorities in student success and faculty excellence. This approval authorizes the University of Wyoming Foundation to move forward with securing the philanthropic commitments necessary to maximize the impact of the endowment matching pool. Trustee Paul Ulrich seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The record should reflect there was Board discussion about whether the Board should with a cap provide the UW Foundation flexibility to adjust the allocation to each priority to suit donor interest. Trustee Mike Greear and Tom Walters were not in favor of a proposed amendment to the main motion and encouraged the Board to provide the UW Foundation the flexibility it seeks.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: The Future of Athletics at UW – Reeves, Burman
Athletics Director Tom Burman provided an overview of the evolving landscape of Division I athletics, emphasizing that despite changes in revenue sharing, name, image and likeness (NIL), and conference realignment, the core mission remains developing student-athletes. Burman reported academic achievement, community engagement, and leadership development among student-athletes before discussing opportunities within the reconfigured Mountain West Conference (MWC). Burman stressed that increased investment in revenue sharing, targeted revenue growth, and operational efficiencies are necessary to remain competitive and achieve success in football and basketball. University President Shane Reeves expressed strong support for Burman's strategic direction, emphasizing that maintaining the status quo is not a viable option in today's higher education environment. President Reeves discussed the critical role athletics plays in strengthening institutional identity, state pride, student recruitment, and national brand recognition, noting that athletic success benefits the whole university. President Reeves characterized the current conference landscape as an opportunity for the university to pursue sustained competitive excellence through strategic investment and stewardship of resources. There was Board discussion about ways to integrate athletics into the university's academic mission. Faculty Senate Chairman Rob Godby discussed opportunity for interdisciplinary academic programs centered on sports to enhance experiential learning to reduce the perceived divide between athletics and academics. President Reeves agreed that institutional collaboration is essential and expressed interest in further exploring those opportunities. Trustee Tom Walters recognized the success of the university's rodeo program and discussed the role of club sports in student engagement and enrollment. Burman and Vice President for Student Affairs Nycole Courtney described club sports as an important contributor to student leadership, recruitment, and campus engagement while noting that additional evaluation of long-term infrastructure may be necessary. Trustees also discussed strategies to increase student attendance at athletic events, particularly men's basketball. Burman stated that sustained athletic success will require alignment among university leadership, the Board, the Legislature, donors, corporate partners, and the broader Wyoming community. Burman reported a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Aquatics Center is scheduled during the September 2026 Board meeting.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: <u>Trustees' Open Discussion on Any Item</u> – various
Trustee Carol Linton reported the status of the Aquatics Center pool repair. In response to inquiry from Trustee Kermit Brown, Burman stated the division one schedule and university schedule will be consulted before it can be determined when the pool may open for public use.

Trustee Tom Walters discussed e-bike designation and inquired whether campus policy effectively regulates use on campus, and whether the fee book represents e-bike use accurately.

Trustee Mike Greear discussed the state's constitutional goal of providing higher education "as nearly free as possible," suggesting the Board and Legislature consider a long-term restructuring of Wyoming's financial aid system. Trustee Paul Ulrich concurred. Trustee Greear recommended exploring a universal scholarship model for post-secondary education at the University of Wyoming and community colleges, like Nebraska's "Promise" approach, while returning the Hathaway Scholarship to a merit-based program and using foundation resources more strategically to address workforce and academic priorities. Trustee Michelle Sullivan supported further discussion, emphasizing the importance of continued collaboration with community colleges and reaffirming the university's critical role as the state's intellectual engine. Wyoming Community College Commission Executive Director Laurel Ballard observed that ongoing legislative discussions surrounding the Hathaway Scholarship, *Wyoming Works*, and career and technical education pathways present an opportunity to reevaluate the state's overall scholarship framework and suggested aligning scholarship programs more effectively with workforce and college-readiness goals. The Board agreed the topic warrants continued discussion as part of the university's broader strategic planning efforts under President Reeves.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: <u>Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education</u> – Col. Chris Lowrance, Department of EECS, United Stated Military Academy
Executive Vice President Kraig Sheetz introduced Colonel Chris Lowrance, who presented on the transformative impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on higher education. Lowrance characterized AI as a technological revolution requiring institutions to prepare graduates for an AI-enabled workforce. Lowrance discussed the rapid advancement of generative AI, its implications for teaching and learning, and emphasized that AI should be viewed as a tool to enhance learning rather than simply provide answers. Lowrance suggested that institutions should shift educational priorities toward developing students' ability to define problems, collaborate effectively with AI, critically evaluate outputs, and maintain human ownership of decision-making. Lowrance shared lessons from West Point, emphasizing that successful AI integration requires institution-wide vision, faculty collaboration, and a deliberate focus on the knowledge and skills graduates will need across disciplines. Lowrance discussed faculty adoption of AI in pedagogy, noting that adapting to AI is an institutional necessity rather than an optional technological change. University President Shane Reeves emphasized that AI represents an existential challenge and opportunity for higher education, asserting that institutions must adapt rapidly to remain relevant and stated the importance of iterative implementation and ensuring equitable access to AI technologies across the university.

The Board engaged university leadership in a discussion of the practical implications of AI adoption. Staff Senate Chairman Rob Godby raised questions regarding faculty engagement, incentives, and resource allocation needed to support institutional change. ASUW President Sam Kaiser asked how students choosing not to use AI for ethical and sustainability reasons could be supported. American Heritage Center

Director Paul Flesher discussed professional standards and challenges associated with supervising student use of AI. Governor Mark Gordon's Senior Policy Advisor Lachelle Brant encouraged the university to engage policymakers in these discussions. Interim Provost Anne Alexander reported that the university's general education curriculum incorporates digital literacy in emerging technologies, including AI. Vice President for Information Technology Amy McLaughlin discussed efforts to implement a university-wide AI platform providing secure and equitable access to multiple large language models for faculty, staff, and students. McLaughlin explained that the initiative is being developed collaboratively across academic and technology units to support teaching, learning, and research. Trustee John McKinley emphasized the importance of equitable student access. McLaughlin reported the platform is intended to provide standardized access accompanied by onboarding and training to promote responsible use. In response to questions from Trustee Carol Linton and Trustee Brad Bonner, Lowrance discussed West Point's AI curriculum, including exercises designed to help students critically evaluate AI-generated content and recognize model limitations, as well as the continuing challenges surrounding AI ethics and responsible implementation.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: 2026 Budget Footnote Working Group – Brown, McKinley (Co-chairmen)
Trustee John McKinley provided summary of the work of the committee so far and discussed the priority list created by way of response to a survey distributed to university leadership. The list outlined ideas to realize efficiencies and included a thorough review of low enrollment/underperforming programs; the suggestion to reimagine or eliminate the School of Computing; eliminating UW at Casper College programming; moving forward with Deloitte's *Case for Change;* inventorying and evaluating licensing purchased outside of the division of Information Technology; a review and reduction of spending on service contracts; similarly an effort toward consolidation of purchases for economies of scale; evaluating the Global Engagement budget; and similarly evaluate the budget for the Division of Student Affairs. Trustee McKinley stated the committee will further evaluate the list and present a final report which will be a "precise response" to Footnote 9 of the 2026 Legislative Budget Bill during the Board's November 2026 meeting. Trustee McKinley stated that other areas where savings can be realized identified through the committee work will be investigated as a companion exercise. Trustee Michelle Sullivan stated she has been participating in the meetings, and felt the conversations are productive but preliminary. Trustee Sullivan stated the exercise should be coupled with identifying where the university is positioned as an institution.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Annual Joint Meeting with Trustees and Members of the Wyoming Legislature
On Tuesday, July 14, 2026, the UW Board of Trustees met with members of the Wyoming Legislature for an annual conversation. Legislators in attendance were Senator Laura Pearson; Senator Wendy Schuler; Senator Charles Scott; Representative Andrew Byron; Representative Ken Chestek; Representative Bob Davis; Representative McKay Erickson; and Representative Martha Lawley. Trustee Michelle Sullivan welcomed members of the Wyoming Legislature and emphasized the University of Wyoming's commitment to strengthening its partnership with state policymakers through an open, collaborative dialogue focused on serving the state and its citizens. Trustee Sullivan invited legislators to identify priorities and concerns to help inform the university's direction. University President Shane Reeves briefly discussed his vision for the university, emphasizing Wyoming's shared history, values, and identity as the foundation for institutional success. President Reeves stated the university is poised to become a nationally recognized land-grant university through excellence in student success, research, fundraising, athletics, innovation, and strategic engagement. President Reeves stressed that building relationships with

legislators and communities across Wyoming would be central to advancing the university's mission and ensuring it remains responsive to the state's needs.

Senator Charlie Scott framed the discussion around two primary themes: positioning the University of Wyoming to become one of the nation's premier public universities and advancing legislation to strengthen university research. Senator Scott highlighted the university's statewide support, productive partnership with the community colleges, technical and energy-related strengths, financial stability within the state, and recent institutional improvements as key advantages. Senator Scott discussed state-match legislation that is focused on research to increase opportunities to attract top researchers, enhanced graduate student support, and revised intellectual property provisions designed to improve faculty recruitment. Trustee John McKinley encouraged expanding matching funds beyond research and increase the match to $20 million to allow greater focus on student success and faculty excellence initiatives, noting the university's proven success in leveraging prior state matching programs. Senator Scott agreed with the value of those priorities but recommended maintaining a distinct legislative focus on research while continuing separate support for student success initiatives through the budget process.

Several legislators emphasized the university's role in supporting Wyoming's workforce and economy. Representative Martha Lawley praised the university's renewed focus on Wyoming values and highlighted the School of Energy Resources as a strategic asset in advancing the state's leadership in energy production and national security. Representative Lawley also encouraged greater attention to retaining Wyoming students by ensuring pathways into graduate and professional programs. Senator Wendy Schuler stressed the need to address Wyoming's teacher shortage through stronger recruitment, marketing, and continued collaboration between the legislature and the College of Education, while inviting university leadership to identify additional ways legislators could assist the institution.

The discussion also centered on freedom of expression and intellectual diversity. Senator Laura Pearson shared concerns raised by recent graduates regarding whether students felt comfortable expressing differing viewpoints in the classroom. ASUW President Sam Kaiser responded that significant progress had been made in recent years through university initiatives promoting constructive dialogue and freedom of expression, stating that students now experience an environment supportive of open discussion. President Reeves reaffirmed his commitment to free inquiry, civil discourse, and intellectual independence, emphasizing that universities should cultivate independent thinkers rather than promote ideological conformity. He characterized Wyoming's culture of independent thought as a competitive advantage that could position the university as a national leader in operationalizing free expression on campus. Representative Ken Chestek reinforced that perspective by describing the law school's longstanding emphasis on examining multiple viewpoints and preparing students to think critically from all sides of an issue.

The meeting recessed at 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 15, 2026
Meeting Location: Portland Rose Room, Roundhouse, Evanston, Wyoming

The UW Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 15, 2026.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Follow up on previous day's Discussion with members of the Wyoming Legislature – Sullivan
Trustee Kermit Brown acknowledged the Wyoming legislators who were present for the conversation are supporters of the university and expressed regret others did not attend. Trustee Brown noted there are several members of the legislature who are not University of Wyoming graduates, and the university must make additional effort to make connections with them. Trustee Brown expressed appreciation for Senator Charles Scott's continued attendance at the annual joint conversation. Trustee Brown stated that every legislator has a connection with the Wyoming community colleges in that they are embedded in communities in a way the university is not and are strong economic drivers for the state. Trustee Michelle Sullivan stated she was encouraged by the conversation about the synergies between the university and community colleges. Trustee David Fall encouraged university leadership to identify opportunities to invite legislators to the university; Trustee Jim Mathis said it was essential for legislators to interface with students while they are actively engaged in learning. Trustee Paul Ulrich discussed leveraging the extension offices across the state and reiterated that effort should be made to "go to them." Wyoming Community College Commission Executive Director Laurel Ballard, and Faculty Senate Chairman Rob Godby concurred about the importance of meeting legislators in their own communities. University President Shane Reeves agreed that students are the best emissaries and addressed the need to professionalize the protocol efforts around distinguished visitors and communicate visits widely. Trustee Sullivan said that the protocol around engagement with community colleges should also be professionalized. Governor Gordon's Senior Policy Advisor Lachelle Brant discussed the governor's approach to education and education policy. Brant discussed the success of the grassroots efforts around the launch of the Wyoming Innovation Partnership (WIP) and the coalescing of university, community college, and business leaders.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Biennium Budget Committee – Schmid-Pizzato (Chairman)
Vacancy Savings Plan
Trustee Laura Schmid-Pizzato stated the Biennium Budget Committee recommended the full Board direct administration to present the Board a proposed Vacancy Savings Plan and pointed the Board to page 12 of the July 2026 Board Report. Vice President for Budget and Finance Alex Kean discussed the university-wide plan to retain salary savings generated by vacant, budgeted positions funded through Fund Class 105 unrestricted operating budgets. The plan establishes a consistent methodology for capturing vacancy savings while preserving an exception process that allows colleges and divisions to request access to retained funds when operational needs warrant. The objective is to strengthen financial stewardship, improve consistency in budget management, and provide flexible resources to address strategic institutional priorities.

Effective July 1, 2026, salary savings will be centrally retained based on the length of time eligible positions remain vacant. The Division of Budget & Finance will administer the program through standardized monthly tracking, accounting, and reporting processes, while Human Resources will support ongoing position management. Requests for replenishment of captured funds will be submitted by vice presidents or deans, reviewed through a formal workflow, and approved based on documented operational need and continuity of services.

Because vacancy savings are non-recurring, retained funds will be used primarily to support one-time institutional priorities, including strategic investments, budget stabilization, deferred maintenance, technology, enrollment and student success initiatives, compensation priorities, and institutional risk management. Administration will provide regular reports to the Biennium Budget Committee on amounts captured, approved replenishments, and the overall financial impact of the program to ensure transparency and ongoing oversight.

Board discussion focused on the proposed vacancy savings plan, with support for depositing unused year-end vacancy savings into the Special Projects Reserve Account. Trustees discussed whether to retain an exception and replenishment process, with some arguing that exceptions undermine policy consistency and existing budget review processes provide sufficient oversight, while others emphasized that limited flexibility is necessary to address operational needs, particularly in colleges where personnel costs comprise most operating budgets. College leadership explained that vacancy savings are critical to managing budget reductions, funding temporary staffing, and maintaining operational flexibility, while also noting that improved reporting would increase transparency. The Board clarified that inactive position numbers would be removed from the human resources system solely to improve the accuracy of vacancy reporting, not to eliminate positions, and that expenditures from the Special Projects Reserve Account require both a recommendation from the President and approval by the Board of Trustees.

Salary Savings from Vacant Positions
07-15-2026 @ 9:06 a.m.
Trustee Laura Schmid-Pizzato moved the Board adopt the plan to retain any salary savings from vacant positions within fund class 105 of the divisional and college unrestricted operating budgets, in the general university operations budget, for all times that the position remains vacant, as presented at the July 15, 2026, meeting. Any funds remaining at the end of the fiscal year resulting from vacancy savings shall automatically be deposited in the Special Projects Reserve Account. This plan will have an effective date of July 1, 2026. Trustee Jim Mathis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Biennium Supplemental Budget
Trustee Laura Schmid-Pizzato stated supplemental budget requests are routinely submitted to the State Budget Department no later than Monday, August 31, 2026. A budget meeting with the governor will be scheduled for a date to be determined between mid-September and October 2026. The Board will approve the request during its August 2026 meeting. Governor Gordon’s Senior Policy Advisor Lachelle Brant recommended the Board be thoughtful about what it included in the 2027-28 State Supplemental Budget Request. Vice President for Budget and Finance Alex Kean discussed a handout provided to the Board describing three priority requests: Block Grant Cost Adjustment; Tuition Fee Support for Undergraduate Students at the university who are enrolled members of the Eastern Shoshone Tribe or the Northern Arapaho Tribe; and Matching Funds.

In response to inquiry from Trustee Paul Ulrich, Kean stated there are ~35 students anticipated to receive the Wind River Promise Scholarship in Fall 2026. Trustee John McKinley recommended the Matching Fund request be adjusted to $20 million.

Kean discussed additional requests from the College of Education for a proposed Senior Faculty Position in Dyslexia, and a capital construction project to expand laboratory space for the Center of Innovation for Flow-through Porus Media (COIFPM). Trustee John McKinley directed administration to be mindful of the legislative pause on future capital construction appropriation and, in response to inquiry, Vice President for Research and Economic Development Parag Chitnis clarified a level one and level two study had been prepared.

2027-28 Academic Year Tuition Preliminary Recommendations
Vice President for Budget and Finance Alex Kean presented six preliminary tuition recommendations for Board consideration ahead of final action during its September 2026 meeting, first among them the recommendation to freeze FY2027-28 undergraduate resident and non-resident main campus tuition, due to market competitiveness, recent non-resident tuition increases, and enrollment trends, and noted the proposal would require an exception to the current tuition policy. The Board generally supported maintaining affordability for Wyoming students but discussed the long-term fiscal implications of a tuition freeze. Trustees emphasized balancing affordability with institutional financial sustainability, preserving regional competitiveness for non-resident recruitment, and clearly communicating the university's value to students, families, legislators, and the public. The Board was provided data indicating that increases in non-resident tuition reduce enrollment demand, while targeted financial aid, including the *Good Neighbor* discount, has improved yield rates among students from neighboring states. Trustees requested additional information prior to the September 2026 meeting including average net student costs after financial aid, comparative affordability data, and further analysis to support future tuition policy discussions. Kean outlined preliminary recommendations to increase graduate and online tuition by 4%; establish a preferred tuition rate for international students through partner organizations; reduce tuition and remove block tuition for the Bachelor of Applied Science program; and review differential and entrepreneurial tuition rates to ensure market alignment. Kean noted the Board's tuition policy is due for its required four-year review and indicated proposed revisions would clarify tuition categories and provide greater flexibility in the allocation of tuition revenue.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: <u>Scholarship Working Group</u> – Alexander, Stark, Kean
Interim Provost Anne Alexander presented a progress report from the Scholarship Working Group, which was convened at the request of the Biennium Budget Committee to evaluate the university's financial aid strategy and scholarship model. Alexander outlined recommendations to improve scholarship utilization by centralizing the scholarship awarding process, increasing the use of UW Foundation funds within the commitment scholarship structure, addressing restrictive scholarship criteria through donor engagement and policy changes, conducting a strategic review of the Trustee Scholar Award, and developing a balanced scholarship fundraising strategy. Alexander stated the report represented work in progress and sought Board feedback before returning with final recommendations in January 2027. Vice President for Institutional Advancement John Stark described efforts to improve scholarship management by implementing a new software platform that will provide more timely information on available scholarship balances and eligibility criteria, enabling more effective awarding of funds. Stark also discussed developing policies to limit overly-restrictive scholarship criteria while balancing donor intent with institutional priorities. Trustee Michelle Sullivan encouraged collaboration with the Wyoming Community Foundation to incorporate best practices in donor stewardship and scholarship design.

Advisory Boards

Interim Vice Provost Anne Alexander provided update to the Board regarding establishing standardization and guidance related to advisory boards. This item was before the Board during its January 2026 meeting; Alexander reported that since that time she has requested feedback from college deans which has been shared with Vice President and General Counsel Tara Evans, and Executive Vice President Kraig Sheetz. Alexander stated administration continues to propose the creation of a Standard Administrative Policy. Sheetz stated the importance of capturing the intent of advisory boards consistent with the university's values and allow flexibility in terms of membership.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Fraternity and Sorority Life – Walters, N. Courtney

Trustee Tom Walters and Vice President for Student Affairs Nycole Courtney provided the Board an update on actions taken following the May 2026 luncheon and discussion with fraternity and sorority life (FSL) students. It was reported that progress is being made toward increasing FSL engagement through participation in freshman move-in, the *Saddle Up* Resource Fair, *Cowboy Carnival*, Parent and Family Weekend, and by relocating the FSL advisor to the Wyoming Union. Trustee Walters discussed the comprehensive FSL vision study, including stakeholder engagement, and an external review process. Additionally, a space evaluation of the Wyoming Union was proposed to identify opportunities to support FSL and broader student engagement. Trustee Walters also discussed exploring scholarship opportunities for first-generation or Greek Life students using potential student success matching funds, if donor interest exists. ASUW President Sam Kaiser reported ASUW will conduct a complementary student-led review to ensure student perspectives inform the overall recommendations.

Fraternity and Sorority Life
07-15-2026 @ 10:48 a.m.

Trustee Tom Walters moved the Board authorize administration to extend the Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) vision study to include dining options for FSL, and a space opportunity study of the Wyoming Union as part of the overall study and present a final report to the Board of Trustees during its March 2027 meeting. Trustee John McKinley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Conversation between Trustees and Deans – various

Trustee Michelle Sullivan led a discussion between the Board of Trustees and the University's academic deans, noting that University President Shane Reeves is scheduling "learn and listen" sessions with deans and other campus stakeholders as part of his transition.

Participants included Honors College Dean Peter Parolin; College of Arts and Sciences Dean Scott Turpen; Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources Dean John Koprowski; College of Health Sciences Dean Patrick Hardigan; College of Engineering and Physical Sciences Interim Dean Danny Dale; School of Computing Director Beth McMillen; Libraries Dean Cassandra Kvenild; School of Energy Resources Acting Executive Director Scott Quillinan; College of Law Dean Julie Hill; College of Agriculture, Life Sciences and Natural Resources Dean Kelly Crane; College of Education Dean Jenna Shim; College of Business Dean Scott Beaulier; and School of Graduate Education Dean Carolyn Pepper. The discussion considered topics discussed during the Board's July 14, 2026, meeting, including the Comprehensive Campaign, integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into curriculum and university operations, shared governance, economic development opportunities associated with data centers, budget priorities, Wyoming-focused research, and experiential and interdisciplinary learning. Trustee Brad Bonner shared his conversation with President Reeves regarding students' ethical concerns – brought up by ASUW President Sam Kaiser – surrounding AI, and President Reeves emphasized the urgency of ensuring the university keeps pace with rapidly evolving technologies.

The conversation also revisited themes from the Board's facilitated discussion in July 2025. Dean Kelly Crane acknowledged that some challenges remain but expressed optimism about the university's direction under President Reeves' leadership. Trustee Kermit Brown reiterated the importance of clearly articulating the university's mission and vision through a concise, unified message. Dean Scott Turpen emphasized the need for a new budget model and, drawing on his experience with the *2026 Budget Footnote Working Group*, encouraged the institution to clearly define its strategic priorities and areas of focus. The deans also discussed the Board's July 15, 2026, action regarding salary vacancy savings, expressing concern that the change reduces needed flexibility in managing college budgets. Dean Peter Parolin highlighted the importance of filling faculty vacancies to achieve institutional goals; Dean Scott Beaulier also advocated for autonomy in personnel decisions and identified continued administrative challenges related to human resources and procurement processes. Trustees clarified that the action was intended to encourage timely investment of available resources rather than the accumulation of reserves, while capturing approximately $20 million to address immediate institutional priorities.

President Reeves concluded by commending the deans and senior leaders for approaching the discussion from an "institution-wide" perspective. Reeves emphasized the importance of establishing clear priorities, distinguishing between efficiency and institutional need, and exercising effective leadership. Executive Vice President Kraig Sheetz reinforced these themes, highlighting that effective leadership depends on reciprocity of trust across the institution.

Business Meeting
Portland Rose Room, Roundhouse, Evanston, Wyoming
July 15, 2026

Roll Call
At 2:26 p.m. on July 15, 2026, Executive Director and Deputy Secretary RoseMarie London took roll.

Trustees present: Brad Bonner (Treasurer); Kermit Brown; David Fall; Mike Greear; Carol Linton (Secretary); Jim Mathis; John McKinley; Laura Schmid-Pizzato (Vice Chairman); Michelle Sullivan (Chairman); Tom Walters. Trustees Brad LaCroix was absent on July 15, 2026, and Paul Ulrich left the meeting at 12:23 p.m. on July 15, 2026.
Ex-officio members present: University President Shane Reeves; ASUW President Sam Kaiser; and Wyoming Community College Commission Executive Director Laurel Ballard. Governor Mark Gordon; and State Superintendent for Public Instruction Megan Degenfelder were absent. Senior Policy Advisor Lachelle Brant attended on Governor Gordon's behalf, and left the meeting at 12:23 p.m. on July 15, 2026

Approval of Meeting Minutes
07-15-2026 @ 2:27 p.m.
Trustee Carol Linton moved the Board approve the June 17, 2026, public and executive session meeting minutes. Trustee Tom Walters seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustees Brad LaCroix, and Paul Ulrich were absent from the vote.

Committee of the Whole
Regular Business

Trustee Committees *[Note: Trustee Committees did not meet during the July 2026 meeting.]*

Reports
ASUW – President Sam Kaiser
ASUW President Sam Kaiser discussed several strategic initiatives focused on strengthening student success, campus collaboration, and institutional advancement. Kaiser reported ASUW-sponsored programming will be conducted jointly with campus departments or registered student organizations, that ASUW continues to support implementation of the university's new paid internship and experiential learning initiative to enhance career readiness and student retention, and is working to improve engagement and support for students participating in the Pathways from Prison program. Kaiser stated ASUW continues to advocate for increased graduate student stipends to improve the university's competitiveness in recruiting and retaining high-quality graduate students, will work to ensure student voices remain central to discussions about the future of Fraternity and Sorority Life, promoting digital literacy, and responsible artificial intelligence initiatives. Kaiser reported that ASUW intends to collaborate with campus stakeholders to develop recommendations and future legislation that position the University of Wyoming as a leader in preparing students for an increasingly technology-driven workforce.

Staff Senate – President Gwen Dailey
Staff Senate President Gwen Dailey reported staff senate will hold its annual retreat to focus on expectations and goals and that planning for the Holiday Market has begun. Dailey expressed support for centralized AI platform for campus as Vice President for Information Technology Amy McLaughlin discussed with the Board on July 14, 2026. Dailey noted the death of Director of the Center for Blockchain and Digital Innovation Steve Lupien.

Faculty Senate – Chairman Rob Godby
Faculty Senate Chairman Rob Godby spoke briefly about the Director of the Center for Blockchain and Digital Innovation Steve Lupien upon his death. Godby reported meeting with Interim Vice Provost Anne Alexander to discuss next steps related to shared governance. Godby discussed the standing process to review low producing programs calling it disruptive. Godby stated Faculty Senate is working to expedite the review process through the senate committee. Godby also discussed the number of certificate programs that are proposed. Godby discussed the process of space allocation and ways in which it may interfere with research on campus. Godby stated Faculty Senate will be reviewing the regulation that enables and defines Faculty Senate and will consider the new requirements related to the American Disabilities Act (ADA) and course materials. Godby discussed the recently concluded Great Colleges to Work For survey and will share a qualitative analysis with University President Shane Reeves and Board Chairman Michelle Sullivan.

Wyoming Community College Commission – Executive Director Laurel Ballard
Wyoming Community College Commission (WCCC) Executive Director Laurel Ballard provided updates on leadership, legislative priorities, institutional developments, and opportunities for continued collaboration with the university. Ballard announced the hiring of a Deputy Director and Chief Academic and Student Services Officer, who is already working with UW and community college academic leaders to strengthen transfer pathways for students. Ballard reported that Gillette College achieved Higher

Learning Commission candidacy status and is evaluating an accelerated path to full accreditation. Ballard noted that the WCCCs discussions with the State Legislature continue to focus on expanding dual enrollment, strengthening career and technical education pathways, and exploring teacher apprenticeship models, while a proposed property tax ballot initiative poses significant financial risks to Wyoming's community colleges and the state's workforce pipeline. Ballard encouraged university leadership to partner in educating policymakers and the public about the potential long-term impacts of reduced funding on higher education and economic development and recommended increased coordination between the UW Board of Trustees and the Commission to promote the value of post-secondary education, align strategies for future Bachelor of Applied Science programs, and ensure a coordinated approach to higher education policy and workforce development across the state. Trustee David Fall suggested a joint session of the university Board of Trustees and the Wyoming Community College Commission.

Liaison to Other Boards *[Written reports were provided to the Board in advance.]*

1. Internship Working Group – Mike Greear

Interim Provost Anne Alexander reported that leadership, in consultation with ASUW, has developed an implementation plan for the Director of Internships and Experiential Learning and intends to begin the search as soon as possible. The position will coordinate efforts among the Office of Strategic Partnerships and the colleges, including internship coordinators and staff engaged in employer outreach and placement. A draft 18-month implementation plan establishes quarterly milestones, key performance indicators, and deliverables. Primary goals include increasing participation in paid internships from approximately 450 to 750 students, expanding internship participation by 300 students annually, establishing employer networks across all regions of Wyoming, and achieving strong employer and student satisfaction and learning outcomes. Trustee Mike Greear stated he would connect with the group prior to the September Board meeting in preparation for further update.

2. UW Alumni Association Board – Laura Schmid-Pizzato
3. Foundation Board – Brad Bonner & David Fall
4. Haub School of Environment & Natural Resources – Michelle Sullivan
5. Energy Resources Council – Paul Ulrich
6. Cowboy Joe – John McKinley

Public Comment *[Scheduled for Wednesday, July 15, 2026]*

No public comment was received during the July 2026, UW Board of Trustees meeting.

Information Only Items

1. Annual Report: Faculty Athletic Representative, Chamberlain
2. Contracts and Procurement Report (per UW Regulation 7-2)
3. Capital Construction Report
4. UW Foundation Monthly Giving Report

OTHER ACTION TAKEN AT MEETING

President and Executive Vice President Leadership Structure and Organization
07-15-2026 @ 3:05 p.m.

Trustee Kermit Brown moved the Board approve the President and Executive Vice President Leadership Structure and Organization as presented in the July 2026 Board Report. Trustee Carol Linton seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustees Brad LaCroix, and Paul Ulrich were absent from the vote.

Updated 2027-2028 UW Board of Trustees Meeting Schedules
07-16-2026 @ 3:06 p.m.
Trustee Carol Linton moved the Board approve the updated 2027 and 2028 UW Board of Trustees meeting schedules as presented in the July 2026 Board Report. Trustee Tom Walters seconded the motion. The motion carried. Trustees Brad LaCroix, and Paul Ulrich were absent from the vote.

New Business

Selection of 2027 Out of Town Meeting Location – Sullivan
Trustee Michelle Sullivan discussed the selection of the out-of-town meeting location directing the Board's attention to the list of meeting locations 2010-2025. Trustee Laura Schmid-Pizzato expressed a strong interest in hosting the meeting in Rock Springs. Trustee John McKinley recommended continuing the joint meeting with legislators and consolidating the social event with legislators with the annual Evening with UW Trustees. Trustee Kermit Brown stated the out-of-town meeting is an opportunity for the university to meet the citizens of the state "more than half-way." The Board selected Rock Springs as its 2027 July meeting location.

Review of *OnBoard* Software Trial – Greear, Schmid-Pizzato
Trustees Mike Greear and Laura Schmid-Pizzato provided recommendations to adopt OnBoard. Executive Director and Deputy Secretary RoseMarie London discussed next steps.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: <u>City of Evanston: Historic Preservation and Economic Development</u> – Ben Bell, Uinta County Economic Development Commission, led a discussion of county and city related economic development efforts.

Date of next meeting: August 19, 2026, Laramie, Wyoming

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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