

Board of Trustees
Committee on Academic and Student Affairs
March 20, 2024
3:30 - 5:00 PM

Committee Report

UW Trustees: Michelle Sullivan (Chair), Macey Moore, Laura Schmidt-Pizzato, Brad Bonner, Jim Mathis

1. Consideration and Action: Low-Producing Programs – UW Regulation 2-12 Recommendations

1. Information/Discussion: Per the Standard Administrative Policy and Procedure: Academic Program Review, the Provost's Office must annually review degree production for all academic programs. Per UW Regulation 2-13, the Provost and President will make final recommendations for reorganization, consolidation, reduction, or discontinuance to Board of Trustees.

In January 2023, Provost Carman requested a review by colleges and schools of programs that were identified as low-producing. Reports from the colleges and schools on these programs were due July 31, 2023. They included narratives that address the low-completion rate of each program and proposals to either continue, or recommend for reorganization, consolidation, reduction, or discontinuance pursuant to UW Regulation 2-13. In September and November 2023, Provost Carman provided the list of identified programs and the data to the Board of Trustees.

Following the November meeting, Provost Carman initiated the 2-13 process with the programs recommended for discontinuance below:

- B.S. in Zoology & Physiology
- B.A. in French
- B.A. in German
- B.A. in Psychology
- B.A. in Geology & Earth Sciences
- B.A. in Mathematics
- B.A. in Statistics
- M.A. in Philosophy
- M.A. in Sociology
- Ph.D. in Educational Administration
- Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration
- M.S. in Instructional Technology
- Ph.D. in Instructional Technology
- Ed.D. in Adult & Post-Secondary Education
- Ph.D. in Education-Literacy Education
- Ph.D. in Education-Mathematics Education
- Ph.D. in Education-Science Education

President Seidel approved the recommendation, and the Faculty Senate was notified on November 28, 2024. The Faculty Senate reviewed the proposals and voted to approve the recommendations at their March 4, 2024, meeting. Provost Carman solicited and received feedback from Department Heads, as well as faculty and staff in the departments of those programs. Provost Carman will review faculty and staff feedback and have an open discussion on Tuesday, March 19th. Provost Carman will provide final recommendations to President Seidel, who will then provide the recommendations to the Board of Trustees at the March meeting. Enrollment to all the programs identified was suspended in fall of 2023 or prior (as noted in the teach-out plans). Teach-out plans and primary contacts are provided in the supplemental materials. Upon approval, the process for discontinuance in accordance to university regulation will begin in April, 2024. There is no recommended termination of any tenured faculty, fixed-term academic personnel, or staff in the proposed programs.

2. Action: Motion approved.

Next Steps: Trustee Sullivan to propose motion with full board:

"I move to approve the President and Provost's recommendations for the UW Regulation 2-13 programs reviewed for reorganization, consolidation, reduction, or discontinuance as presented in the materials."

2. Consideration and Action – UW Regulation 2-13 Biodiversity Institute move to Haub School

1. Information/Discussion: Under University Regulation 2-13, the Provost and Executive Vice President, in consultation with Vice President of Research and Economic Development, Director, Biodiversity Institute (BI), and Dean, Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources (Haub School), propose that the Biodiversity Institute be moved to the Haub School in the UW organizational structure and budget. The University of Wyoming's Biodiversity Institute was established in 2012 when the building for Berry Biodiversity Conservation Center was constructed. At that time, BI was part of the Haub School. In 2018, a proposal was developed in to transfer BI responsibility to the Research and Economic Development Division when the original funded ended. The recommendations presented to the UW Board of Trustees in the materials include: "(1) leveraging BI practices to benefit STEM education and outreach across UW and partnering with the Science Initiative; (2) maintaining administrative support for the Program in Ecology; (3) continuing support of the Museum of Vertebrates and its curation; and (4) developing a capacity to create "Broader Impacts" plans for research proposals."

2. Action: Motion passed.

3. Next Steps: Trustee Sullivan to propose motion with full board:

"I move to approve the UW Biodiversity Institute be moved to the Haub School in the UW organizational structure and budget."

3. Consideration and Action – Request for Authorization: Bachelor of Science in Applied Software Development

1. Information/Discussion: The Applied Software Development degree program combines practical experience and knowledge of modern programming languages, tools, and processes used in the rapidly evolving field of Software Development. The courses cover a wide range of topics that are sought after by employers for web, mobile and other front-end application development including the use of modern programming languages, development environments, databases, testing and collaboration pipelines, operational infrastructure, and security practices. The program incorporates, throughout the curriculum, opportunities for students to engage in real-world software development by working in teams to develop, implement, present, and refine solutions for problems proposed by industry and other clients.

2. Action: Motion passed.

3. Next Steps: Trustee Sullivan to propose motion with full board:

"I move to approve the Request for Authorization for the Bachelor of Science Applied Software Development."

4. Information and Discussion – Native American Faculty and Student Discussion

1. Information/Discussion: Since July 2023, the AA/SA committee has allocated time during committee meetings to address and dialogue about matters related to the improvement of recruitment and retention of tribal students. Family & Consumer Sciences Department Head and Associate Professor Jill Keith provided an overview of her research on the Wind River Reservation, summarized other UW research being conducted in collaboration with Wind River Reservation tribes, and discussed additional opportunities for research that is relevant to Native communities in Wyoming. Dr. Keith was joined by students Johnna Arthur, Masters in Public Administration graduate student, Omer Faruq, MS Food Science and Human Nutrition graduate student, and Chelsea-Victoria Turner, Plant Production and Protection undergraduate student.

Dr. Keith also provided an overview of current research conducted in collaboration with Wind River Reservations tribes including list of other faculty members who are conducting research that relates to Native communities in Wyoming and discussed work of HPAIRI (highlighting EPSCoR/WyACT).

2. Action:
3. Next Steps:

5. Information and Discussion – Discussion with School of Energy Resources

1. Information/Discussion: Executive Director Holly Krutka led an informative discussion on the academic mission and offerings of the School of Energy Resources. SER has one degree program (Energy Resource Management And Development – Bachelor Of Science (BS)) with two concentrations, one in Professional Land Management, and one in Energy & Environmental Systems. SER also has two certificates and a minor they offer, but greatly aims to provide broad multi-disciplinary offerings for students of all backgrounds. The SER mission is dedicated to energy driven economic development for the state of WY.

2. Action:
3. Next Steps:

6. Information and Discussion – Annual Student Success Data Metrics

1. Information/Discussion: Administration and the committee examined a detailed analysis of retention data for both First-Time and Full-Time students, alongside a comprehensive overview of demographic trends. Additionally, Transfer Students and their unique demographic characteristics was reviewed. The committee also heard a high-level review of Saddle-Up.

2. Action:
3. Next Steps:

Wind River Reservation-UW research collaborations: a summary for the UW BoT Academic & Student Affairs Committee
 March 20, 2024

Prepared by Jill Keith (Associate Professor, FCS/Human Nutrition & Food, jkeith5@uwyo.edu), with Tarissa Spoonhunter (Director, HPAIRI, Assistant Professor, Haub School and Native American and Indigenous Studies, tarissa.spoonhunter@uwyo.edu), and Nichole Lumadue (Project Coordinator, HPAIRI, nlumadue@uwyo.edu)



Note about HPAIRI (<https://www.uwyo.edu/hpairi/index.html>): HPAIRI work - 1) building and sustaining relationships with tribal partners through in-person visits and listening sessions, emails, and phone calls, 2) ensuring equity and transparency in research, education, and publications, 3) supporting data sovereignty and tribal agency, 4) including community engagement through listening sessions, 5) connecting undergraduate and graduate students with ongoing projects to support tribal priorities

Grant Funded Project [Title]*	Faculty/Departments involved
NSF EPSCoR Track I [WyACT WY Anticipating Climate Change] Lead institution: UW	Brent Ewers (Botany) Tarissa Spoonhunter (HPAIRI, Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources) Other faculty (50) representing departments across all colleges at UW
NSF INCLUDES [CIRCLES Alliance: cultivating indigenous research communities for leadership in education and STEM] Lead institution: University of Montana	Tarissa Spoonhunter (HPAIRI, Haub School)
NSF: Engine Type 2 [Scaling the Regional Technology-driven, Innovation Ecosystems in Climate Solutions and Community Resilience in CO-WY] Lead institution: CU Boulder	Tarissa Spoonhunter (HPAIRI, Haub School) Other faculty and graduate students representing departments across campus
USDA/NIFA New Beginning for Tribal Students Program [Growing Season: Native student pathways to food system and sovereignty studies] Lead institution: UW	Jill Keith (Family & Consumer Sciences, Human Nutrition & Food) Tarissa Spoonhunter (HPAIRI, Haub School) Reinette Curry (Native American Education, Research, & Cultural Center) CWC faculty/staff – Eric Bennett, Rory Tendore
NSF: REU Site [Research Experience for Undergraduates in Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEAfREU)] Lead institution: UW	Liping Wang (Civil & Architectural Engineering) Jill Keith (Family & Consumer Sciences, Human Nutrition & Food) Tarissa Spoonhunter (HPAIRI, Haub School) Other faculty representing Plant Sciences, Transportation Engineering, Construction Management, Agriculture & Applied Economics, Accounting, Center for Blockchain and Digital Innovation, Botany, School of Computing, Electrical and Computer Engineering, College of Education

<p>DOE: Project WyoTCH: Developing a road map for a sustainable Carbon Hub Lead institution: UW</p>	<p>Tarissa Spoonhunter (HPAIRI, Haub School) Other faculty and graduate students representing departments across campus</p>
<p>Q-CORE [Advancing Quantum and Supporting Technologies in the Northern Intermountain States] Lead institution: Montana State University</p>	<p>Tarissa Spoonhunter (HPAIRI, Haub School)</p>
<p>WORTH [Wyoming Outdoor Recreation, Tourism, and Hospitality Initiative] Lead institution: UW</p>	<p>Christine Porter (Kinesiology & Health, Endowed Chair in Public Health) Tarissa Spoonhunter (HPAIRI, Haub School) Other faculty and graduate students (15) representing the School of Computing, College of Business, Haub School, Engineering, and Zoology/Physiology</p>
<p>Wyoming INBRE NIH program, USDA/NIFA Hatch [Reclaiming Indigenous food and health] Lead institution: UW</p>	<p>Jill Keith (Family & Consumer Sciences) JJ Chen (Plant Sciences) Randa Jabbour (Plant Sciences) Cody Gifford (Animal Science)</p>
<p>Cardiff Seed Grant [Landscape Tourism and Language Policy] Lead institution: UW</p>	<p>Tarissa Spoonhunter (HPAIRI, Haub School) Dan McCoy (Haub School)</p>

**Not a complete list. Other projects may involve research on the Wind River reservation but have not been communicated to HPAIRI.*