

# UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

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## 2026 Budget Footnote Working Group

### Guiding Principles

**Status:** Adopted at the June 15, 2026 meeting

**Co-Chairs:** Trustee Kermit Brown; Trustee John McKinley

### Goal: Protecting Mission While Ensuring Long-Term Sustainability

The goal of this group is not simply to reduce expenditures, but to strengthen the university's long-term financial health while preserving academic excellence, student opportunity, and institutional mission.

### Guiding Principles

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#### 1. Protect the Core Academic Mission

Prioritize teaching, student learning, research, and public service in all decisions. Budget reductions should minimize harm to the university's central educational mission and carefully consider tradeoffs among mission priorities.

#### 2. Put Students First

Consider the impact of reductions on:

- Student success
- Retention and graduation
- Accessibility and affordability
- Student support services
- Enrollment

Avoid decisions that disproportionately reduce educational quality and/or student opportunity.

#### 3. Use Data, Evidence, and Transparency

Recommendations should be grounded in:

- System of record financial data
- Enrollment trends
- Program demand
- Operational efficiency metrics and return on investment analysis
- Awareness of position trends in faculty, staff, research support, and administrative positions

Clearly communicate assumptions, methodologies, and tradeoffs. Recommendations should consider tradeoffs across mission priorities.

#### 4. Focus on Long-Term Sustainability

Avoid short-term cuts that are not sustainable and create larger future costs.

Consider:

- Enrollment implications
- Faculty/staff retention

- Deferred maintenance
- Institutional reputation
- Strategic competitiveness

## **5. Preserve Institutional Strengths**

Protect programs and facilities that:

- Advance the university's strategic priorities
- Differentiate the institution
- Serve high student demand
- Generate external funding or community impact