

University of Wyoming

❖ *Mission and philosophy*

As the only university established by the state, the University of Wyoming (UW) has enjoyed a long, unique and beneficial relationship with the residents of Wyoming. To continue this relationship and to serve the educational, cultural and economic needs of the state and nation, the mission of the university is to provide teaching, scholarship and outreach programs that compare favorably with programs at the leading land-grant research universities in the nation. In addition, to promoting development of the whole person, the university will provide a diverse array of superior co-curricular activities, including cultural, international, athletic and student-life programs.

The university will attract capable students who will provide future leadership for the state and nation, and it will be particularly attentive to the needs of Wyoming students, members of under-represented groups and the gifted. The university is dedicated to promoting an environment of excellence and achievement that encourages the full personal development of those it serves and of those who serve the university. To meet this goal, the university will preserve, interpret, create and transmit knowledge in an atmosphere of free inquiry and expression. This environment, reflecting America's rich multicultural character at its best, is intended to stimulate growth of mind and body, inspire the spirit and promote fulfilling careers and life-long contributions to the state and nation. To help assure programmatic excellence, the university will attract, develop and retain outstanding faculty and staff; provide superior library, laboratory and computer facilities; and engage in ongoing planning to balance resources and enrollments.

The specific elements of the university's mission include the following:

■ **Excellent baccalaureate instruction in a broad array of programs:** Undergraduate education will be based on successful completion of college preparatory work in high school and coordination with both secondary education and the community colleges. Each student must master the fundamental concepts and applications of at least one major, and all majors will be based on the solid foundation of a general studies program. University graduates will understand the rich human heritage; comprehend differing methods used by the arts, humanities and sciences in creating that heritage; develop the ability to make ethical and critical judgments and have facility in using language and other forms of symbolic expression.

■ **Graduate programs of recognized excellence in disciplinary and inter-disciplinary fields:** Particular emphasis will be placed on faculty strength in teaching, research and creative activity; critical mass of faculty

General information

Philip L. Dubois, President

Agency contact

Donna Bagby, Special Assistant to the President
307/766-4121

University of Wyoming

P.O. Box 3434

Laramie, WY 82071-3434

dbagby@uwyo.edu

Other locations

Archer, Casper, Cheyenne, Cody, Gillette, Jackson, Lander, Pavillion, Powell, Riverton, Rock Springs, Sheridan, Torrington, Wind River Reservation, Elk Mountain, Jelm Mountain, Red Buttes, Grand Teton National Park, offices in all 23 counties

Year established

1886

Statutory references

Wyoming Constitution (1890) Article 7, Section 15; W.S. 21-16; W.S. 21-17; W.S. 28-1-115 (f)

Authorized personnel

2,630 full-time, 3,071 part-time

Organizational structure

Board of Trustees, President's Office, Academic Affairs, Administration and Finance, Information Technology, Institutional Advancement, Research, Student Affairs.

Clients served

Enrolled undergraduate, graduate and non-degree students, continuing education participants, high school students, alumni, business assistance clients, community assistance clients, clients requesting information, agricultural assistance clients, research clients, health care patients, cultural programs patrons, athletics fans, other Wyoming residents

Budget information

General fund	
Section I	\$91,697,164
Federal funds	
Section I	2,457,809
Section II	32,698,552
Other	
Section I	45,603,867
Section II	59,803,332
Total	\$232,260,724

and students; student quality; compatibility with other established university programs and contributions to the state's and nation's cultural, scientific, social and economic needs.

■ **Outstanding basic and applied research and creative activity:** Research and creative activity cannot be separated from teaching.

Research and creative activity promote instructional excellence by developing new knowledge and techniques, allowing new information and perspectives to be shared swiftly in the classroom and introducing students to emerging fields.

Moreover, excellent research and creative activity result in regional and national recognition that enhances the value of a University of Wyoming degree. To advance outstanding instruction, contribute new knowledge and place the university among the nation's leading land-grant research institutions, the university will identify and promote disciplinary and interdisciplinary emphasis areas in research and creative activity.

■ **Superior outreach and extension activities:**

The university will provide coordinated service to the people of Wyoming through credit and non-credit instruction, life-long learning and professional and cultural programming. As part of outreach, the university will disseminate widely the results of its basic and applied research and, when appropriate, direct research to meet economic, social and cultural challenges faced by the state and nation.

❖ *Results of outcomes*

Continuation of the University of Wyoming planning effort was the major focus of activity during fiscal year 2000 (FY00). The *UW Academic Plan, 1999-2004*, has the twin goals of increasing the value of the diplomas earned at the University of Wyoming and increasing the value of UW to the state; the plan was accepted by the UW Board of Trustees in July, 1999. Although implementation of all 168 action items will take several years, nearly half were addressed in FY00. High priority items included major studies of the organization of life sciences and natural resource programs and a re-examination of the structure of tuition. Some of the decisions had simple, obvious solutions, while others required in-depth discussion and preparation of draft documents and policy statements.

Goal 1

Excellence in teaching and advising is essential. All academic programs are evaluated on an established 10-year schedule. In FY00, accreditation was maintained for 100 percent (cumulative) of the university's 27 creditable university, college and department programs. The university completed its 10-year reaccreditation self study, and the North Central Association (NCA) of Colleges and Schools site visit occurred in FY00. Final NCA Commission accreditation action will be forthcoming in FY01, but the site visit team's

report recommendation was for a full 10-year reaccreditation, the most favorable outcome. A faculty committee reviewed the general education program (University Studies); its recommendations will be discussed during the upcoming year. In addition to numerous Year 2000 replacements, Information Technology installed new student lab servers and workstations and upgraded data networks.

UW students surpassed national licensure/certification examination pass rates in approximately 75 percent of the 12 exams (some scores and national norms not yet available). In the ACT Student Opinion Survey conducted in March, 2000, 73 percent of UW students were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with academics (advisor information and availability, class size, classrooms, course variety, course content in major, faculty attitude and availability, instruction in major, labs, preparation for the future, study areas, tests/grades and tutoring), with continued improvement in 11 of the 14 categories. Seventy-six percent (31) of the 41 academic units began implementation of their individual outcomes assessment plans for determining student learning. Student satisfaction with computer services was 75 percent.

Student recruitment and retention, timely graduation and access to academic programs is of primary importance to the institution and the state. During FY00, the director of admissions position was redefined as an associate vice president with expanded responsibility to oversee all aspects of enrollment management. An Enrollment Management Council was established to implement activities such as enhancement of the university Web site, a coordinated communications program for prospective students, student financial aid packages, academic learning communities and mentoring programs.

Overall enrollments were 11,126, standardized at the end of the fall semester. There were 2,219 new students (beginning of the fall semester) and 1,650 outreach students (end of the fall semester). The FY99 freshman-to-sophomore retention data showed continued improvement (76 percent). Six-year graduation rates for first-time, full-time freshmen increased to 50 percent in FY99. Retention and graduation data for FY00 will not be available until spring 2001. The time-to-degree for graduate and professional students was at the national average in law (three years), but UW doctoral students took longer to complete their degrees than their counterparts at other public universities (8.1 years, compared to a national average of 7.3 years).

Goal 2

Research, scholarship and creative activity are other activities emphasized in the Morrill Act for land-grant universities. No other Wyoming institution of higher education can provide the level of research that UW faculty members undertake to support the state. UW maintained its Carnegie Research II classification and set a new record in external funding (\$43 million). The average number of refereed

publications, juried shows and other forms of peer-reviewed scholarship produced by tenure-track faculty was an estimated 2.2 per FTE (full-time employee). More than 2,100 undergraduate students worked with faculty on one-on-one independent study and research projects. To enhance the research mission, UW was connected to the high-speed Internet2 network, which dramatically strengthens research collaboration and delivery of information. A new electronic integrated library information management system was purchased in a consortium with the Colorado School of Mines. Eighty-one percent of students surveyed (ACT Student Opinion Survey, March 2000) said they were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the libraries.

Goal 3

The social and cultural environment on campus supports students' success in the classroom. A Greek Life Task Force reviewed the mission and goals of the fraternities and sororities at UW to maximize their effectiveness and provide opportunities for leadership. A policy was developed regarding notification of parents, which allows the dean of students to inform parents of alcohol and drug misuse/abuse if a student under the age of 21 appears to be a danger to themselves or other members of the university community. The ASUW Student Senate developed a proposal for a community transportation system ("Safe Ride") for UW students. On the ACT Student Opinion Survey conducted in the spring, the proportion of students who said they were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the UW social/cultural environment (ASUW, athletics facilities, campus media, cultural programs, housing programming, recreational programs, social events, student involvement and the student union), was 63 percent; four areas showed improvement.

Support services are also crucial to a student's academic experience. During FY00, the academic planning effort expanded to other campus support units. Administration and Finance, Information Technology, Institutional Advancement, Intercollegiate Athletics, the Legal Office, the Libraries, Public Relations, Research and Student Affairs developed drafts of five-year strategic plans. Phase II of a Web-based program ("Hole in the Wall") was implemented to allow students to use the Internet to register for classes and search for courses that meet specific criteria. Sixty-seven percent of the students surveyed (ACT Student Opinion Survey) reported that they were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with university support services (admissions, career planning, financial aid, job placement, orientation, personal counseling, registration, student health); improvement was seen in six of the eight categories.

Satisfaction with administrative services (billing, buildings and grounds, bookstore, day care, food services, health insurance, university and community housing availability, parking, safety and staff attitude) was 49 percent, with improvement in six of the categories. Parking availability remains a continuing

problem. In FY99, UW used 46 percent of its budget for instruction and academic support, higher than the national average for public doctoral universities of 45 percent. Data for FY00 will not be available until spring 2001. Information Technology implemented a new telemanagement billing and work-order system and developed processes to improve data, billing and reconciliation integrity. Planning for the renovation of the Washakie Center was initiated, and the Wyoming Union renovations are underway. Within budgetary constraints, the university continues to address ADA and deferred maintenance needs. According to calculations from Administration and Finance, the university's deferred maintenance rating dropped from the "fair" range (.098) into the "poor" range (.104).

In FY00, UW continued to reach high levels for total private gifts (an estimated \$14 million in gifts and pledges). The number of individual donors to UW (individuals, corporations and foundations) contributing to the university was a new record high (more than 23,000). Extensive work was completed this past year to prepare UW for the launching of a major fund-raising campaign. Former U.S. Senator Alan K. Simpson will chair the five-year campaign (FY01-FY05).

The new Mountain West Conference (MWC) completed a very successful inaugural year. UW President Philip Dubois served as president of the conference. Intercollegiate Athletics undertook its 10-year certification self study. Following the NCAA site visit last winter, a certification decision will be forthcoming in fall 2000. The student-athletes for FY99 (data for FY00 is not available until spring 2001) graduated above the average for other UW students: 59 percent for student-athletes, 50 percent overall.

Goal 4

Public service is the third important role for every land-grant university. In FY00, UW continued its strong commitment to support Wyoming's economic development, public policy and quality of life. As the state tries to solve its problems, faculty expertise is one of Wyoming's valuable resources. The number of contracts awarded to UW faculty and staff that support specific state needs was 123 in 1999-00. The faculty continued to meet with their counterparts in Wyoming schools and community colleges to support students' transitions to the university and collaborated with various state agencies on projects that impact the state. The 4-H youth program, directed by the Cooperative Extension Service, continued a growth trend.

To serve the needs of Wyoming residents, UW continues to organize conferences, workshops, non-credit continuing education and cultural and information programs. In FY00, 97 percent of the conference participants who responding to the assessment surveys said they would "recommend the [Outreach School] program to others." Wyoming public radio continued to expand to serve more of the state, with new stations added in Casper, Pinedale and Douglas.

In terms of Wyoming's economic development, the Wyoming Business Assistance Center (BAC), Mid-America Manufacturing and Technology Center (MAMTC), Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIR), Wyoming Research Products Center (RPC) and the Cooperative Extension Centers (CEC) have continued to assist Wyoming businesses. On different surveys, business clients assisted by SBDC and MAMTC reported satisfaction with the services received at 93 percent (SBDC) and 94 percent (MAMTC). The RPC has spun out or established agreements with high-tech companies, filed patent disclosures and applications, incubated companies in-house and helped Wyoming entrepreneurs market their products. Through grants, the SBIR has provided awards to Wyoming technology-related businesses and entrepreneurs. Along with the Wyoming Business Council, the university has been instrumental in planning the Venture Capital Forum.

❖ *Strategic plan changes*

No changes were made to the UW 1999 Strategic Plan.

The plan is on the University of Wyoming Web site at <http://www.uwyo.edu/OM/unirel/htm/stratpla/1999.htm>. It will be updated and resubmitted in September 2001.

University of Wyoming organization chart

