

SENATE FILE NO. SF0104

Higher education-research funding.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Scott, Biteman and Rothfuss and
Representative(s) Neiman

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to higher education; providing funding for
2 specified research projects at the University of Wyoming;
3 allocating revenue generated by research as specified;
4 specifying conditions and permitted uses for appropriated
5 funds; authorizing fundraising to support research
6 projects; requiring nonstate matching funds as specified;
7 creating an account; requiring reports; providing
8 appropriations; and providing for an effective date.

9

10 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

11

12 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-16-2001 is created to read:

13

14

ARTICLE 20

15

FACULTY RESEARCH PROJECTS

1

2 **21-16-2001. Faculty research projects; incentives.**

3

4 (a) The university faculty research project account
5 is created. All investment earnings from funds in the
6 account shall be credited to the account. Notwithstanding
7 9-2-1008, 9-2-1012(e) or 9-4-207, funds within the account
8 shall not lapse or revert. Funds within the account are
9 continuously appropriated to the university and shall
10 remain available for distribution as provided by this
11 section.

12

13 (b) The funds within the account created by
14 subsection (a) of this section shall be used to incentivize
15 and fund faculty research projects at the University of
16 Wyoming by providing funds for:

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18 (i) The acquisition of enhanced research
19 capabilities, additional research-related equipment or
20 both;

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22 (ii) Research projects that interest particular
23 donors who have provided matching funds as provided by

1 subsection (c) of this section and that coincide with the
2 mission of the university;

3

4 (iii) Research projects requested by Wyoming
5 businesses that fit the university's current research
6 strengths, regardless of whether the businesses provide
7 matching funds for the research;

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9 (iv) Other research projects specified by the
10 university;

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12 (v) Research stipends for graduate students
13 assisting with research projects funded, in whole or in
14 part, with the funds appropriated from the university
15 faculty research project account, where a graduate student
16 shall receive a research stipend of not more than one
17 thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) per month in
18 addition to the graduate student's regular income. Funds
19 expended under this paragraph shall not require matching
20 funds.

21

22 (c) Except as provided by paragraph (b)(v) of this
23 section, funds appropriated from the account shall only be

1 expended by the university as matching funds for research
2 projects under paragraphs (b)(i) through (iv) of this
3 section upon receipt of matching nonstate funds at the rate
4 of one dollar (\$1.00) of appropriated funds for not less
5 than one dollar (\$1.00) of matching nonstate funds from any
6 person.

7

8 (d) Unless the University of Wyoming negotiates an
9 explicit profit distribution model for a research project
10 with the faculty researcher or the university negotiates to
11 retain no percentage or a different percentage of ownership
12 of any innovation or patent right, the profits and
13 ownership from research conducted at the University of
14 Wyoming, in whole or in part, with funds appropriated from
15 the university faculty research project account, shall be
16 distributed as follows:

17

18 (i) Fifteen percent (15%) to the University of
19 Wyoming;

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21 (ii) Eight-five percent (85%) to the faculty
22 researcher.

23

1 (e) For purposes of this section, "person" includes
2 an individual, partnership, corporation, joint stock
3 company or any other association or entity, excluding all
4 public entities.

5
6 (f) The University of Wyoming shall report to the
7 joint education interim committee, joint minerals, business
8 and economic development interim committee and the joint
9 appropriations committee not later than October 1, 2027 and
10 not less than annually thereafter on the number of research
11 projects funded in whole or in part by this section, the
12 subjects of the funded research and the amount of money
13 expended on each funded project. The University of Wyoming
14 shall also report on the number of graduate students who
15 received research stipends under paragraph (b)(v) of this
16 section and the amount of money expended on those stipends.

17

18 **Section 2.**

19

20 (a) There is appropriated fifty million dollars
21 (\$50,000,000.00) from the general fund to the university
22 faculty research project account created by this act. This
23 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any

1 other purpose. This appropriation shall not lapse or
2 revert, notwithstanding W.S. 9-2-1008, 9-2-1012(e) and
3 9-4-207. It is the intent of the legislature that this
4 appropriation not be included in the standard budget for
5 the University of Wyoming for the immediately succeeding
6 fiscal biennium, provided that the University of Wyoming
7 may include this appropriation as an exception request for
8 the immediately succeeding fiscal biennium.

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10 (b) There is appropriated one million two hundred
11 thousand dollars (\$1,200,000.00) from the general fund to
12 the University of Wyoming for purposes of providing
13 research stipends for graduate students in accordance with
14 W.S. 21-16-2001(b)(v), as created by section 1 of this act.
15 This appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for
16 any other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds
17 remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided
18 by law on June 30, 2028. It is the intent of the
19 legislature that this appropriation be included in the
20 standard budget of the University of Wyoming for the
21 immediately succeeding fiscal biennium.

22

1 (c) The appropriations in this section shall not be
2 deemed as part of the University of Wyoming's state aid
3 program as appropriated in the biennial budget bill. Funds
4 within the state aid program appropriated to the university
5 shall not be used to match funds appropriated in this
6 section but may be used for fundraising purposes to raise
7 the necessary matching funds.

8

9 **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon
10 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
11 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
12 Constitution.

13

14

(END)