

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 an
8 appropriation; 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) Research projects where the acquisition of
19 enhanced research capabilities, including but not limited
20 to search engine and research database access, and
21 additional research-related equipment is necessary;

22

1 (ii) Research projects that interest particular
2 donors who have provided matching funds as provided by
3 subsection (c) of this section and that coincide with the
4 mission of the university;

5

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

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11 (iv) Other miscellaneous research projects
12 specified by the university;

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

23

1 (c) Except as provided by paragraph (b)(v) of this
2 section, funds appropriated from the account shall only be
3 expended by the university as matching funds for research
4 projects under paragraphs (b)(i) through (iv) of this
5 section upon receipt of matching nonstate funds at the rate
6 of one dollar (\$1.00) of appropriated funds for not less
7 than one dollar (\$1.00) of matching nonstate funds from any
8 person.

9

10 (d) Unless the University of Wyoming negotiates an
11 explicit profit distribution model for a research project
12 with the faculty researcher or the university negotiates to
13 retain a percentage of ownership of any innovation or
14 patent right, the profits from research conducted at the
15 University of Wyoming, in whole or in part, with funds
16 appropriated from the university faculty research project
17 account, shall be distributed as follows:

18

19 (i) Fifty percent (50%) to the University of
20 Wyoming;

21

22 (ii) Fifty percent (50%) to the faculty
23 researcher.

1

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

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

18

19 **Section 2.**

20

21 (a) There is appropriated fifty-one million two
22 hundred thousand dollars (\$51,200,000.00) from the general

1 fund to the university faculty research project account
2 created by this act.

3

4 (b) This appropriation shall not be transferred or
5 expended for any other purpose. This appropriation shall
6 not lapse or revert, notwithstanding W.S. 9-2-1008,
7 9-2-1012(e) and 9-4-207. It is the intent of the
8 legislature that this appropriation be included in the
9 standard budget for the University of Wyoming for the
10 immediately succeeding fiscal biennium.

11

12 (c) The appropriation in subsection (a) of this
13 section shall not be deemed as part of the University of
14 Wyoming's state aid program as appropriated in the biennial
15 budget bill. Funds within the state aid program
16 appropriated to the university shall not be used to match
17 funds appropriated in subsection (a) of this section but
18 may be used for fundraising purposes to raise the necessary
19 matching funds.

20

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

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6

(END)