School of energy resources.

Sponsored by: Joint Minerals, Business and Economic Development Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the University of Wyoming; creating the school of energy resources; providing for the University of Wyoming energy resources council; requiring reports; providing an appropriation; and providing for an effective date.

6

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

Section 1. W.S. 21-17-116 is created to read:

21-17-116. School of energy resources; creation authorized; University of Wyoming energy resources council established; reports.
(a) Subject to legislative appropriation, the University of Wyoming shall operate the school of energy resources.

(b) The school of energy resources shall have the following objectives:

(i) To provide nationally competitive undergraduate and graduate instruction in energy related disciplines, particularly those of importance to develop Wyoming's energy resources;

(ii) To advance the state-of-the-art in Wyoming energy related science, technology and economics research; and

(iii) To support scientific and engineering outreach through dissemination of information to Wyoming's energy industries, companies, community colleges and governmental agencies.

(c) The school of energy resources shall:
(i) Establish relationships with Wyoming energy companies and coordinate with other energy industry organizations to sustain and optimize the development of Wyoming's energy portfolio. For the purposes of this section, Wyoming's energy portfolio includes both nonrenewable and renewable resources;

(ii) Establish relationships with the Wyoming community colleges creating local programs to enrich students' education in the Wyoming energy industry operations;

(iii) Maintain flexibility in its focus and structure to be capable of responding to the changing needs of Wyoming's energy industries with regard to instruction, research and outreach.

(d) The university's board of trustees shall establish the structure and policies for operation of the school of energy resources consistent with this section, and shall engage as many academic departments and colleges as possible in support of the school.
1. (e) The University of Wyoming energy resources council is created and shall provide direction to the school of energy resources regarding identifying and prioritizing issues which should be targeted for research and outreach. The University of Wyoming energy resources council shall consist of eleven (11) members, including the president of the university and the director of the Ruckleshaus institute of environment and natural resources, both of whom are ex officio. The remaining nine (9) members shall be appointed for terms of three (3) years, except for the initial appointments, three (3) members shall be appointed for one (1) year and three (3) members shall be appointed for two (2) years. Of these nine (9) members, three (3) shall be appointed by the board of trustees of the University of Wyoming, three (3) shall be appointed by the governor and three (3) shall be appointed jointly by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives. The president and the speaker shall make their appointments from among nominations submitted by Wyoming energy industries. These nine (9) appointments shall represent to the greatest extent practicable the diverse components of Wyoming's energy industries, and be appointed with the advice and consent of the senate, in accordance with W.S. 28-12-101
through 28-12-103. The board of trustees shall appoint the
chairman and vice chairman for the University of Wyoming
energy resources council with either the chairman, the vice
chairman or both being from among the appointments made by
the president and the speaker.

(f) The university shall report annually, not later
than October 1, to the joint minerals, business and
economic development interim committee, the joint
appropriations interim committee and the joint education
interim committee regarding all revenues to and
expenditures by the school of energy resources during the
preceding fiscal year, accomplishments of the school of
energy resources and its benefits to Wyoming's energy
economy.

Section 2. There is appropriated to the University of
Wyoming from the general fund twelve million seventy-one
thousand nine hundred ninety-seven dollars ($12,071,997.00)
to establish the school of energy resources created under
this act. Expenditures from this appropriation during the
2007-2008 biennium shall as near as practicable be
consistent with the first two (2) years of the total budget
needed to implement the school's operations over a three
(3) year period, as contained in the university's October 1, 2005, report to the joint minerals, business and economic development interim committee as required under 2005 Wyoming session laws, chapter 191, section 337. This appropriation shall be included within the university's block grant but shall be accounted for separately with financial reports submitted as provided in W.S. 21-17-116(f) as created in section 1 of this act.

Section 3. The annual report required under W.S. 21-17-116(f) on October 1, 2006, shall be a summary of progress toward development of the school through September 1, 2006.

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

(END)