

**UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**  
**Excellence in Higher Education Endowment Report**  
**From the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs**  
**1 OCTOBER 2006**  
[Pursuant to W.S. 21-16-1204]

To the Joint Appropriations and Joint Education Interim Committees

**Background**

Pursuant to Enrolled Act No. 54, Senate, Section 1 (c) (ii), the fifty-eighth Legislature of the State of Wyoming appropriated two million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$2,800,000) to be distributed to the University of Wyoming and expended exclusively for the purposes specified in W.S. 21-16-1202 (b). W.S. 21-16-1202 (b) authorizes the use of earnings from the excellence in higher education endowment account to establish endowed faculty positions and to acquire instructional and resource materials, classroom equipment, and other resources necessary to support the work of endowed faculty. Not less than 2/3rds of the amounts must be used to expand university instruction and research in disciplines related to economic and social challenges facing Wyoming. Not less than four (4) endowed faculty positions shall be in the College of Education. The remaining endowed faculty shall have established reputations in other areas of distinction as identified in the university academic plan, including business, arts and humanities, mathematics, cultural studies, economics and law.

**Annual report**

W.S. 21-16-1204 – Under this provision, UW must report annually on faculty positions partially or fully funded through the endowment program; the name of each faculty member filling an endowed position, their education and experience, and their research and instructional activities; and the benefits of their research and instruction.

The \$2.8 million appropriation – faculty endowment “jump start” funds -- became effective July 1, 2006. The Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs developed a planning budget for the allocation of positions to be filled during the biennium with these funds, including estimated salaries, employer paid benefits, ongoing costs to support research and instructional activities of the faculty recruited into the positions, as well as one-time start up expenses which are critical to recruiting the best possible senior faculty. Based on the planning budget, three searches were authorized with first-year funds. Academic Affairs anticipates authorizing at least two additional positions for searches during the second year of the biennium. Two of the positions currently allocated will reside in the College of Education with focuses on Secondary Education and Elementary/Early Childhood. The third allocation endows an eminent writer-in-residence, with a one-year renewable term, residing in the English Department’s Creative Writing MFA program. The MFA is a locus of cross-disciplinary dialogue, and has defined the position to average, over time, 75% of the course load in the MFA itself, and 25% in other departments as appropriate to the expertise of the holder of the position. The endowed position will help cement the reputation of the MFA as a nationally competitive program in creative writing, and will significantly enhance resources available for English composition instruction.

