

SENATE RESOLUTION #2186

Title: A resolution setting forth ASUW's legislative priorities for the 2008 Budget Session of the Wyoming State Legislature

Date: November 9, 2007

Authors: Executive Kuhlmann; Senators Elliott and Scarborough

Sponsors: Senators K. Day, Jones, Knapp, Percival and Rader

1. WHEREAS, the University of Wyoming has submitted a budget request to the Wyoming
2. State Legislature for fiscal years 2009 and 2010; and
3. WHEREAS, the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (ASUW) recognize
4. that students will be greatly affected by the Wyoming State Legislature's appropriations
5. decisions during the 2008 Budget Session; and
6. WHEREAS, the ASUW Legislative and ASUW Executive Branches have a duty and
7. tradition of advocating for students on matters before the Legislature that concern the
8. members of ASUW; and
9. WHEREAS, the ASUW Student Senate recognizes that in order to present a unified
10. message to the Wyoming State Legislature regarding the interests of students of the
11. University of Wyoming, ASUW should formally set legislative priorities for the 2008
12. Budget Session and give guidance to ASUW officials for all lobbying efforts during the

13. 2008 Budget Session.
14. THEREFORE, be it resolved by the ASUW Student Senate that ASUW endorses and
15. supports the complete budget request made by the University of Wyoming to the
16. Wyoming Legislature for fiscal years 2009 and 2010; and
17. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW Director of Policy Planning, in
18. coordination with the proper ASUW officials, be responsible for representing the
19. interests of the students of the University of Wyoming to the Wyoming State
20. Legislature; and
21. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that ASUW recognizes the issues addressed in
22. Addendum A as items of particular interest to the students of the University of
23. Wyoming; and
24. ~~THEREFORE~~, be it further resolved that the ASUW Director of Policy Planning and
25. other ASUW officials focus primarily upon the budget items addressed in Addendum
26. A when representing the interests of students of the University of Wyoming to the
27. Wyoming State Legislature; and
28. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW Director of Policy Planning be
29. authorized to create correspondence items to the Wyoming State Legislature that are

30. consistent with the ideas and issues set forth in Addendum A.

Referred to: Student Issues Committee

Date of Passage: December 4, 2007 Signed: Zach Giv

UNANIMOUS (ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on December 5, 2007, I do hereby sign my name

hereto and approve this Senate action.” David F. K.
ASUW President

Addendum A

Libraries

During past periods of economic hardship and lean state budgets, the UW libraries have been particularly affected. The \$18,800,000 recurring funds request for the libraries would help bring UW more in line with library budgets at comparable institutions. These funds would only be used to improve the libraries' collections, thereby giving students and faculty from a variety of disciplines and departments access to greater research resources. This request would also contribute to the University of Wyoming's efforts to gain future admittance into an organization of research libraries, such as the Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA). Membership in an organization like GWLA would give the University of Wyoming access to the resources of other member institutions, further increasing the libraries' services to students. GWLA membership would also be a sign to prospective students and faculty of the high quality of the UW libraries. By creating a strong body of collections, this request will benefit the entire university and improve the education available to students here at UW.

Additional Classroom/Lab Renovations

The capital facilities request of \$8,000,000 for the renovation of 40 classrooms and laboratories would affect every student at the University of Wyoming. Regardless of major, all students must take a number of "lab classes" requiring specialized equipment and facilities in addition to courses in more traditional environments. While technology and educational needs for most courses have changed over the years, many labs and traditional classrooms have not. This request would help address this problem by modernizing classrooms and labs in older buildings to accommodate the needs of students, such as a greater demand for technology-equipped classrooms. Because the quality of a learning space can greatly determine the quality of a learning experience, this request is necessary to continue the University's ability to offer superior instruction to future students.

Campus Safety Initiatives

The variety of people coming to the University of Wyoming each day make the Laramie campus a unique melding of a school, a workplace, a public commons, and even a home. The request for one-time and recurring funding for campus safety initiatives would make great strides, in both infrastructure and staff, toward enhancing the safety of every person present on campus. Among other benefits, this request would allow the University to immediately notify students and staff of emergency events by cell phone text messages and emails. By funding another full-time

counselor position within the University Counselor Center, this request would also help the Counseling Center to better prevent and respond to emergency situations, and therefore better serve students. Safety is an issue that can only be addressed prospectively. With its mixture of preventive and response initiatives, this request will help students and others at the University feel safe, but more importantly, it will help keep them safe.

Level II Planning Funds for New Fine Arts Facilities

Thanks in large part to thriving programs in art, dance, music and theater at the University of Wyoming, Laramie has become a cultural hub for the entire state. However, the University's capital facilities plan for 2002 through 2007 recognized several facilities issues affecting these particular programs, which are all housed within the Fine Arts Building on the east side of campus. While these programs have grown over the years, space and use conflicts in the Fine Arts Building have hindered each program from achieving its potential size and depth. The \$800,000 request would fund phase II planning for creating a new home for the art department and providing greater space for the departments of music, theater and dance within the current Fine Arts Building. This request is a small but important step to engaging students in the rich fine arts programs in Laramie and maintaining the University as an essential cultural resource for the people of Wyoming.

College of Business

The College of Business not only serves business students, it educates non-business majors and provides services to individuals and companies around the state. However, enrollment in the college's various departments has vastly outgrown the College of Business building. The roughly \$55,000,000 capital facilities request for the College of Business will fund the expansion and renovation of the College of Business building. This request would allow all business departments to be housed under one roof and expand as future student and industry demands require. The long-term viability of Wyoming's economy will require a strong investment in business education. This request will not only benefit University of Wyoming students in the short-run, it will ultimately serve the interests of the people of Wyoming.

Downey Hall

The \$5,191,000 request for renovations to Downey Hall will directly help students in two ways. First, this request will fund the installation of a new fire alarm system and new carpet. The renovations will also enhance the hall's electrical capacity, lighting, windows, and lounges. Second, this request will help to keep students' cost of attendance low. While the University of

Wyoming enjoys small tuition and fees compared to other universities, the cost of living in the residence halls has increased significantly in recent years and is already average with comparable institutions. State funding for renovations of Downey Hall would relieve students from bearing another substantial increase to the costs of living on campus. Because 85-90% of first-year students at the University of Wyoming live in the residence halls, this request would most affect and benefit freshmen just beginning their college careers. By providing better and safer residence halls, students will be more interested in attending the University and then will be more likely to stay, succeed, and finish their college education.