

SENATE BILL #2526

TITLE: Making ASUW More Responsive to Issues from WyoVocal

DATE INTRODUCED: November 15, 2016

AUTHOR: Senator Strock

SPONSORS: Senators Drake and Julian; Freshman Senator Jones

1. WHEREAS, it is the purpose of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
2. (ASUW) Student Government to effectively represent the University of Wyoming (UW)
3. student population; and,
4. WHEREAS, WyoVocal was introduced during the 102nd Administration of ASUW to serve
5. as a platform for students to voice concerns to the ASUW Student Government; and,
6. WHEREAS, WyoVocal is currently an underutilized resource on the UW campus; and,
7. WHEREAS, previous minimum thresholds for an issue to be acted upon by the
8. ASUW Student Government have been difficult to reach at 200 votes and 400 votes,
9. respectively; and,
10. WHEREAS, few formal actions or legislation have come as a result of WyoVocal
11. suggestions from the UW student population; and,
12. WHEREAS, there are nine (9) pending issues on WyoVocal ranging from the 2014-2015
13. academic year to the current academic year that are listed as “planned.”
14. THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
15. (ASUW) Student Government that the minimum threshold for the Executive Branch, in
16. conjunction with the Steering Committee, to assign an item from WyoVocal to an ASUW
17. Legislative Committee and/or an ASUW Executive be set at 150 votes; and,
18. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the Executive Branch shall have the power to
19. change the minimum threshold if deemed necessary, but that such changes must be approved

20. by the ASUW Program and Institutional Development Committee; and,

21. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that an Ad-hoc Committee be formed each spring semester

22. to assess and evaluate the operation of WyoVocal and to make recommendations as to any

23. changes to the operation of WyoVocal, as well as to determine if the vote threshold minimum

24. should be changed for the upcoming academic year; and,

25. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that any ASUW Legislative Committee and/or the

26. ASUW Executive to which issues from WyoVocal are assigned must have a recommendation

27. concerning the issue ready no later than twenty (20) University business days after the issue

28. has reached the minimum threshold on WyoVocal; and,

29. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that, if appropriate, legislation addressing the issue from

30. WyoVocal shall be introduced by any ASUW Legislative Committees and/or by the ASUW

31. Executives to which the issue was assigned no later than fifteen (15) University business

32. days after the ASUW Legislative Committee and/or ASUW Executive have issued their

33. recommendation on the issue; and,

34. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the WyoVocal Operating Procedures be amended to

35. reflect the changes in Addendum A; and,

36. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the WyoVocal Terms of Service be amended to

37. reflect the changes in Addendum B; and,

38. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the ASUW Executive Branch shall have sole

39. authority over the ongoing operations of WyoVocal as outlined in Addenda A and B; and,

40. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the ASUW Executive Branch be required to report all

41. changes concerning the operation of WyoVocal as outlined in Addenda A and B to the

42. ASUW Program and Institutional Development Committee; and,

43. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the ASUW Student Government take all necessary
44. steps to complete the nine (9) “planned” issues currently on WyoVocal before the end of the
45. 104th Administration of ASUW.

Referred to: PID _____

Date of Passage: _____ **Signed:** _____

(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on _____, I do hereby sign my name hereto and
approve this Senate action.” _____

ASUW President

Addendum A

WyoVocal Operating Procedures

General Responsibilities:

1. Perform minimal research in order to determine if a submitted issue is feasible and/or appropriate task in which the ASUW Student Government can make a positive change within:
 - a. If a submitted issue is deemed to be an unfeasible and/or inappropriate task in which the ASUW Student Government cannot make a positive change within:
 - i. Update the status of the issue as closed with an explanation of why or how the issue is not within the limits of ASUW Student Government, as well as an invitation for students to contact the ASUW Student Government directly with any questions or concerns students might have.
 1. Students who submitted the issue, as well as those who voted on the issue will be automatically emailed the issue's status update.
 - ii. Monitor comments within the closed issue in order to:
 1. Update the status of the issue to answer any pertinent questions raised by students so they are continually educated on the reasoning behind the decision to decline the issue.
 - a. If answers cannot be easily explained, or confusion ensues from previous status updates, invite students to a one-on-one meeting in order to properly articulate and explain such answers.
 - b. If a submitted issue is deemed to be feasible and/or appropriate task in which the ASUW Student Government can make a positive change within:
 - i. Merge any issue which relates to another issue and update the status of the merged issues with an explanation of why the issues were merged, as well as an invitation for students to contact the ASUW Student Government directly with any questions or concerns they may have.
 1. Students who submitted issues, as well as those who have voted on the issues will be automatically emailed the merged issue's status update.
 - ii. Monitor comments within the issue in order to:
 1. Update the status of the issue to answer any pertinent questions raised by students.
 - a. If answers cannot be easily explained, or confusion ensues from previous status updates, invite students to a one-on-one meeting in order to properly articulate and explain such answers.

2. Monitor the language used within a submitted issue and comments within an issue's thread for hateful and/or harmful speech.
 - a. Though WyoVocal has a natural profanity filter which automatically deletes any issue submitted or comment within an issue's thread containing inappropriate language, hateful and/or harmful speak will also not be allowed.
 - i. Any language used within a submitted issue or comment within an issue's thread attacking or marginalizing an individual's personal identity or experience and/or a group identity or experience, subsequently creating an unsafe environment for all individuals using the WyoVocal platform, will be deemed as hateful and/or harmful speech.
 - b. Any language within a submitted issue or comment within the issue's thread containing hateful and/or harmful speech will be immediately deleted.
 - i. Students whose submitted issue or comment within an issue's thread have been deleted will be sent an email detailing the specific submitted issue or comments within an issue's thread which have been deleted, an explanation of why such an action was taken, and a warning of potential sanctions for continual infractions of hateful and/or harmful speech.
 1. The ASUW President, ASUW Vice President, and Assistant Dean of Students for Leadership Development should be included on any such email.
 2. If a particular student has continual infractions of hateful, sanctions can be placed upon said student at the discretion of the ASUW Executive Branch.
 3. Possible sanctions against students who have continual infractions of hateful speech could be, but are not limited to:
 - a. Suspension from the WyoVocal platform for a time period deemed appropriate;
 - b. Complete ban from current and future use of the WyoVocal platform; and/or
 - c. Information brought to the University of Wyoming's Dean of Student's Office for potential Code of Conduct violations.
 - ii. Language within a submitted issue or comment within an issue's thread used to criticize the ASUW Student Government will not be deleted, unless it attacks or marginalizes an individual's personal identity or experience and/or a group identity or experience.
3. The vote threshold minimum for a submitted issue to be acted upon by an ASUW Legislative Committee and an Executive Branch designee shall be set at 150 votes.

- a. The Executive Branch or its designee shall have the power to change the vote threshold minimum if it is deemed necessary to do so due to an overload of issues being presented before the ASUW Student Government.
 - i. Such changes must be approved by the ASUW Program and Institutional Development Committee.
4. Once the vote threshold minimum (150 votes) (~~400 votes~~) has been reached for any submitted issue:
 - a. Perform basic research on the issue to determine a recommendation for which ASUW Legislative Committee and/or ~~or~~ Executive Branch designee should be tasked with further research and development on the issue.
 - b. Meet with the ASUW President, ASUW Vice President, and the ASUW Steering Committee ~~ASUW President and ASUW Vice President~~ to finalize which ASUW Legislative Committee and/or ~~or~~ Executive Branch designee should be tasked with further research and development on the issue.
 - i. A single ASUW Legislative Committee or Executive Branch designee shall not be assigned more than 2 issues from WyoVocal to work on at a single time.
 - c. Update the status of the issue with the contact information for which ASUW Legislative Committee and/or ~~or~~ Executive Branch designee has been tasked with further research and development on the issue.
 - i. Students who submitted the issue, as well as those who voted on the issue, will automatically emailed the issue's status update.
 - d. Continue to update the status of the issue periodically with the progress the assigned ASUW Committee and/or ~~or~~ Executive Branch designee has made on the issue.
 - i. The assigned ASUW Committee and/or Executive Branch designee must have a recommendation on actions to be taken by the ASUW Student Government concerning the issue no later than 20 University business days after the issue surpassing the vote threshold minimum (150 votes).
 - ii. If appropriate, the assigned ASUW Committee and/or Executive Branch designee must have legislation addressing the issue ready no later than 15 University business days after the assigned ASUW Committee and/or Executive Branch designee release their recommendation on the issue.
 - iii. Extensions for issues that are not able to be completed by the assigned ASUW Committee and/or Executive Branch designee within the above time constraints must be approved by the ASUW Student Senate through the passage of legislation indicating the new time period in which an issue must be completed.
 1. The assigned ASUW Committee and/or Executive Branch designee must provide regular updates to the ASUW Student

Senate on the status and progress towards completion on any issue granted an extension.

5. If the vote threshold minimum (150 votes) (~~400 votes~~) is not reached for any submitted issue within a 100 day time period of the original date the issue was submitted:
 - a. Update the status of the issue as the closed with an explanation of why the issue is being closed.
 - i. Students who submitted the issue, as well as those who voted on the issue will be automatically emailed the issue's status update.
 - b. Monitor comments within the closed issue in order to:
 - i. Update the status of the issue to answer any pertinent questions raised by students so they are continually educated on the reasoning behind the decision to decline the issue.
 1. If answers cannot be easily explained, or confusion ensues from previous status updates, invite students to a one-on-one meeting in order to properly articulate and explain such answers.

Special Responsibilities:

1. Keep the electronic record of all submitted issues that are either deleted, closed, or merged, as well as comments within an issue's thread that are deleted with a short explanation of why such action was taken.
2. Keep an electronic record of all submitted issues which an ASUW Legislative Committee and ~~or~~ Executive Branch designee has been tasked with further research and development on.
3. Work with ASUW Legislative Committees and/or Executives to determine any issue they would like to be submitted to WyoVocal in order to gauge basic student opinion.
 - a. Determine if the issue is a feasible and/or appropriate task in which the ASUW Student Government can make a positive change within.
4. Communicate with the ASUW President, ASUW Vice President, and other Executives on any potential areas of concern for a unified and cohesive ASUW Student Government response and/or action.
5. When any part of this operations document is changed, inform the ASUW Program and Institutional Development Committee ~~ASUW Students Senate~~ at the earliest convenience of any and all changes made.
 - a. All changes to the vote threshold minimum must follow the guidelines established above.

Addendum B

WYOVOCAL TERMS OF SERVICE

1. Access:

- a. The Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (ASUW) Student Government's purpose is to serve students of the University of Wyoming. Therefore, access to the WyoVocal platform will be limited to currently enrolled students at the University of Wyoming.
 - i. The credit hour threshold to be granted access to the WyoVocal platform will be one (1) credit hour.
 - ii. Faculty and/or Staff, unless enrolled as a student, will not be granted access to the WyoVocal platform.
- b. Towards the end of each spring semester, WyoVocal will no longer be operational once a new ASUW Student Government's term in office begins. WyoVocal operations will once again commence at start of the following fall semester.

2. Usage:

- a. Students of the University of Wyoming can submit any issue they find relevant on campus to the WyoVocal platform.
 - i. The ASUW Student Government will perform minimal research in order to determine if a submitted issue is a feasible and/or appropriate task in which the ASUW Student Government can make a positive change within.
 1. If a submitted issue is deemed to be an unfeasible and/or inappropriate task in which the ASUW Student Government cannot make a positive change within, the ASUW Student Government will:
 - a. Update the status of the issue as closed with an explanation of why or how the issue is not within the limits of the ASUW Student Government, as well as an invitation for students to contact the ASUW Student Government directly with any questions or concerns students might have.
 - i. Students who submitted the issue, as well as those who voted on the issue will be automatically emailed the issue's status update.
 - b. Monitor comments within the closed issue in order to:
 - i. Update the status of the issue to answer any pertinent questions raised by students so they are continually educated on the reasoning behind the decision to decline the issue.

1. If answers cannot be easily explained, or confusion ensues from previous status updates, the ASUW Student Government will invite students to a one-on-one meeting in order to properly articulate and explain such answers.
 2. If a submitted issue is deemed to be a feasible and/or appropriate task in which the ASUW Student Government can make a positive change within, the ASUW Student Government will:
 - a. Merge any issue which relates to another issue and update the status of the merged issues with an explanation of why the issues were merged, as well as an invitation for students to contact the ASUW Student Government directly with any questions or concerns they may have.
 - i. Students who submitted the issues, as well as those who voted on the issues will be automatically emailed the merged issue's status update.
 - b. Monitor comments within the issue in order to:
 - i. Update the status of the issue to answer any pertinent questions raised by students.
 1. If answers cannot be easily explained, or confusion ensues from previous status updates, the ASUW Student Government will invite students to a one-on-one meeting in order to properly articulate and explain such answers.
3. Expectations:
 - a. The ASUW Student Government expects all students who use the WyoVocal platform to assist in its endeavor of creating a safe environment for all users of the WyoVocal platform.
 - b. The ASUW Student Government will never publish the voting records of individual students using the WyoVocal platform, but will hold students accountable to the language they use in their submitted issues and comments within an issue's thread.
 - i. The ASUW Student Government will monitor the language used within a submitted issue and comments within an issue's thread for hateful and/or harmful speech.
 1. Though the WyoVocal platform has a natural profanity filter which automatically deletes any issue submitted or comment within an

issue's thread containing inappropriate language, hateful and/or harmful speak will also not be allowed.

- a. Any language used within a submitted issue or comment within an issue's thread attacking or marginalizing an individual's personal identity or experience and/or a group identity or experience, subsequently creating an unsafe environment for all individuals using the WyoVocal platform, will be deemed as hateful and/or harmful speech.
2. Any language within a submitted issue or comment within an issue's thread containing hateful and/or harmful speech will be immediately deleted.
 - a. Students whose submitted issue or comment within an issue's thread have been deleted will be sent an email detailing specific submitted issue or comment within an issue's thread which have been deleted, an explanation of why such action was taken, and a warning of potential sanctions for continual infractions of hateful and/or harmful speech.
 - i. The ASUW President, ASUW Vice President, and Assistant Dean of Students for Leadership Development will be included on any such email.
 - ii. If a particular student has continual infractions of hateful and/or harmful speech, sanctions can be placed upon said student at the discretion of the ASUW Executive Branch.
 - iii. Possible sanctions against students who have continual infractions of hateful and/or harmful speech could be, but are not limited to:
 1. Suspension from the WyoVocal platform for a time period deemed appropriate;
 2. Complete ban from current and future use of the WyoVocal platform; and/or
 3. Information brought to the University of Wyoming's Dean of Student's Office for potential Student Code of Conduct violations.
3. Language within a submitted issue or comment within an issue's thread used to criticize the ASUW Student Government will not be deleted, unless it attacks or marginalizes an individual's personal identity or experience and/or a group identity or experience.

4. Further Development of Submitted Issues:

- a. Once the vote threshold minimum (150 votes) (~~400 votes~~) has been reached for any submitted issue, the ASUW Student Government will:
 - i. Perform basic research on the issue to determine a recommendation for which ASUW Legislative Committee and/or ~~or~~ Executive Branch designee should be tasked with further research and development on the issue.
 - ii. Meet with the ASUW President, ~~and~~ ASUW Vice President, and the ASUW Steering Committee to finalize which ASUW Legislative Committee and/or ~~or~~ Executive Branch designee should be tasked with further research and development on the issue.
 1. A single ASUW Legislative Committee or Executive Branch designee shall not be assigned more than 2 issues from WyoVocal to work on at a single time.
 - iii. Update the status of the submitted issue with the contact information for which ASUW Legislative Committee and/or ~~or~~ Executive Branch designee has been tasked with further research and development on the issue.
 1. Students who submitted the issue, as well as those who voted on the issue, will be automatically emailed the issue's status update.
 - iv. Continue to update the status of the issue periodically with the progress the assigned ASUW Committee and/or ~~or~~ Executive Branch designee has made on the issue.
 1. The assigned ASUW Committee and/or Executive Branch designee must have a recommendation on actions to be taken by the ASUW Student Government concerning the issue no later than 20 University business days after the issue surpassing the vote threshold minimum (150 votes).
 2. If appropriate, the assigned ASUW Committee and/or Executive Branch designee must have legislation addressing the issue ready no later than 15 University business days after the assigned ASUW Committee and Executive Branch designee release their recommendation on the issue.
 3. Extensions for issues that are not able to be completed by the assigned ASUW Committee and/or Executive Branch designee within the above time constraints must be approved by the ASUW Student Senate through the passage of legislation indicating the new time period in which an issue must be completed.
 - a. The assigned ASUW Committee and/or Executive Branch designee must provide regular updates to the ASUW

Student Senate on the status and progress towards
completion on any issue granted an extension.

- b. If the vote threshold minimum (150 votes) (~~400 votes~~) is not reached for any submitted issue within a 100 day time period of the original date the issue was submitted, the ASUW Student Government will:
 - i. Update the status of the issue as closed with an explanation of why the issue is being closed.
 - 1. Students who submitted the issue, as well as those who voted on the issue will be automatically emailed the issue's status update.
 - ii. Monitor comments within the closed issue in order to:
 - 1. Update the status of the issue to answer any pertinent questions raised by students so they are continually educated on the reasoning behind the decision to decline the issue.
 - a. If answers cannot be easily explained, or confusion ensues from previous status updates, invite students to a one-on-one meeting in order to properly articulate and explain such answers.
5. Changes to Terms of Service:
- a. The ASUW Student Government reserves the right to change any aspect of the WyoVocal Terms of Service at any point, for any reason.
 - i. The ASUW Student Government will keep the WyoVocal Terms of Service on the ASUW website for open access and update any changes in a timely manner to inform users of such changes.