

Passed: 19-0-0

SENATE RESOLUTION #2601



TITLE: ASUW Support of the UW 10-Year Housing Plan and the Prioritized Need for Housing

DATE INTRODUCED: February 20, 2018

AUTHOR: Chief of Staff Thomson-Lichty

SPONSORS: President Wetzel; Vice President Welsh; Executive Jones and Simental; Senator Blazovich, Conard, Defebaugh, Gunter, and Hungerford

1. WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (ASUW)
2. Student Government to serve our fellow students in the best manner possible; and,
3. WHEREAS, continued growth and retention of the student population is a major initiative of
4. the University of Wyoming (UW) 2017-2022 Strategic Plan and has been further emphasized
5. by the Strategic Enrollment Plan published by UW, as well as, the ASUW Strategic Plan
6. *Moving Forward: 2018-2022*; and,
7. WHEREAS, residence halls are a significant factor for incoming students when deciding
8. where to attend college; and,
9. WHEREAS, the last residence hall was constructed in 1967, and even with minor
10. renovations to the Washakie Halls, UW's residence halls are outdated and lack many
11. amenities that are common within national university housing trends; and,
12. WHEREAS, many competitor universities offer a continuum of living options, including
13. suite-style living, larger rooms, both private and public bathrooms, more common areas, and
14. educationally-focused halls or floors; and,
15. WHEREAS, currently very few students choose to live in the residence halls beyond their
16. freshman year, many even utilizing policy to opt out of living in the residence halls; and,

17. WHEREAS, a variety of housing options with different amenities and price points are
18. vitally necessary to appeal to both incoming freshmen and older students continuing their
19. education at UW; and,
20. WHEREAS, living on campus has been shown to support improvements in retention and four
21. year graduation rates; and,
22. WHEREAS, increasing the number of residential students at UW will help support retention
23. and graduation goals set out in the UW Strategic Plan; and,
24. WHEREAS, increasing the number of students living on campus will support revenue
25. for Residence Life and Dining Services, which will be used to pay back potential loan
26. sources for the construction and renovation of UW Residence Housing; and,
27. WHEREAS, the UW Board of Trustees (BOT) approved a total expenditure of \$300,000 for
28. the creation of a 10-Year Housing Plan in July of 2017; and,
29. WHEREAS, in the Spring of 2017 the ASUW Student Government passed Senate Bill
30. #2561, which allocated \$60,000 from the ASUW Facilities Endowment to contribute to
31. this plan and also expressed support for renovation and construction of student-centered
32. facilities, such as residence halls and the Wyoming Union; and,
33. WHEREAS, UW hired KSQ Design which is “a full-service firm providing architecture,
34. engineering and interior design services to clients in the K12, higher education, healthcare,
35. senior living and multifamily market sectors;” and,
36. WHEREAS, KSQ Design conducted thorough evaluations of the university’s housing
37. situation and presented several concept designs that are consistent with trends in higher
38. education housing and allow for development of residence halls in the near future; and,
39. WHEREAS, the 10-Year Housing Plan was finalized in 2017 and proposes the demolition of

40. two of the oldest UW residence halls and construction of new facilities; and,

41. WHEREAS, this 10-Year Housing Plan also proposes renovating the existing Washakie

42. Halls in order to provide sorely-needed improvements; and,

43. WHEREAS, this plan would help accomplish many of the recruitment and retention goals

44. outlined in the UW Strategic Plan by ensuring the UW Residence Halls are updated and

45. made appealing to high school students touring our campus, incoming freshman, and

46. continuing UW students; and,

47. WHEREAS, ASUW Student Government had significant involvement in the 10-Year

48. Housing Plan and greatly supports the result of this planning process; and,

49. WHEREAS, the plan, as seen in Addendum A, was presented to the BOT at their January

50. meeting and the BOT accepted the plan for further review by the Trustee's Facilities

51. Committee; and,

52. WHEREAS, the current proposal would be expected to cost approximately \$245.4 million;

53. and,

54. WHEREAS, this construction cost would be paid off over time through revenue from room

55. and board fees, not from tuition or block grant funds; and,

56. WHEREAS, this comprehensive proposal has already been thoroughly vetted by experts in

57. higher education facility construction and has involved intensive collaboration with all

58. campus stakeholders; and,

59. WHEREAS, this is the second housing plan produced by the University in the last 5 years,

60. with the first being completed in 2015; and,

61. WHEREAS, this new plan by KSQ Design was commissioned, in part to account for

62. campus-wide budget cuts and provide solutions that avoided complete demolition of all the

63. UW Residence Halls; and,

64. WHEREAS, repeating this process would be extremely time-intensive and a significant

65. misuse of the information provided by our current \$300,000 plan.

66. THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming

67. (ASUW) Student Government fully supports the implementation of the 10-Year Housing

68. Plan as proposed; and,

69. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW Student Government urges the

70. University of Wyoming Board of Trustees to approve the 10-Year Housing Plan as currently

71. proposed; and,

72. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW Student Government strongly

73. recommend the Wyoming Legislature support and invest in the goals set forth by the UW

74. 2017-2022 Strategic Plan, with an emphasis on the recruitment and retention goals of the

75. plan; and,

76. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW Student Government demands the

77. University be given autonomy in deciding how to implement and finance any housing

78. projects on its campus; and,

79. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW Student Government is strongly

80. opposed to any State-imposed moratorium on residence hall demolition or construction; and,

81. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW Student Government requests the

82. support of the State of Wyoming in moving forward with new Residential Housing Plan; and,

83. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that without support from the State of Wyoming, the

84. ASUW Student Government supports investigation of other financing options in order to

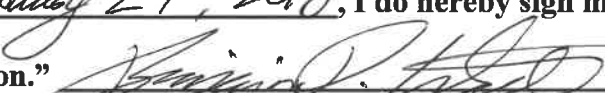
85. move forward with the goals set forth in the UW 10-Year Housing Plan; and,

86. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that upon passage, copies of this legislation be
87. distributed to all state-elected officials.

Referred to: Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy

Date of Passage: 2/27/2018 Signed: 

(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on February 27th, 2018, I do hereby sign my name hereto and
approve this Senate action.” 

ASUW President

