

Passed: 19-0-0

SENATE RESOLUTION #2602



TITLE: ASUW Support for the UW Science Initiative and the Release of all Necessary Funds from the State of Wyoming

DATE INTRODUCED: February 20, 2018

AUTHORS: Chief of Staff Thomson-Lichty

SPONSORS: President Wetzel; Executive 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, Wyoming Governor Matt Mead created the Science Initiative Task Force in
4. August 2014; and,
5. WHEREAS, the Science Initiative Task Force submitted a report to the Governor on January
6. 5th, 2016 outlining a detailed plan to raise the science programs at the University of
7. Wyoming (UW) to top-tier status; and,
8. WHEREAS, the Science Initiative would assist in recruiting and retaining top students in
9. scientific fields, by offering higher quality research, and learning facilities; and,
10. WHEREAS, an improvement to science education at UW would assist in producing top
11. quality graduates that can support and invest in the Wyoming economy; and,
12. WHEREAS, the Science Initiative would benefit the efforts of the Economically Needed
13. Diversity Options for Wyoming (ENDOW) Initiative, which ASUW expressed strong
14. support for in Senate Resolution #2584; and,
15. WHEREAS, this plan identified two phases for the development of the Science Initiative and
16. determined that both phases are essential to achieve the goal of moving science programs at
17. UW to top-tier status; and,

18. WHEREAS, the first phase of this initiative is the construction of a new Science Initiative
19. Facility, which would include active-learning classrooms and state-of-the-art research
20. facilities; and,
21. WHEREAS, the UW Board of Trustees (BOT) approved the final design for the Science
22. Initiative Building in January of 2018; and,
23. WHEREAS, after modifications the overall project budget for the Science Initiative Building
24. is \$103 million, with \$71 million specifically for the construction component of the project;
25. and,
26. WHEREAS, after these modifications the project is expected to be under the construction
27. budget approved by the Joint Appropriations Committee; and,
28. WHEREAS, the UW BOT approved a motion to accept the Science Initiative Building as
29. their top capitol construction priority going into the legislative session; and,
30. WHEREAS, the State of Wyoming has previously appropriated \$100 million dollars for the
31. construction of the Science Initiative building, which is now pending additional legislative
32. approval to allow expenditure of the funds; and,
33. WHEREAS, the Science Initiative Plan was proposed to be completed in 2021, but this
34. timeline will be significantly delayed if funding for the project is continued to be delayed;
35. and,
36. WHEREAS, the approximately \$128 million in the UW BOT Reserves needs to be preserved
37. for other major UW projects and initiatives, as all other departmental reserves have been
38. dissolved; and,
39. WHEREAS, several multi-million dollar projects are already being proposed that would
40. request funding from the University of Wyoming Board of Trustees Reserves.

41. THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
42. (ASUW) Student Government urge the Wyoming Legislature to release the already
43. appropriated \$100 million dollars intended for the UW Science Initiative; and,
44. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW Student Government does not support
45. the use of University Reserves for the UW Science Initiative at this time; and,
46. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW Student Government strongly
47. recommend the Wyoming Legislature continue to support, invest, and trust in UW, our
48. current students, and the potential of its future graduates; and,
49. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that upon passage, copies of this legislation be
50. distributed to all state-elected officials.

Referred to: Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy

Date of Passage: 2/27/2017 Signed: 

(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on February 27th, 2018, I do hereby sign my name hereto and

approve this Senate action.” 

ASUW President

