

SENATE BILL #2013

Title: Visits to RSO's
Date: October 14, 2002
Authors: Student-at-Large Trevor Castillon; Senators Dagit, Kirkbride, Mower and Nuspl
Sponsors: Senators Dagit, Kirkbride, and Nuspl

1. WHEREAS, communication between the Associated Students of the
2. University of Wyoming (ASUW) Student Senate and Recognized Student
3. Organizations (RSO's) should be enhanced; and
4. WHEREAS, it is the duty of ASUW to keep its constituents informed; and
5. WHEREAS, RSO's are often directly affected by the actions of ASUW; and
6. WHEREAS, it is stated in the Mission Statement of ASUW that the purpose
7. "... is to serve our fellow students in the best manner possible through
8. accurate representation, [and] professional interaction with campus programs
9. and organizations..."; and
10. WHEREAS, there are 171 RSO's as of October 4, 2002, which represent a
11. significant proportion of the student population.
12. THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Associated Students of the University of
13. Wyoming that each senator, executive, and executive assistant will be
14. required to attend at least one meeting of assigned RSO's each semester of
15. the academic year 2002-2003; and
16. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that assignments of RSO's will be evenly
17. distributed and will be done on a volunteer basis; if all RSO's are not
18. accounted for, they will be assigned by the Student Relations Committee; and

19. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that if the aforementioned duties are not
20. fulfilled, then disciplinary action will be implemented at the discretion of the
21. Steering Committee.

Referred to: Student Issues Committee

Date of Passage: October 29, 2002

Signed: _____

Lou Reed
(ASUW Chairperson)

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

ASUW President

Vetoed 11/8/02

ASUW Senate Members,

Yes 25 No 4 Abstention

Recently, ASUW Senate Bill #2013 was passed through the Senate, which dictates that Senators and the Executive staff will be assigned and required to visit a minimum of four registered student organization meetings each semester. While the intent of this bill is fundamentally and logistically feasible, this piece of legislation has not successfully identified nor appropriated the responsibilities that are required to support it. As a result, the lack of detail creates a great deal of inefficiency and bias with regards to meeting the requirements set forth by Senate Bill #2013.

The first area of concern that needs to be addressed is delegating the responsibility of assigning members of the ASUW Senate and the Executive staff to the various RSO's on campus. Without specifically assigning this detail to one individual, either employed or voluntary, with the approval of the Senate, the responsibility will likely go unmet, rendering the bill inadequate. It is also important to assign the responsibility of scheduling meetings, preparing presentations, and determining the active status of certain RSO's prior to sending representation to those theoretical meetings that may or may not occur. This would place the responsibility on one individual, who could potentially be given the necessary resources to expedite the process, saving Senators and Executives that hassle of searching out members of these RSOs to gain the appropriate information.

The second area of concern that needs to be addressed is the duplication and bias that will undoubtedly occur through these mandatory visits. If assignment is determined on a first come, first serve basis, a percentage of Senators and Executives will, in all actuality not increase their responsibilities at all because the obligation of attending certain RSO meetings will already be a portion of their college routine. Consequently, other Senators and Executives will find their responsibilities increasing exponentially because of obligations to other RSO's that they represent routinely and those that they must now attend as a responsibility to ASUW. In order to address this problem, it may be necessary to establish an expectation that all RSO's currently represented through Senators and Executives will be eliminated from the total RSO list, creating a proportionate amount of responsibility to all participating Senators and Executives.

The third area of concern that needs to be addressed is measuring the effectiveness of these visits. How, and to what extent, are ASUW representatives responsible for disseminating the information that they gain from these meetings? What are the exact guidelines for the presentation and information that these representatives will follow so that each RSO receives the same information?

The fourth area of concern that needs to be addressed is accountability. ASUW is a volunteer service to the students of the University. Consequently, it is very difficult to establish repercussions for not fulfilling certain job duties. If the Senate does not specifically establish guidelines that will outline how representatives will be treated for

not fulfilling their obligations, the Steering Committee has no effective means of taking disciplinary actions for insubordination.

Finally, legislation that specifically outlines its own termination shows very little strength in ASUW policy; legislation should rather seek to be reevaluated at a specific time, allowing the changing needs of students to be addressed.

Given these concerns, Senate Bill #2013, was vetoed on November 8th, 2002.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Keith Sapp". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "K".

Keith Sapp
ASUW President