SENATE RESOLUTION #2015

Title: UW Students Reject Higher Education Act Drug Provision

Date: October 25, 2002

Authors: Students for Sensible Drug Policy

Sponsors: Senators Jones and Kirkbride

1. WHEREAS, a provision in the Higher Education act of 1998 mandates that
2. students convicted of any drug-related offense (without regard to the nature
3. of the offense or the offender) be denied eligibility for financial aid for
4. periods ranging from one year to “indefinite,” and
5. WHEREAS, no other class of offender (including those convicted of rape or
6. other violent offenses) faces similar restriction on student loan eligibility; and
7. WHEREAS, this provision will, by its very nature, impact primarily students
8. of low to moderate economic means; and
9. WHEREAS, this provision will also have a discriminatory impact on people of
10. color, as their communities are disproportionately targeted for enforcement of
11. the drug laws (e.g., African Americans, who comprise 12% of the nation’s
12. population and 13% of drug users, make up 55% of those convicted of drug
13. offenses); and
14. WHEREAS, to the extent that the federal government involves itself in
15. education, it should be focused on making it easier, not more difficult, for
16. citizens to educate themselves; and
17. WHEREAS, education is an important factor in allowing people to become more
18. productive, well-rounded citizens.
19. THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming that we call upon the 107th United States Congress to overturn the section of the Higher Education Act of 1998 that denies or delays access to financial aid based upon convictions for drug-related offenses.

Referred to: Committee of the Whole

Date of Passage: ___________________________ Signed: ___________________________

(ASUW Chairperson)

"Being enacted on ___________________________, I do hereby sign my name hereto and approve this Senate action."

ASUW President

1st Reading 10/23/02  2nd Reading 11/6/02

"Do Pass" 11/8/02  Tabbed until 11/13/02

3rd Reading 11/2/02  00 PASS, recomm. 11/12/02

did not pass 18 against

11 for