

**SENATE BILL #2071**

**Title: Student Initiated Ballot Referendums**

**Date: March 9, 2004**

**Authors: Constitution Committee**

**Sponsors: Senators Chollak, R. Hernandez, Hughes, Kice, Owens, Rising,  
Student-at-Large Markovic**

1. WHEREAS, the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming elect
2. annually a student government to represent them before the UW
3. Administration; and
4. WHEREAS, the scope of that representation is often hindered due to the
5. time constraints placed on those who hold these elected offices due to their
6. commitments to scholarships and other service organizations in which they
7. are involved; and
8. WHEREAS, direct participation from the general student population would
9. increase the effectiveness of the ASUW governing body; and
10. WHEREAS, a mechanism exists by which students may place amendments
11. to the ASUW Constitution on the ballot of the general election; and
12. WHEREAS, no similar mechanism exists to place upon the general election
13. ballot any issues which do not directly effect the ASUW Constitution.
14. THEREFORE, be it enacted that any member of ASUW may bring forward
15. an issue to be placed upon the ballot of a general election held by ASUW; and
16. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the proposed language for any such
17. initiative be presented to the ASUW Senate during a regular meeting of the
18. body and be accompanied by signatures representing no less than five percent

19. (5%) of the current enrollment of the University of Wyoming; and

20. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that any such initiative brought forth

21. shall be subject to verification of at least 50% of the signatures which

22. accompany the initiative by a process designed at the discretion of the ASUW

23. Elections Committee; and

24. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that such verification should be

25. completed within thirty (30) days of the presentation of the signatures to the

26. ASUW Senate; and

27. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that any such initiative must be presented

28. to the ASUW Senate no less than forty-five (45) days prior to the next general

29. election in order to secure enough time for the verification process to be

30. concluded; and

31. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that in matters of extreme importance

32. which must be dealt with in a more immediate time period, a special election

33. for any such initiative can be called with the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of

34. the voting Senate; and

35. THEREFORE, be it further enacted the ASUW Senate shall have the power

36. to limit the number of such initiatives to be placed on a ballot if, in the

37. opinion of a majority of the Senate, an excessive number of such initiatives

38. are presented for a single ballot; and

39. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the language of such measures may

40. not be changed by the ASUW Senate; and

41. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that any such initiative that is put to a

42. vote of that student body and is approved by a majority of those voting in the  
43. election shall be forwarded to the ASUW Executive branch where steps for  
44. its enactment will be made, but only when the intended changes proposed in  
45. such initiatives are under the direct control of ASUW; and  
46. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that any other such initiatives that have  
47. been approved by a majority of voting students that is beyond the scope of  
48. control of the ASUW but are in reference to issues affecting the UW Campus  
49. shall be forwarded to the ASUW President who will present the results of  
50. such elections directly to the UW Trustees for their consideration at the next  
51. UW Trustees meeting following approval of such initiatives; and  
52. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that any such initiative passed by a  
53. majority of those students voting on said measure may be repealed by a  
54. vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting Senate; and  
55. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the language contained in Addendum  
56. A be added to the ASUW By-Laws as Article IV – Elections, Section 5,  
57. Student Initiated Referendums.

Referred to: Elections Committee

Date of Passage: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on \_\_\_\_\_, I do hereby sign my name hereto and

approve this Senate action.” \_\_\_\_\_

ASUW President

*1<sup>st</sup> reading 3/27/04*      *2<sup>nd</sup> reading 3/30/04*      *still in committee 3/30/04*  
*4/6/04*  
*tabled indefinitely*

## Addendum A

### Section 5 Student Initiated Referendums

- A. Any ASUW member may institute an item to be placed upon the Ballot of any regularly scheduled general election for a referendum Vote.
1. The exact language of the issue as it will appear on the ballot, accompanied by signatures representing at least 5% of the currently enrolled student population of the University of Wyoming, shall be presented to the ASUW Senate during a regularly scheduled meeting of the body.
  2. Upon presentation of the ballot measure to the Senate, a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of the signatures accompanying the proposed measure shall be verified a process to be determined by the ASUW Elections Committee. The verification process shall be completed no more than thirty(30) days following presentation of the proposed ballot measure to the ASUW Senate. All such measures must be presented no less than forty-five (45) days prior to the next scheduled general election. Any item that is deemed to be of such extreme urgency that action must be taken outside of a regularly scheduled general election can be voted on at a special election with the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting senate.
  3. The ASUW Senate shall have power to limit the number of such measures on any ballot if the majority of the voting Senate determines that an excessive amount of such measures exist on any ballot.
  4. The ASUW Senate shall not amend the language to any such student initiated measure.
  5. It shall be the duty of the ASUW Executive Branch to work to enact any such measure passed by a majority of the voting student body, so long as that measure is under the direct control of the ASUW Senate. Any measure that is passed by a majority of the voting student body that is not under the direct control of the ASUW Senate, but is in reference to any campus issue, shall be forwarded to the ASUW President and shall be presented to the University of Wyoming Trustees for their consideration at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Trustees.
  6. Any measure approved by the student body on any ballot may be overridden by the vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting senate.