

SENATE BILL #2106

Title: Empowering Students through the Initiative Process

Date: March 8, 2005

Authors: Constitution Committee

Sponsors: Senators Adetoye, Chollak, Cochran, Jordan, Rising; Executive Sporkin-Morrison; Student-At-Large Hernandez

1. WHEREAS, the Rules and Procedures of the Associated Students of the
2. University of Wyoming (ASUW) Student Senate states “The purpose of the
3. Student Government of the Associated Students of the University of
4. Wyoming is to serve our fellow students in the best manner possible through
5. accurate representation, professional interaction with campus programs and
6. organizations, and responsible, effective leadership.”; and
7. WHEREAS, despite the best efforts of the elected Senators and Executives to
8. provide the best representation they can, issues of concern arise among groups
9. of students which may not always reach the ears of the representatives on
10. student government; and
11. WHEREAS, an initiative process whereby students may place issues of
12. concern, be they related to the university campus or the larger world
13. community, upon an ASUW ballot for the approving vote of the Student
14. Body; and
15. WHEREAS, such a process will allow students to define issues of importance,
16. demonstrate to administrators which items they feel are in need of attention,
17. and create a greater degree of personal ownership among students of their
18. student government; and

19. WHEREAS, the ASUW Student Senate should also be empowered to put
20. items to a referendum vote of students, when it can be demonstrated that
21. sufficient student input has not been garnered, or more input on a particular
22. issue would be helpful; and
23. WHEREAS, an initiative and referendum process necessitates the creation of
24. a special election process above and beyond the general elections that are now
25. held, but one does not now exist.
26. THEREFORE, be it enacted that the Associated Students of the University of
27. Wyoming Student Senate create an initiative and referendum process for use
28. by students as well as by the Senate itself, in addition to a special election
29. process as outlined in Addendum A, and entered into the ASUW by-laws
30. under Article IV – Elections, Sections 11 and 12.

Referred to: Elections Committee

Date of Passage: April 12, 2005

Signed:

Mary McGinty

(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on April 13, 2005, I do hereby sign my name

hereto and approve this Senate action.”

Darin Williams

ASUW President

Addendum A

Student Initiatives

Any ASUW member may put an item to a referendum vote of the student body through during either a general or special election.

1. The exact language of the question to be placed upon the ballot, framed in a "yes or no" format, may be eligible.
2. The question to be considered shall be accompanied by student signatures representing at least 5% of the currently enrolled, fee paying students of the University of Wyoming.
3. The Question to be considered shall be presented to the Senate during a regularly scheduled meeting as "New Business"
4. At least fifty percent (50%) of the accompanying signatures shall be verified by the ASUW Elections Committee with the Assistance with the ASUW Student Relations Committee, using whatever method the committees jointly decide will most efficiently reach the goal of verifying the signatures. The verification process shall extend no more than thirty (30) days beyond the date the question to be considered has been presented to the Senate. At the end of the verification process or at the end of thirty days, the ASUW Elections Committee Chairperson shall report the results of the verification process to the Senate.
5. The preferred forum of any such ballot measure shall be a regularly scheduled general election of ASUW. In the instance that the feasibility of waiting until the next general election does not exist, a special election may be called by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the ASUW Senate, at the time of presentation of the question to the Senate. Failure to acquire the necessary votes will result in the measure automatically being relegated to the ballot of the next General Election.
 - a. Any Special election shall be publicized by the ASUW Executive staff by advertising the special election for at least two (2) weeks prior to the special election utilizing the executive advertising budget. The venues for such publication shall include the Branding Iron and the Student List serve. Any additional means of publicity shall be at the discretion of the Executive Branch. All such notifications must include the exact wording of the question as it will appear on the ballot.
6. The ASUW Executive branch shall work to enact any such measure passed by a majority of the voting student body, so long as the measure is under the direct control of the ASUW Student Government. Any measure passed that is not under the direct control of the ASUW Student Government shall be the subject of a report by the ASUW

President to the University of Wyoming board of Trustees at their next meeting. In the case that such a question relates to off campus entities, the ASUW Executive Branch shall inform the appropriate body of the vote of the students.

Addendum B.

Senate Initiatives

The ASUW Senate May place any item of concern upon the ballot of a Special or General Election.

1. Any such request shall come to Senate in the form of legislation.
2. The exact language of the question to be considered shall be included as a part of the legislation, in the form of an addendum. All such questions shall be framed in a "yes or no" format.
3. Legislation to place a question upon a ballot shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.
4. The preferred forum of any such ballot measure shall be a regularly scheduled general election of ASUW. In the instance that the feasibility of waiting until the next general election does not exist, a special election may be called by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the ASUW Senate. If a Special Election is being called for, the legislation presenting the question to be considered shall reflect it. Failure to acquire the necessary votes will result in the measure automatically being relegated to the ballot of the next General Election.
 - a. Any Special election shall be publicized by the ASUW Executive staff by advertising the special election for at least two (2) weeks prior to the special election utilizing the executive advertising budget. The venues for such publication shall include the Branding Iron and the Student List serve. Any additional means of publicity shall be at the discretion of the Executive Branch. All such notifications must include the exact wording of the question as it will appear on the ballot.
5. The ASUW Executive branch shall work to enact any such measure passed by a majority of the voting student body, so long as the measure is under the direct control of the ASUW Student Government. Any measure passed that is not under the direct control of the ASUW Student Government, but is relevant to the UW campus community, shall be the subject of a report by the ASUW President to the University of Wyoming board of Trustees at their next meeting. In the case that such a question relates to off campus entities, the ASUW Executive Branch shall inform the appropriate body of the vote of the students.