

SENATE BILL #2109

Title: Modernization of the UW Students' Attorney Program

Date: March 22, 2005

Authors: Students' Attorney Advisory Board

Sponsors: Students' Attorney Advisory Board

1. WHEREAS, the current Students' Attorney Program (SAP) has been a
2. valuable program for the students of the University of Wyoming since
3. 1974; and
4. WHEREAS, legal services (advice and assistance with legal matters,
5. including researching and analyzing problems and implications, and public
6. presentations on legal issues that commonly effect students) is a necessary
7. program that the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (ASUW)
8. should have access to; and
9. WHEREAS, the current cost of maintaining this program exceeds \$86,000
10. annually; and
11. WHEREAS, during the fall semester of 2004 the Students' Attorney Advisory
12. Board (SAAB) has conducted a comprehensive review of the SAP; and
13. WHEREAS, those findings have been catalogued in a report to the ASUW
14. Senate (see Addendum A); and
15. WHEREAS, the report has identified areas where the SAP can be improved;
16. and
17. WHEREAS, the program has the potential to be more efficient and more cost
18. effective if reformed and structurally reorganized; and

19. WHEREAS, annual evaluation of the program should be based on objective
20. factors; and

21. WHEREAS, failure to meet objective expectations should cause the SAAB to
22. make additional recommendations to the ASUW Senate in the future.

23. THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Student Senate of the Associated Students
24. of the University of Wyoming that the SAP substantially comply with
25. performance factors outlined in this legislation (see Addendum B) to reach
26. the goals set by the ASUW Senate; and

27. THEREFORE, be it further enacted by the ASUW Senate, that the Students'
28. Attorney issue weekly reports, unless the SAAB requests otherwise, on the
29. results of its effort to comply with performance factors and criteria contained
30. in this legislation to the SAAB; and

31. THEREFORE, be it further enacted by the ASUW Senate, that the SAAB
32. evaluate the SAP's compliance with the performance factors contained in this
33. legislation; and

34. THEREFORE, be it further enacted by the ASUW Senate, that the SAAB
35. work in conjunction with the Students' Attorney in an ongoing assessment of
36. the SAP's programmatic goals, effectiveness, structure, and funding resource
37. needs in an effort to assure that the SAP complies with the performance
38. factors contained in this legislation; and

39. THEREFORE, be it further enacted by the ASUW Senate, that the SAAB
40. issue a report to the ASUW Senate by February 1, 2006 which (1) evaluates
41. the SAP's compliance with the performance factors contained in this

42. legislation; (2) identifies structural obstacles which inhibit the success of the
43. SAP in achieving improved performance; (3) evaluates the benefits delivered
44. to UW students when compared to the resources allocated to the SAP by the
45. ASUW Senate; and (4) make recommendations on the future role of the SAP
46. as an ASUW service; and

47. THEREFORE, be it further enacted by the ASUW Senate, that consistent with
48. the findings of SAAB in its 2004-2005 review of the SAP, the ASUW Senate
49. should cease funding of the Office Assistant, Senior position within the SAP;
50. and

51. THEREFORE, be it further enacted by the ASUW Senate, that the SAP be
52. provided with employment assistance from a UW student, assigned through
53. the UW Work Study Program or other student clerical support financed
54. through ASUW. This student will assist the Students' Attorney with clerical
55. duties such as typing, copying, filing, answering the phone and any other
56. non-legal duties which the Students' Attorney needs assistance with; and

57. THEREFORE, be it further enacted by the ASUW Senate, that the ASUW
58. Executive Branch successfully secures the accreditation of an extern position
59. with the UW College of Law; and

60. THEREFORE, be it further enacted by the ASUW Senate, that upon the
61. approval of an externship position by the UW College of Law, the Students'
62. Attorney seek the placement of a student legal intern from the second or
63. third-year class of the UW College of Law. If an extern from the UW College
64. of Law is unavailable for any reason, the Students' Attorney will seek the

65. placement of an intern who is a Junior or Senior UW student, majoring in
66. Criminal Justice. If a Junior or Senior UW student majoring in Criminal
67. Justice is unavailable for any reason, the Students' Attorney will seek the
68. placement of an intern who is a Junior or Senior UW student, majoring in
69. Political Science. If no UW student majoring in Criminal Justice or Political
70. Science is available, the Students' Attorney will seek the placement of an
71. intern who is a UW student of at least Junior standing. If the Students'
72. Attorney is unable to obtain placement of an intern from any of the above
73. categories of students, the Students' Attorney should seek placement of a
74. student from the UW College of Law using proceeds supplied by ASUW
75. as identified in the SAP budget; and
76. Once the Students' Attorney has obtained a list of interested law student
77. candidates, the names of those individuals shall be submitted to the SAAB.
78. The Saab and the Students' Attorney shall collaborate on determining the
79. most qualified candidate to fill the position for that given semester.

Referred to: Student Issues Committee

Date of Passage: April 12, 2005

Signed:

Mary McGinnis
(ASUW Chairperson)

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

hereto and approve this Senate action."

Daniel Williams
ASUW President

Addendum A
Students' Attorney Advisory Board
Report on the Students' Attorney Program

Introduction and Background

On April 30, 1974 the ASUW Student Senate created the Student's Attorney Program (SAP) with the passage of S.B. #0981. During the more than 30 years since creating the SAP, the ASUW Student Senate has enacted legislation to modify aspects of the program. Throughout the life of the SAP, the Students' Attorney Advisory Board (SAAB) has been charged with the task of reviewing and advising the ASUW Student Senate on matters regarding the SAP.

Throughout the 2004 fall semester, the SAAB met weekly to review the current functionality of the SAP, emphasizing the efficiency of the legal services provided in relation to other student legal service options provided more recently by the ASUW Student Government through the Student Legal Services Clinic (SLSC). As a part of the ASUW Student Government's long term planning process, SAAB is reporting the findings of its SAP oversight efforts in an effort to assure that the ASUW Student Senate will have the best possible information when structuring and funding the programs that serve UW students. Furthermore, under S.B. #2035 the ASUW Student Senate directed the SAAB to review the current structure and operation of the SAP. Finally, S.B. #1972 amended the ASUW Constitution to enhance the SAAB's powers and duties. The additional functions of the SAAB include: (1) advise the Students' Attorney with regard to programmatic priorities; (2) evaluate the staff and budget of the SAP; (3) make recommendations which shall be considered for implementation after collaboration among the Office of Student Life (OSL), the Students' Attorney and the SAAB; (4) authority to recommend the initiation of disciplinary action or termination of employment; meet with the Students' Attorney and the Dean of Students.

This report will outline the directives of past ASUW Student Governments as implemented through legislation and other guidance pertaining to the SAP in order to establish a backdrop for recommendations made by the SAAB. With those parameters in mind, the SAAB has evaluated the effectiveness of the SAP and its observations and corresponding recommendations are encapsulated in this report.

SAP Scope and Duties of the Students' Attorney

The purpose of the Students' Attorney is to provide legal advice, assistance, and information to UW students. The Students' Attorney carries out its purpose by performing the following responsibilities and functions: (1) advise and assist UW students with legal matters, not involving the University, including researching and analyzing problems and implications; (2) make presentations to interested, recognized student organizations (RSOs) regarding legal issues; (3) coordinate research through community or state agencies to assist in resolving non-university student-related legal matters; (4) write newspaper articles on legal topics of interest, research and author other legal publications as needed; (5) hire, train, and supervise clerical support staff; (6) seek the placement of a student intern from the third-year class of the UW College of Law to be utilized in maximizing the students' benefit and the interns' educational growth; (7) establish a legal referral system in conjunction with local bar associations, and maintain liaison with these organizations in order to develop and maintain local support for the SAP and facilitate effective and prompt handling of referrals; (8) provide extensive reports containing statistical encounter data for the SAP and report to the ASUW Student Senate at regular intervals; (9) devise a working system, such as a wait list, to determine the priority of handling clients once the maximum number of cases that the Students' Attorney and staff can reasonably handle has been reached.

The individual who serves as Students' Attorney must possess the following skills to adequately perform the duties of the position: (1) maintain records and prepare reports and correspondence related to the work; (2) function on an independent basis with minimum supervision; (3) maintain favorable public relations; (4) manage time and set priorities to meet project deadlines; (5) create, compose and edit legal opinions and other written materials; (6) work effectively with a wide range of constituencies in a diverse community; (7) develop and deliver presentations.

Observations of the SAAB – Are the Duties and Responsibilities of the Students' Attorney Being Fully and Faithfully Carried Out?

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. It is difficult for the SAAB to give a clear assessment of this general, catch-all duty. Through the exercise of outlining the other observations of the SAAB, it will become apparent why it is difficult to clearly conclude that the Students' Attorney is adequately advising and assisting UW students with legal matters.
2. The SAAB has not received relevant information or documentation on public presentations made by the Students' Attorney. The SAAB has been informed that the Students' Attorney has conducted general open forums and forums that focus on specific legal topics. The details of these forums have not been reported on by the Students' Attorney (including information on the number of students in attendance and student feedback). Additionally, the SAAB has not received information on efforts made by the Students' Attorney to target presentations to RSOs nor does it know of any instances where the Students' Attorney has made a presentation to any individual RSOs.
3. The SAAB has not conducted sufficient fact-finding to determine whether this duty is adequately performed by the Students' Attorney. The SAAB has learned of circumstances where the Students' Attorney has kept contact with municipal government officials but it is not known what contacts have been made and kept

with officials at other levels of government. It should be noted that the Students' Attorney has extensive contacts within the University which are beneficial to the SAP.

4. The SAAB has determined that newspaper articles have appeared only sporadically. Additionally, when the editor of the *Branding Iron* was interviewed by the SAAB it was learned that the submissions made by the Students' Attorney this year were similar or identical to those submitted last year. The SAAB has not received information as to research or drafts in progress for submission of new legal publications.
5. The Students' Attorney has delegated client screening duties to the Students' Attorney secretary. The screening done by the secretary includes evaluation of the validity of potential legal claims.
6. The SAAB has not received any indication that the Students' Attorney has ever solicited for or obtained the services of a student intern.
7. The Students' Attorney has presented limited information to the SAAB on this responsibility. The existence of the new SLSC implicitly modifies this provision to the extent that referrals should be made from the SAP to the SLSC before other outside council. The SAAB has learned that the SLSC has received a low number of referrals from the SAP. The Students' Attorney has simply stated that referrals are made to the SLSC without having drafted clear guidelines as to when such referrals should be triggered.
8. A written report for the preceding year was not presented before the first Student Senate meeting of this year, as required. A report was issued on February 23, 2005. There was a report submitted in the fall of 2004 which did contain the total number of contacts and referrals. The report did not contain a detailed list of the number of cases handled, the extent of the services offered, feedback on the overall quality of the services received, or the final outcome for the client.
9. The SAAB has not received information on the SAP case load or the maximum number of cases that the Students' Attorney can handle at any one time. The maximum number of cases is a difficult number to determine because time and resource allocation establish the constraints. Given the method by which the Students' Attorney collects data, there is doubt as to whether the requisite information can be collected and disseminated in a reliable fashion.

Does the Students' Attorney Possess the Requisite Skills to Effectively Deliver the Services of the SAP as Envisioned by the ASUW Student Senate?

1. The SAAB has grave concerns over how the Students' Attorney compiles its records. Currently, the Students' Attorney keeps a hand written ledger on a standardized form. This form keeps records based on the nature of the case, which is broken down into administrative, criminal, consumer, family, housing, traffic, UW related, estates, and miscellaneous. Under each category, ongoing totals are kept based on "contacts" that are made with the SAP. A contact is described as any communication with the program, irrespective of whether it results in consultation. One student could potentially comprise several separate contacts under this method of record keeping. Finally, none of these records are compiled or kept electronically.

By way of contrast, the SLSC compiles client data based on each discrete client rather than aggregate "contacts." The SLSC also compiles its encounter data electronically. The SAAB strongly believes that using a computerized system to compile encounter data for a program such as the SAP is crucial. It would allow for quick, accurate, organized, and efficient data tabulation and recall. It would also give much greater flexibility in presenting the outcomes and results of such data. Additionally, the SAAB doubts the usefulness of compiling encounter data based on raw "contacts" to the program, rather than on a per client basis. One single student could account for numerous "contacts" giving the SAAB or other program evaluators little indication of how well the Students' Attorney is allocating the resources of the SAP.

2. Whether the Students' Attorney can function on an independent basis with minimum supervision is the most important concern of the SAAB. Virtually every preceding observation of the SAAB has been connected to this highly important skill. The Students' Attorney must be a highly motivated, creative, and responsive individual. The fact that there are numerous shortcomings in the program, as outlined throughout this report, calls into question the extent to which the Students' Attorney is functioning on an independent basis. The SAAB is concerned that the Students' Attorney is merely performing the essential procedural duties assigned to the position while falling short of substantially performing all of the expected duties. The ASUW Student Senate should be able to expect that a Students' Attorney would perform many of the tasks that have been underperformed without having to regularly guide the Students' Attorney in its responsibilities through the actions of the SAAB.
3. The SAAB has concerns as to whether the Students' Attorney can maintain favorable public relations. As already noted, the Students' Attorney has made superficial efforts to publicize the SAP. The intent of the ASUW Student Senate as expressed through legislation, however, is that the Students' Attorney should create innovative ways of bringing the services of the SAP to UW students. Specifically, the Students' Attorney has not made efforts to target its messages to individual RSOs in an effort to determine which legal issues are of interest to smaller student groups as a subset of the overall UW student population.
4. The SAAB has not conducted sufficient fact-finding to determine whether the Students' Attorney possess the requisite skills to adequately manage time and set priorities to meet project deadlines. In the future the SAAB should consider whether to request that the Students' Attorney record daily the amount of time that she spends on each activity performed for the SAP.
5. The SAAB has seen examples where the Students' Attorney has created, composed and edited legal opinions and other written materials. The SAP web page has legal primers on many common legal issues. Additionally, the Students' Attorney has generated pamphlets to assist UW students with common legal issues. It has been noted, however, that some of these materials are dated and need to be modernized.
6. As noted earlier, the Students' Attorney has vast experience with current staff, is well connected to UW and its institutions, the local community, and members of the local government. These contacts suggest an ability on the part of the

Students' Attorney to work effectively with a wide range of constituencies in a diverse community. On the other hand, the benefit of these contacts is not always fully delivered to the advantage of UW students due to the areas of disconnect between students and the SAP as previously illustrated.

7. The SAAB has observed that the Students' Attorney has developed and delivered presentations. It is the desire of the SAAB, however, that in the future the Students' Attorney target its presentations to specific populations of students and make them more dynamic and relevant.

Recommendations

To improve the reputation, efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of the Students' Attorney several changes could be made to the SAP. Following are several alternatives that may be implemented by the ASUW Student Senate to improve the legal services offered to UW students. Given the extensive review that the SAAB has performed, we bring our insight and judgment to this process and recommend an alternative that we believe to be the best course of action. The other alternatives are also acceptable. Alternative D is the "no further action" alternative, meaning the SAP would continue to operate under its current format, with continuing SAAB oversight.

Given current concerns and the level of ASUW financial investment, it is clear that there are items that need to be addressed. Regardless of the alternative selected, changes will occur through the continued meeting of the SAAB for the balance of this year and in future years.

Alternative A

Eliminate All Funding of the SAP and Terminate the ASUW Student Government's Relationship with the SAP as Currently Constituted:

Given the extensive problems identified with the operation of the SAP and the existence of other newly created student legal services, ASUW could choose to remove all funding and eliminate the SAP. Such a move would produce significant savings to the ASUW Student Government budget. Those funds would be available to other budget priorities, or student fees could be reduced due to the reduction in spending.

The rationale for eliminating the SAP is twofold. First, the SAP consumes a considerable amount of the ASUW Student Government budget, using \$86,210 in '04-'05. The SAAB has doubts as to whether the Students' Attorney can complete the duties and responsibilities of the position and deliver the requisite skills to bring about the level of services envisioned by the ASUW Student Senate. It follows that UW students would gain the greatest value per student fee dollar spent by eliminating funding for a program which cannot provide the optimum level of service. Additionally, eliminating the SAP would allow the ASUW Student Senate, through the SAAB, to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of how to best provide legal services in the future. Such a study may conclude that a radically different administrative structure is necessary in order to offer student legal services. Alternatively, it may conclude that legal services cannot be efficiently provided by the ASUW Student Government.

Second, the ASUW Student Government created the SLSC last year which provides some of the same services provided by the SAP. The SLSC could potentially handle more volume, most of which would occur as a result of the elimination of the SAP.

Additionally, this would create a situation where all of the legal services offered by the ASUW Student Government are available in one place and through one program.

Following this course of action will be contingent on the approval of the Dean of Students. The Students' Attorney and the SAP secretary are both University employees and the terms of their employment are governed by UNIREG 174.

Two sections of those terms, laid out in UNIREG 174, are particularly applicable. First, section VII defines the procedure for involuntary reassignment. Section VII states, "In unusual circumstances such as for... redistribution of a unit's workload or assignments, reduction in force, poor employee performance, or in the best interest of the University an employee may be involuntarily reassigned."

Second, section XIX defines the procedure for retrenchment. Section XIX states, "All staff may be separated from service when positions are discontinued because of insufficient funding, lack of work, program changes, or mandated changes in the structure of departments, divisions, or other University administrative units..."

The appropriate University officials will have to agree to work with the ASUW Student Government in order to assure the University regulations are followed for the SAP employees. Any action taken by the ASUW Student Senate must be made in consultation with the OSL and the University's Department of Human Resources.

Drawbacks to Eliminating Funding For the SAP:

If the SAP is eliminated, there will undoubtedly be a reduction in the level and variety of legal services available to UW students. The SLSC was created with the specific goal of offering legal services to students who have legal claims that likely require litigation services. This must remain the priority of the SLSC. The SAP offers students legal services which center more on consultation, advice, assistance with legal matters not involving litigation, and general legal education for UW students through forums and presentations. The SLSC is currently not equipped to fill the void and provide these services in the absence of the SAP. In order address this shortcoming, the ASUW Student Senate will have to devote significant time and energy toward redesigning a program next year that will provide some or all of these services. If the ASUW Student Senate is not willing to take on this task, then a long term absence of student legal services will result.

An even graver concern, albeit somewhat unlikely, is the occurrence of a chain of events that would lead to the elimination of the SLSC as well. The SAAB has learned that there is an indiscernible chance that the federal grant funds received by the Domestic Violence Clinic (DVC) at the UW College of Law may not be renewed. If this occurs, the DVC would almost certainly be canceled.

Dona Playton is the faculty director for the DVC and should the DVC be discontinued, her capacity as a Clinical Faculty Director would come to an end. Her services would then be unavailable for the SLSC. There is no other individual who could perform the duties of Clinical Faculty Director for the SLSC and as a result the SLSC would also be eliminated. Given the nature of the grant procedure, the ASUW Government would have a one year notice period before Ms. Playton's services would be terminated.

Should these circumstances occur along with the elimination of all SAP funding, a situation could arise where there are no legal services available to UW students. If this should come to pass, the political repercussions for the ASUW Student Government

could be severe. The 2004 Student Opinion Survey showed that while roughly 8 percent of students have used the SAP, 92 percent feel that the ASUW Student Government should fund it. The ASUW Student Senate should confront this possibility when assessing this alternative.

Alternative B (preferred alternative)

The ASUW Student Senate Enacts Legislation Clarifying Certain Expectations of the Students' Attorney, Including Performance Standards and Non-Achievement Consequences:

Many of the shortcomings identified in the SAAB's findings should be assessed by the ASUW Student Senate and identified as items for improvement for the Students' Attorney through an expression of the Senate's legislative will. Each of the areas of weakness addressed by the SAAB should be clearly addressed by the ASUW Student Senate, discussed, and identified as items of mandated improvement for the Students' Attorney. These items include, but are not limited to: (1) better marketing and promotion of the SAP, including required outreach efforts with individual RSOs; (2) regular composition of newspaper articles on legal topics of interest to students (ascertained through outreach efforts); (3) compose clear guidelines on what the SAP secretary can and cannot do regarding evaluation of student legal claims; (4) take affirmative steps to seek the placement of a student legal intern from the second or third-year class of the UW College of Law; (5) compose clear guidelines for establishment of legal referrals to the SLSC and maintain liaison with the SLSC to facilitate effective and prompt handling of referrals; (6) require strict adherence to the provision of extensive reports containing statistical encounter data from the SAP reported to the ASUW Student Senate at the required intervals; (7) overhaul the SAP data collection process in order to provide clear and useful electronic information on cases handled by the Students' Attorney, time allocated, outcomes and student satisfaction with the legal services rendered; (8) require the Students' Attorney to update technological skills in order to improve the SAP's scheduling of appointments and record-keeping. Appointments should be verified electronically through the Student Information Service to check and ensure that students that use the program have paid their student fees; (9) apply new uses of electronic records to devise a working system, such as a wait list, to determine the priority of handling clients once the maximum number of cases that the Students' Attorney and staff can reasonably handle has been reached; (10) improve and revamp the SAP Website.

Drafting, debating, and passing such legislation in the ASUW Student Senate would provide the Students' Attorney with clear notice of what is expected next year. The Students' Attorney should be provided an opportunity to offer a comprehensive response to the ASUW Student Senate's expectations before any legislation is passed.

The performance standards adopted by the ASUW Student Senate should be overseen and reviewed by the SAAB next year. The legislation should include consequences if all of the expectations in the passed version of the legislation are not met. One consequence should be cancellation of funding in the ASUW Student Government budget for the SAP

should next year's performance be found unsatisfactory, based on the assessment of the SAAB.

Drawbacks of Using the Legislative Process to Clarify Expectations of the Students' Attorney:

Drafting and debating this legislation could take an extensive amount of the ASUW Student Senate's time. The Senate may not wish to allocate its time to this issue in light of the remaining legislative business before it over the balance of this year.

Additionally, the ASUW Student Senate may find this exercise redundant. The SAAB has already spent extensive time and energy reviewing the SAP and made its findings. Passing legislation in the ASUW Student Senate to instruct the SAAB to oversee the Students' Attorney in duties that are already in its job description may only delay the decision of the Senate to eliminate funding for the SAP and comprehensively redesign the legal service programs offered to UW students. This will simply delay needed reforms for an additional year.

Alternative C (preferred alternative)

The ASUW Student Senate Enacts Legislation Eliminating the SAP Clerical Assistant

Many of the deficiencies of the SAP that have been identified by the SAAB could be addressed by reorganizing the support services that currently serve the Students' Attorney. As mentioned earlier, the Students' Attorney is obligated to seek the placement of a student intern from the third-year class of the UW College of Law. One or more law school interns per semester, coupled with the part time assistance of an undergraduate student, paid through the work-study program, could complete the tasks currently performed by the Students' Attorney clerical assistant.

The legislation should amend the requirement to seek an intern to include either a third-year or second-year law student. This will expand the available pool of qualified applicants. The internship will be coordinated with the law school. In order to secure the viability of this alternative, a member of the ASUW Executive Branch must draft guidelines and duties of the intern and submit it to the Assistant Dean of the UW College of Law by March 21, 2005. The proposal will then be submitted to the Law School faculty who will consider it for approval. If approved, the internship will most likely be for two credit hours, giving the SAP the services of a law student for 100 hours per semester, subject to an evaluation by the Students' Attorney.

Given the academic framework of law school internships, the law student interns must participate primarily in the provision of legal services. This would include assisting with client screening, legal research, public presentations, and outreach efforts. The Students' Attorney should avoid assigning common clerical and office upkeep duties to the intern. In an effort to provide assistance with these duties, the ASUW Student Senate must include within its legislation a provision to seek and obtain one work-study position per semester, including the summer, to work for the SAP.

The advantage of this alternative is that it immediately addresses the failure of the Students' Attorney to obtain a law school intern. Additionally, the SAAB believes that a law school intern could improve many of the other current weaknesses of the SAP. A law school intern could assist the Students' Attorney with collecting information on legal issues of specific interest to individual RSO's, interact with students in an effort to maximize the effectiveness of SAP outreach, and conduct legal research to assist

individual UW students and the Students' Attorney with publications and public presentations. Additionally, obtaining the work-study position would insure the availability of clerical assistance for the Students' Attorney and the law student intern. Finally, both of these positions would bring about a more direct connection to UW students by having students assist in providing the services of the SAP.

The effectiveness of this alternative is maximized if it is adopted in conjunction with alternative B. These two alternatives, when taken together provide the advantage of an efficient reorganization of the SAP, while putting in place clear review standards for future SAABs in advising the ASUW Student Senate. This alternative, and the initiatives outlined in alternative B could all be included in one ASUW Senate bill, or be split up into two separate pieces of legislation.

Alternative D (no further action)

Under this alternative, the ASUW Student Government would continue operating the SAP under the current model. The SAAB would continue in its role of overseeing the Students' Attorney and reporting its findings to the ASUW Student Senate.

Executive Summary of the SAAB

In a unanimous vote, the SAAB endorsed Alternatives B and C.¹ The members of the SAAB collectively believe that the SAP is in need of meaningful reform. At the same time, the SAAB believes that the SAP continues to show an ability to deliver meaningful legal assistance to UW students and should not be eliminated by the ASUW Student Senate at this time.

Alternative B will allow the ASUW Student Senate to go on record and clarify exactly what it expects from the SAP. These expectations do not go beyond anything that isn't already a part of the Students' Attorney's job description. Passing clear legislation will create a template for next year's SAAB to continue its oversight effort.

Alternative C is a proposal that the SAAB believes will be beneficial in assisting the Students' Attorney in making those improvements that have been identified in this report. Increasing student involvement in the daily operation of the SAP will help improve its connection with UW students. Additionally, actively involving law students with the SAP should improve the synergy of legal services performed by the SAP and the SLSC.

The SAAB believes that these two alternatives, taken together, offer the greatest promise for restoring the original vision for the SAP. Members of the SAAB will be actively involved with drafting legislation in the near future to reflect these views.

¹ ASUW Senator Andrew Kuhmann was not present when the vote was taken. He has indicated that had he been present, he probably would have voted with the majority.

Addendum B

The performance factors include:

- 1) Enhanced marketing and promotion of the SAP, including targeted presentations to individual RSOs.
- 2) Regular composition of newspaper articles on legal topics of interest to students (ascertained through outreach efforts).
- 3) Compose clear guidelines on what the SAP interns and paid assistants can and cannot do regarding evaluation of student legal claims and a confidentiality policy regarding student legal information.
- 4) Provide extensive reports containing statistical encounter data from the SAP to the ASUW Student Senate at the required intervals.
- 5) Implementation of an electronic data collection program that provides clear and useful information, including: services rendered to individual discrete clients handled by the Students' Attorney, a work log documenting time allocation, legal outcomes, basis for referrals, and student satisfaction with the legal services rendered. This program should also be utilized for scheduling and appointment tasks of the SAP.
 - The implementation of this software program is contingent upon financial support of the ASUW Student Senate. Purchasing an existing program and subsidizing University of Wyoming personnel to create this program should be considered.
- 6) If an electronic data collection program is not implemented, the Students' Attorney shall maintain records based on each discrete individual client, including basis for referrals, along with a work log documenting the amount of time spent daily on each activity performed by the SAP.
- 7) Devise a working system, such as a wait list, to determine the priority of handling clients once the maximum number of cases that the Students' Attorney and staff can reasonably handle has been reached.
- 8) Improve and revamp the SAP Website.