SENATE BILL #2137

Title: Gender Equity Language in ASUW Working Documents

Date: February 13, 2006

Author: Senator Chollak

Sponsors: Senators Chollak, Fowler, Granum, Kinner, Wilson

1. WHEREAS, the By-Laws, Rules and Procedures and Constitution of the
2. Associated Students of the University of Wyoming all include the phrase
3. “No significance is to be attached to the singular or plural designations or
4. the use of masculine, feminine or neuter gender in (this document). Each
5. designation or gender shall be construed to include the others where
6. appropriate.”; and
7. WHEREAS, despite this disclaimer, nearly every reference in all of these
8. documents cites male gender; and
9. WHEREAS, ASUW recognizes the power that language can have to
10. influence people and events; and
11. WHEREAS, strong leadership from female student leaders has been a
12. major force in the success of the organization for many years; and
13. WHEREAS, Wyoming is a state which recognized early the vitality women
14. can bring to the general course of affairs by being the first territory and later
15. state to grant women rights of participation equal to those of men; and
16. WHEREAS, the first female governor of any state was Wyoming’s Nellie
17. Tayloe Ross; and
18. WHEREAS, the first female Justice of the Peace in the United States was
19. Ester Hobart Morris of South Pass City, Wyoming; and
20. WHEREAS, the first female to cast a ballot in an American election was
21. Louisa Swain of Laramie, Wyoming; and
22. WHEREAS, the first woman elected to any statewide office in the United
23. States was Superintendent of Public Instruction Estelle Reel of Cheyenne; and
24. WHEREAS, these pioneering women served ably in the execution of the
25. various capacities in which they were entrusted; and
26. WHEREAS, the disclaimer language in the ASUW working documents cited
27. above is archaic in nature due to the various ways women are participating in
28. a wide range of roles across campus, the state, the nation and the world.
29. THEREFORE, be it enacted that the ASUW By-Laws and Rules and
30. Procedures be amended to strike the phrase quoted above from the text of
31. these documents; and
32. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the question of removing the above
33. quoted language from the ASUW Constitution shall be presented on the ballot
34. of the General Election for Spring 2006 as outlined in Addendum A; and
35. THEREFORE, be it enacted that the ASUW Constitution Committee review
36. the ASUW By-Laws, Constitution and Rules and Procedures for all
37. occurrences of gender specific language and replace it with language referring
38. to specific positions by name, not placing any gender reference in the
39. language whatsoever; and
40. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that all future changes to the ASUW By-
41. Laws, Rules and Procedures and Constitution be written in a manner that does
not refer to any position in a way which references any specific gender.

Referred to: Constitution Committee

Date of Passage: February 28, 2006

Signed: [Signature]

UNANIMOUSLY

"Being enacted on March 1, 2006, I do hereby sign my name hereeto and approve this Senate action."

ASUW President
Addendum A

Question to appear on ASUW General Election Ballot

Shall the following phrase be stricken from the ASUW Constitution:

“No significance is to be attached to the singular or plural designations or the use of masculine, feminine or neuter gender in this Constitution. Each designation or gender shall be construed to include the others where appropriate.”

And shall all references to specific gender already included in the ASUW Constitution be changed to reflect gender neutrality.