

**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

42. not refer to any position in a way which references any specific gender.

Referred to: Constitution Committee

Date of Passage: February 28, 2006

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Rebecca Pugh*  
(ASUW Chairperson)

UNANIMOUSLY

“Being enacted on March 1, 2006

, I do hereby sign my name

hereto and approve this Senate action.”

*Joe M. An*  
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.