

SENATE BILL #2204

Title: Incorporation of Committee of the Whole into the Legislative Process

Date: March 24, 2008

Authors: Senators J. Berry and Elliott

Sponsors: Senators Hunzeker, Murdock, and Weaver

1. WHEREAS, the By-Laws of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
2. (ASUW) declare the Senate as the legislative body of the ASUW; and
3. WHEREAS, the Senate has been entrusted by the student body to serve their interest in
4. the creation of efficient, responsible, and coordinated functioning of student life by
5. enacting legislation; and
6. WHEREAS, the By-Laws of ASUW prescribe that the Senate shall have the authority to
7. assume whatever responsibilities it deems necessary to fulfill its obligations to students;
8. and
9. WHEREAS, the Senate has created the legislative process to meet these ends under its
10. Rules and Procedures; and
11. ~~WHEREAS~~ ^{WHEREAS} the legislative process is designed to ensure that adequate research and
12. consideration are given to every piece of legislation; and
13. WHEREAS, Committee of the Whole is a specific form of the motion to Commit
14. described under Chapter XVI, § 52 of the 10th edition of Roberts Rules of Order, Newly
15. Revised; and
16. WHEREAS, Committee of the Whole offers the relaxed speaking rules offered under the
17. standing rules of Committees offered in Chapter XVI, § 52 of the 10th edition of Roberts
18. Rules of Order, Newly Revised; and

19. WHEREAS, the Committee speaking rules leave open the possibility for Senators to ask
20. questions and engage in a dialogue with other Senators on the floor without concern of
21. exhausting speaking privileges; and
22. WHEREAS, the current legislative process only ensures that bills and resolutions are
23. debated during one regularly scheduled meeting of ASUW; and
24. WHEREAS, incorporating the Committee of the Whole into the legislative process would
25. ensure that every bill or resolution ⁽¹³⁾ are debated during two separate regularly scheduled
26. meetings of ASUW; and
27. WHEREAS, the reading of bills at two separate meetings will enable concerned
28. constituents a greater opportunity to join the ASUW Senate for debate and engage their
29. elected representatives during the process; and
30. WHEREAS, unpredictable and unanswerable questions often arise during the Second
31. Reading process; and
32. WHEREAS, an additional consideration by the ASUW Senate would allow Senators to
33. research and participate in informal discussion to address the concerns between
34. consideration by Committee of the Whole and Second Reading; and
35. WHEREAS, the additional opportunity for research and constituent participations
36. promises to deliver more effective and responsible legislation; and
37. WHEREAS, ASUW Senators accept the responsibility to serve the interests of the
38. students of the University of Wyoming.
39. THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Senate of the Associated Students of the University
40. of Wyoming (ASUW) that Article II, Section 1 of the Rules and Procedures be amended
41. by inserting subsection (O) to reflect the language in Addendum A; and

42. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the subsequent subsections be re-lettered to
43. reflect the language in Addendum A; and
44. ^{CMS} Therefore, be it further enacted by Senate of the ASUW that the Article VI, Section 1,
45. Subsection (E) of the Rules and Procedures be amended to reflect the language in
46. Addendum B; and
47. THEREFORE, be it further enacted by the Senate of the ASUW that Article VI, Section
48. 1 of the Rules and Procedures be amended by inserting subsection (F) to reflect the
49. language in Addendum B; and
50. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the subsequent subsections be re-lettered to
51. reflect the language in Addendum A. ^(B)

Referred to: Constitution Committee and Student Relations Committee

Date of Passage: _____ Signed: _____

(ASUW Chairperson)

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

approve this Senate action.” _____

ASUW President

2nd reading
4/8

1st reading
4/11/08

Const -
DO PASS
Relations
DO PASS

Failed 14-12
needs 2/3 to pass
4/8/08

ADDENDUM A

Article II

Order of Business

Section 1. The following shall be the order of business: (Agenda shall be posted 24 hours prior to meeting)

- A. Call to order
- B. Mission Statement: "The purpose of the Student Government of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming is to serve our fellow students in the best manner possible through accurate representation, professional interaction with campus programs and organizations, and responsible, effective leadership."
- C. Roll call – all voting and non-voting members of the Senate
- D. Approval of Minutes
- E. Approval of the Agenda
- F. Open Forum
- G. Special Event – determined by Chair and if necessary
- H. Communications
 - a. Advisor
 - b. Executive:
 - i. President
 - ii. Executive Assistants
 - c. Judicial Council
 - d. Legislative:
 - i. Secretary
 - ii. Vice President
 - e. Ex-Officio
- I. Ex-Officio Communications
- J. Committee Reports--Steering first, followed by others in alphabetical order, followed by Ad-Hoc Committees
- K. College Contact Reports
- L. RSO Funding Board Requests – Listed by group name
- M. Old Business
- N. New Business
- O. Consideration of Bills on General File
- P. Announcements
- Q. Processing
- R. Adjournment

ADDENDUM B

Article VI Legislative Action

- Section 1.
- A. All bills and resolutions must be sponsored by not less than two Senators of the ASUW Senate.
 - B. Bills and resolutions must be read in not less than two (2) consecutive Senate meetings by the Secretary before passage.
 - C. Upon referral to a standing committee by the Steering Committee, an advertisement for a bill or resolution shall be submitted to the Branding Iron . The advertisement must contain the following information: the name of the bill or resolution, a neutral brief description, the name of the committee to which the bill or resolution has been referred, the name of that committee's chairperson, and the email address or other contact information of the committee chairperson. If multiple bills or resolutions are referred by the Steering Committee at a single time, one advertisement may be used to advertise multiple bills or resolutions.
 - D. The bill or resolution shall be read the first time by the Secretary and the ASUW Vice President shall immediately report the committee(s) to which the bill or resolution has been referred by the Steering Committee. There shall be no debate following the first reading.
 - E. After being reported out of committee, the ASUW Vice President shall place the bill or resolution on general file and it shall be considered by the Committee of the Whole of the ASUW Senate and the recommendations of the committee(s) shall be given by the chairperson(s) of the committee(s) to whom it was assigned. The Committee of the Whole shall offer its recommendation to the general body upon consideration under second reading.
 - F. After being reported out of Committee of the Whole, the ASUW Vice President shall place the bill or resolution on the agenda and it shall be read a second time and recommendations of the Committee of the Whole shall be given by the chairperson. The bill or resolution is now open for debate and subject to amendments.
 - J. None of the above rules shall be construed as an abridgment of the right of any senator to move to table indefinitely or definitely until any future time.
 - G. At the end of debate, the bill shall be read a third time by the Secretary and shall be voted upon at the end of this reading. No debate or amendment shall be permitted after the chair has put forth the question to the voting membership. The final vote on all ASUW bills and resolutions shall be a roll call vote.
 - H. Following action by the ASUW on a bill or resolution, the original copy of the legislation shall be signed by the presiding officer of the Senate to attest to the action.
 - I. This signed legislation shall be submitted to the ASUW President for his action. If this legislation is signed by the ASUW President, goes into effect without his signature, or his veto is overridden by the ASUW Senate, it shall be entered and kept in a volume of legislation of the ASUW by the Secretary.
 - K. In the case of an emergency, a bill or resolution may be voted on in the meeting of its introduction if the Senate, by a four-fifths (4/5) vote of its members present, shall vote to suspend the rules. (Suspends Article V, Paragraphs B and C) After such action, the proper committee shall be asked for its recommendation. This recommendation may have been prepared prior to the Senate meeting or the committee may meet in a special session during the Senate meeting if a quorum of the committee is present.
 - L. All roll call votes shall include votes only of Senators present at roll call. Any Senators present at roll call but not responding in roll call votes shall have their votes counted as abstentions. Senators leaving prior to the adjournment of the meeting without permission of the presiding officer, and who, by their leaving, miss a roll call vote, shall have their names removed from future roll call votes of that meeting. Senators leaving with permission of the presiding officer will have their names called at any roll call votes following their return.
 - M. Any action on a current bill or resolution will override previous Senate action on the same subject matter. Any legislation previously enacted by the ASUW Senate shall remain in full force and effect until such time as the ASUW Senate repeals or