SENATE BILL # 2241

TITLE: Committee Rules and Procedures Act of 2009

DATE: March 9, 2009

AUTHOR: Senator Kinney

SPONSORS: Constitution Committee: Senator Beach, Lewis, MacLellan, Wallace, and Weaver

1. WHEREAS, the standing committees of the Associated Students of the University of
2. Wyoming (ASUW) are a critical component of the legislative process; and
3. WHEREAS, the ASUW Judicial Council, in their interpretation dated October 16, 2008,
4. specifically stated the following with respect to the question of committee powers to amend
5. legislation in Interpretation and Recommendation 1: “The Council also recommends that the
6. Senators consider developing working procedures to address the drafting of friendly
7. amendments and amendments within the committee structure. These recommendations are
8. based on the Judicial Council’s opinion that no specific language within the working
9. documents of ASUW relevant [sic] to the question posed regarding friendly amendments”;
10. and
11. WHEREAS, additional details in the Rules and Procedures of the ASUW Senate relating to
12. committee powers could have addressed the remaining questions presented in the Judicial
13. Council interpretation; and
14. WHEREAS, amending the Rules and Procedures of the ASUW Senate would provide clear
15. guidance to committees regarding their duties and powers to draft, amend, and investigate
16. legislation, as well as other relevant committee business.
17. THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Student Senate of the Associated Students of the
18. University of Wyoming (ASUW) that the following changes and additions be made to the
19. Rules and Procedures of ASUW: Following Article VI: Legislative Actions, Section 1, Line
20. D, insert a new line E which reads: “Committee procedures for handling bills, resolutions,
21. hearings, and other committee business shall be determined by Committee Rules and
22. Procedures established in Article VI, Section 2”; and
23. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the text contained in Addendum A be placed into the
24. ASUW Rules and Procedures in Article VI, in a new Section 2; and
25. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that all changes made by this legislation shall be inserted
26. into the ASUW Rules and Procedures with appropriate technical corrections and formatting
27. consistent with the ASUW Rules and Procedures; and
28. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that this legislation will become effective immediately
29. upon passage by the Student Senate of the ASUW.

Referred to Constitution Committee and Student Relations Committee

Date of Passage: 04/074/09 Signed:  
UNANIMOUSLY

“Being enacted on 4/14/09, I do hereby sign my name hereto and
approve this Senate action.”  
ASUW President
ADDENDUM A

Article VI: Legislative Actions
Section 2.

A. Committee Powers and Procedures
   a. Powers. Standing committees of ASUW shall be authorized to hold meetings, make
      investigations into any matter within their jurisdiction, report on the findings of such
      investigations to the ASUW Senate, and shall have any and all necessary authority to
      carry out their functions as established under the ASUW By-Laws. Each standing
      committee shall be authorized to originate bills and resolutions within its jurisdiction, in
      addition to considering legislation or other business referred to it.
   
   b. Meeting times. Each standing committee shall fix regular weekly, biweekly, or
      monthly meeting days for the transaction of business before the committee and additional
      meetings may be called by the committee chair as he/she may deem necessary.
   
   c. Quorum. Each standing committee is authorized to fix the number of its senators (but
      not less than 1/3 of its entire membership) who shall constitute a quorum for the
      transaction of such business as may be considered by said committee.
   
   d. Proxies. No senator shall be allowed to cast a vote in committee by proxy.
   
   e. Records. Each standing committee shall keep as complete a record as practicable of all
      committee actions. The results of votes taken in any committee meeting on any
      legislation, amendments, or other business considered by the committee shall be reported
      by the committee chair when such legislation, amendments, or other business is brought
      before the full ASUW Senate.
   
   f. Procedures. It shall be at the discretion of the chair of the committee to determine the
      level of parliamentary procedure necessary for the committee to effectively conduct its
      business. The committee chair, in cooperation with committee members, shall make
      reasonable efforts to run the meeting as efficiently as possible under the circumstances.

B. Bills and Resolutions
   a. Scheduling: Once a bill or resolution is referred to an ASUW standing committee by
      the ASUW Steering Committee, the committee chair shall set a date and time for the
      standing committee to discuss the bill or resolution. This discussion can take place during
      the normal meeting times of the committee or at a different time to be determined by the
      committee chair.
   
   b. Consideration Requirements: The meeting in which the legislation is discussed must be
      attended by a quorum of committee members and may be attended by the authors of the
      legislation. The committee consideration of bills, resolutions, or other legislative acts
      shall be open to the public, except when a committee is asked to consider matters which
      fall under executive privilege. Should a committee meeting be closed for executive
session, no legislative business or votes shall be recorded until the meeting is reopened to
the public. The committee chair shall have full discretion to determine when and where to
hold the meeting and how much public notification and/or advertising is necessary to
encourage public involvement in the process. The committee chair shall also have
discretion to determine the process of inviting comments, either written or in person,
from University of Wyoming Administration Officials and Employees, the ASUW
President, Vice President, Executives, Senators, ASUW Ex-Officios, Recognized Student
Organizations (RSOs), and Students.

c. Purpose of Authors’ Attendance: The authors of the legislation shall be encouraged to
attend the committee meeting to discuss the purposes behind the legislation and to answer
questions from committee members regarding issues including, but not limited to:
justification, subject matter, implementation, financing, and other relevant considerations
regarding the legislation. If the authors are not able to attend the committee meeting in
which their legislation will be discussed, they are encouraged to submit a supplementary
document containing sufficient information to assist the committee in its consideration of
the legislation.

d. Committee Consideration of Legislation: Amendments. The standing committee shall
have broad powers to amend any bill, resolution, or other legislative act referred to it. The
committee shall not have the power to completely contradict the original intent of the
legislation through amendment. All amendments adopted during committee consideration
shall be submitted to the ASUW Secretary for inclusion in the legislation prior to
consideration by the Senate. The text of amendments shall be submitted to the Secretary
of the Senate no later than 12:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to the Senate meeting in which
the legislation is to be considered.

e. Committee Consideration of Legislation: Time. It shall be within the discretion of the
committee chair to determine the time necessary for full consideration of any legislative
matter before the committee. The committee chair shall inform the Vice President of the
Senate and the Secretary of the Senate no later than 12:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to the
Senate meeting in which the legislation will be considered under second reading if
legislation will not be ready for consideration by the Senate. If the committee is not
prepared to make a recommendation, the committee chair will be required, during their
report to the Senate, to explain the reasons for the committee’s action. If the Vice
President is not informed otherwise by the committee chair, the referred legislative
business shall be deemed ready for Senate consideration. If the Senate desires to take up
legislation that has not been reported out of committee, senators can discharge the
committee of legislation using appropriate motions in Robert’s Rules of Order.

f. Committee Consideration of Legislation: Duties of Committee Chair. It shall be the
duty of the chairman of each committee to promptly report to the Senate any legislation,
amendment, or other business requiring a vote of the Senate, which has been approved by
the committee and to take necessary steps to bring the matter to a vote. It shall also be the
duty of the committee chair(s) to reconcile conflicting amendments should legislation or
other committee business be referred to two or more committees, or in any other
circumstances where conflicting amendments may arise between committees. Irreconcilable committee amendments shall be offered by the respective committee chairs in the form of general amendments during Senate consideration, in the order the committees were referred the legislation.