SENATE RESOLUTION #2471

TITLE: ASUW Stance on Legislative Action for Student Email Privacy Protection

DATE: 9/7/2015

AUTHOR: President Schueler

SPONSORS: Senators Adimoraegbu, Drake, Hernandez, Lind-Gonzalez, Maze, Rotellini;

Vice President Kath

1. WHEREAS, the language of the Wyoming Public Records Law (Wyoming State Statute §16-4-200) is written and interpreted broadly, and;

2. WHEREAS, interpretations of this law have held that electronic communication services provided by the University of Wyoming to students and more specifically, university email accounts, are public records, and;

3. WHEREAS, students frequently use their email accounts provided by the university for private matters, demonstrating a reasonable expectation of privacy, and;

4. WHEREAS, students are generally not public officials, and the inclusion or exclusion of student emails as public records does not significantly impact the transparency and openness of the governance at the University of Wyoming, nor the governance of other public entities, and;

5. WHEREAS, the Wyoming State Legislature’s Joint Digital Information Privacy Task Force in developing draft legislation to protect student privacy and exempt student emails from being public records has requested input from students from the University of Wyoming via representatives of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (ASUW) Student Government.

6. THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Student Government of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (ASUW) that students at the University of Wyoming have a
19. reasonable expectation of privacy in their email correspondence that ought to be protected
20. explicitly with clearly worded state laws, and;
21. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW does not support actions which would
22. deny students working as part-time non-benefited employees at the University of Wyoming
23. access to the privacy protections a student email exemption would provide, and;
24. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW holds that non-compensated and
25. non-benefited officials of the ASUW Student Government are not public officials with regard
26. to the State of Wyoming and should not be denied privacy protections based on their
27. volunteer service to their fellow students, and;
28. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW holds that part-time compensated
29. officials of the ASUW Student Government are not public officials with regard
30. to the State of Wyoming, and should not be denied privacy protections based on their
31. service to their fellow students, and;
32. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW supports efforts to develop and
33. implement proactive and reasonable legislation being crafted by members of the ASUW
34. Executive Branch, the Wyoming State Legislature’s Joint Digital Information Privacy Task
35. Force, and the sub-committee to develop proposal language co-chaired by ASUW President

Referred to: Academics, Technology, and Sustainability

Date of Passage: Signed: 9/22/2015 Signed

"Being enacted on, 9/22/2015 I do hereby sign my name hereto and
approve this Senate action."

ASUW President