



Vision and Goals: 2022-2023 Academic Year

The mission and purpose of the Student Government of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (ASUW) 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. In this spirit, the Judicial Council as composed in the 2022/2023 session, has set out clear, specific, and achievable goals, which are all linked to the mission and purpose of ASUW.

Firstly, the Judicial Council serves our fellow students by adjudicating matters of dispute, through interpreting the ASUW working documents, including, but not limited to, the ASUW Constitution, the ASUW By-Laws, the ASUW Rules and Procedures, the ASUW Finance Policies, and the ASUW Elections Code in situations of disagreement (*See Judicial Council Rules and Procedures (here), Article 3 of the ASUW By-Laws (here), and Article VII of the ASUW Constitution (here)*). These statutes spell out the council's duties, but there is always room for improvement.

[Article 2, Section 2.01](#) of the Judicial Council Rules and Procedures requires the Chief Justice to *create and present a Vision and Goals document for the Judicial Council annually after confirmation by the ASUW Senate*. My **vision** as the Chief Justice is to develop a culture of high performance and excellence within the Judicial Council that will continue after my tenure ends by May 2023. I will provide leadership that seeks to trigger the potential of Associate Justices and develop their competencies as much as possible. Justices of the Council will attain the demands stated in the working documents, exceed limits, and set new standards of professionalism. Thus, I have set out three rhetorical questions that will guide the Council's work. These questions are designed to ensure that the council never rests on its oars in delivering its mandate. They are:

1. Is the Judicial Council becoming more **effective in performing its duties**?
2. Is the Judicial Council becoming more **excellent in performing its duties**?
3. Is the Judicial Council **building the capacity** of all Associate Justices for better performance of their duties?

There are three critical skills that I think every Associate Justice should develop within the council:



1. Strong Speaking Skills - an ability to articulate convincing arguments based on a holistic understanding of an issue, and clear specific facts.
2. Strong Writing Skills - an ability to make written arguments logically, coherently, and persuasively.
3. Leadership Skills- an ability to see the big picture, take initiative, identify goals, navigate diverse communities, negotiate agreements, make decisions based on consultation, and exhibit an attitude of humility and service. I would strive to create opportunities for these skills to be developed.

To pursue and achieve the above vision, the Council has **plans** in place.

- a) I will always consult with and seek the counsel of the Judicial Council Advisor, Prof. Dan Fetsco. His guidance is central to the success of my vision, plans, and initiatives.
- b) A Secretary has been appointed, Justice Bradley Sankey has the experience and organizational skills to be the scribe of the council. He will be invaluable in helping me operationalize and implement these plans.
- c) A training session will be held for all Justices in October 2022, which will sharpen the skills of new and existing Justices.
- d) All Justices will be required to make spoken and written inputs to Judicial Council debates and decisions.
- e) The Chief Justice will update the council on ASUW meetings, public functions, and networking opportunities. Networking is a core leadership skill and the council aims to develop its members in that capacity.
- f) Effective participation of all Justices in ASUW functions to promote a deeper understanding of the work of the Executive Branch and Legislative Branch. The Council will be proactive in keeping up with ASUW's activities and programs.

Other specific **initiatives** include:

- a) Judicial Council writing workshop. In the Spring semester, a writing workshop will be held for the council to improve the writing skills of members.
- b) The Chief Justice shall from time to time, attend ASUW Senate sittings to keep abreast of the legislative efforts of the Senate. He will report to the council to keep it informed.
- c) Recruiting drive - Four Judicial Council seats will be vacant by the end of the Academic Year. The council will leverage ASUW's social media to put out public posts to intimate the student

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body of the opportunities to serve in the council and inform them of when applications would open.

d) In the Spring of 2023, as required the Council's Rules and Procedures will be reviewed and sent to the Senate for approval.

The ASUW Judicial Council for the 2022/20232 session seeks to maintain the highest level of professionalism and excellence in all its responsibilities. As I stated in my application to this seat, "I shall cooperate with other justices to inspire a renewed passion for excellence by **delegating more responsibilities to Associate Justices**. I shall also seek to make the council **more accessible and closer to students** such that they can understand the responsibilities of the council, exercise their right in bringing cases before the council, and work to ensure that students have the utmost trust in the justice being delivered by the council."

I look forward to working with the Council Advisor, Prof Fetsco, and the six Associate Justices to do this and would welcome feedback on these plans and any issues.

In service to ASUW,

Friday C. Otuya

Chief Justice, ASUW Judicial Council (2022/2023)