



SENATE BILL #2651

TITLE: Establishing the ASUW Opportunity for Success Scholarship
DATE INTRODUCED: March 5, 2019
AUTHOR: Senator Strock
SPONSORS: Senators Pierson and Rooney

1. WHEREAS, the purpose of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
2. (ASUW) Student Government is to serve our fellow students in the best manner possible;
3. and,
4. WHEREAS, the average cost of attendance at a public four-year university has increased
5. by 304.5% in the past 30 years; and,
6. WHEREAS, in the same amount of time the average student debt of a graduating student
7. has increased 633.3%; and,
8. WHEREAS, Article 7, Section 16 of the Wyoming State Constitution states that tuition
9. should “be as nearly free as possible;” and,
10. WHEREAS, the University of Wyoming’s (UW) status as the only four-year institution
11. in the state can mean that UW represents the only feasible option for higher education for
12. some in-state students; and,
13. WHEREAS, UW’s relatively low cost of attendance serves as a significant draw for out-
14. of-state students; and,
15. WHEREAS, despite its status as one of the most affordable universities in the nation, the
16. average UW student graduates with \$24,997 in student loan debt; and,
17. WHEREAS, recent decisions, such as the implementation of programmatic fees and
18. yearly 4% increases in tuition, have and continue to push up UW’s cost of attendance; and,
19. WHEREAS, both the UW Strategic Plan Breaking Through: 2017-2022 and the ASUW

20. Student Government Strategic Plan Moving Forward: 2018-2022 identify goals to

21. increase recruitment and retention of students at UW; and,

22. WHEREAS, helping to reduce the cost of attendance would help achieve those goals by

23. helping more students cope with the high cost of education and reducing future debt

24. burdens; and,

25. WHEREAS, currently all ASUW Student Government offered scholarships are either

26. merit-based or awarded as a form of compensation; and,

27. WHEREAS, creating a need-based scholarship would help traditionally under-served

28. populations, including but not limited to low-income students, students of color, non-

29. traditional students, and first-generation students, who are often disproportionately

30. impacted by high costs of education; and,

31. WHEREAS, there is \$165,882.00 in the ASUW Reserve currently, with \$65,882.00 above

32. the required floor of \$100,000.

33. THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming

34. (ASUW) Student Government that the ASUW Opportunity for Excellence Scholarship be

35. created in accordance with Addendum A; and,

36. THEREFORE, be further it enacted that \$10,000.00 be allocated from the ASUW Reserve to

37. the ASUW Opportunity for Excellence Scholarship for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 in accordance

38. with Addendum B; and,

39. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the first awarding of the ASUW Opportunity for

40. Excellence Scholarship be in Fall 2019, beginning a trial period to run until the end of FY

41. 2020; and,

42. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that review, oversight, and evaluation of the ASUW

43. Opportunity for Excellence Scholarship be vested in the ASUW Budget and Planning
44. Committee until the end of FY 2020; and,
45. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the ASUW Budget and Planning Committee be
46. charged with reviewing the continuance of the ASUW Opportunity for
47. Excellence Scholarship after FY 2020.

Referred to: Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy; Budget and Planning; Steering

Date of Passage: 3/12/19 **Signed:** *Jason A. Williams*
(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on 3/25/19, I do hereby sign my name hereto and
approve this Senate action.” *Alexander Mulhall*

ASUW President

Addendum A

The ASUW Opportunity for Excellence Scholarship

The purpose of the ASUW Opportunity for Excellence Scholarship (hereafter referred to as the Scholarship) shall be to help cover the unmet financial need of deserving students at the University of Wyoming. Student applicants will be evaluated for the Scholarship based on demonstrable financial need.

To be eligible for the Scholarship, applicants must:

1. Be enrolled in the University of Wyoming and have ASUW fee paying status.
2. Demonstrate financial need.
3. Submit a personal statement of no less than 500 words detailing how the Scholarship would affect them and their academic careers.
4. Submit a resume.

Recipients of the Scholarship shall receive awards in both the Fall and Spring Semesters of the academic year in which the Scholarship is awarded. Scholarship recipients shall be eligible to apply for and be awarded the Scholarship year after year; however, being awarded the Scholarship in previous years does not guarantee continued awards. The Scholarship shall be awarded each Fall semester by the Scholarship Committee, which shall consist of:

- One (1) ASUW Executive, to be appointed by the ASUW President
- Three (3) ASUW Senators
- Two (2) ASUW First-Year Senators
- Two (2) Students-at-Large
- The ASUW Advisor, or designee

Addendum B

Funding Allocations: ASUW Opportunity for Excellence Scholarship		
Fiscal Year	Total Amount Allocated	Scholarships Awarded
2020	\$10,000	5 Scholarships of \$2000 each
Total:	\$10,000	5 Scholarships over 1 year