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The 105th Administration
Associated Students of the
University of Wyoming

To: ASUW Senators
From: Benjamin D. Wetzel, President
Date: April 20th, 2018
Subject: Veto of Senate Bill #2623

Honorable Senators,

Pursuant to the ASUW By-Laws Article I, Section 1, Subsection E, Clause ii, this shall serve as your official veto notice for Senate Bill #2623 (SB2623).

The conversation of legislative intent has been a revolving conversation in ASUW Student Government for all of my tenure. I have heard rumors that a title is the only way to determine intent, as well as conversation that the whereas clauses do not affect intent. Currently, there is no official opinion of the ASUW Judicial Council regarding how intent is determined, and there is not any specific area of the ASUW working documents that distinguishes one way to determine intent.

Although I believe this would have been a way to form a specific intent, I do not believe that is necessarily our duty. Determination of intent, opinions of meanings, clarification of working documents is the duty of the ASUW Judicial Council. It is impossible for the members of the Legislative Branch to make working documents that address all possible situations that may occur on the senate floor regarding legislation.

Legislation may be left extremely vague and decided on the floor, and legislation may not be vague and still amended to reach a better outcome. That is the goal of the legislative process. I do not believe it is appropriate to pigeon hole our creative freedom and our legislative process around a few events of misconduct regarding legislative intent.

In my opinion, the current framework of legislative intent statements would leave the ASUW Senates of the future in areas of conflict with amendments and restrict the abilities to craft legislation through a creative, engaging process for the integrity of our duty to represent the student body.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Benjamin D. Wetzel", written over a horizontal line.

Benjamin D. Wetzel, President
Associated Students of the University of Wyoming

A handwritten date "4/20/18" written in black ink over a horizontal line.

Date

Passed: 21-2-0

SENATE BILL #2623

TITLE: Clarifying How to Determine the Intent of Legislation
DATE INTRODUCED: April 10, 2018
AUTHOR: Senator DeLany; SAL Strock
SPONSORS: Senators Kennedy and Rubino



1. WHEREAS, it is the purpose of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
2. (ASUW) Student Government to serve our fellow students through accurate representation,
3. professional interactions with campus programs and organizations, and responsible, effective
4. leadership; and,
5. WHEREAS, ASUW Rules and Procedures Article VI, Section 1, Subsection F states that
6. "During debate, no Senator may propose any amendment that contradicts or changes the
7. intent of the original legislation;" and,
8. WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 3, Subsection D further states that committees which
9. legislation is steered to "shall not have the power to completely contradict the original intent
10. of the legislation through amendment;" and,
11. WHEREAS, current practice is to determine the intent of legislation through the title; and,
12. WHEREAS, this practice completely ignores the body of the legislation and has no basis in
13. the working documents of the ASUW Student Government; and,
14. WHEREAS, ambiguous titles can cause confusion as to what the exact intent of any given
15. piece of legislation; and,
16. WHEREAS, the current practice and the confusion it causes has led to situations in the past
17. where amendments that went against the original intent of the legislation were declared
18. permissible and sometimes incorporated into legislation, going against the spirit of the



19. working documents of the ASUW Student Government; and,
20. WHEREAS, a single, standard, and explicit way to determine the intent of legislation will
21. help reduce confusion and ensure the working documents of the ASUW Student Government
22. are not violated; and,
23. WHEREAS, the use of so-called legislative intent statements are a common practice in
24. legislative bodies around the country up to and including the US Congress.
25. THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Associated Students of the University of
26. Wyoming (ASUW) Student Government that Article V, Section 1, Subsection D of the
27. ASUW Rules and Procedures be amended to reflect that changes contained in Addendum A;
28. and,
29. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that this bill go into effect immediately upon passage.

Referred to: _____ Steering _____

Date of Passage: 4/17/2018 Signed: 
(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on _____, I do hereby sign my name hereto and
approve this Senate action.” _____

ASUW President

Addendum A
RULES AND PROCEDURES
ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Article V
Legislative System

Section 1. Mechanics – All major actions shall be submitted in bill form.

- A. All bills or resolutions shall be submitted to the ASUW Secretary, in writing, at least two (2) class days prior to the day of their introduction on the floor.
- B. The ASUW Secretary shall number the bills and resolutions according to the order of their introduction on the floor.
- C. The bill or resolution shall be headed by the statement "Senate Bill number" or "Senate Resolution number" respectively.
- D. The title, date introduced, the author(s), the sponsor(s) name(s), and a statement of legislative intent shall follow the heading.
 - a. A statement of legislative intent shall consist of a one (1) to two (2) sentence statement and/or summary which clearly indicates the intent of the bill/resolution as written by the author(s).
- E. In the case of a bill, the first therefore clause shall begin by stating "Be it enacted by the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (ASUW) Student Government..."
- F. In the case of a resolution, the proposal shall be in the form listed in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Revised.
- G. If the bill or resolution shall be of such a technical nature that the definition of pertinent terms or explanation of any portion shall be necessary, this shall be added as an addendum to the legislation.
- H. A bill shall be an action to be held binding upon the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming, or their officers and administrators.
- I. A resolution shall be a statement of the opinion of the Senate of the ASUW and binding upon that body alone.
- J. Each line of the resolution or bill shall be numbered to facilitate debate and changes.
- K. The bill or resolution shall conclude with the following statement: "Being enacted (resolved) on (date of passage) I do hereby sign my name hereto and approve this Senate action. (signature) ASUW President."
- L. The ASUW Secretary will forward all legislation to the ASUW Steering Committee so that it can refer the proposed ASUW legislation to the proper ASUW permanent or special committee for specified action or

recommendation. All finance bills shall be automatically referred to the appropriate finance committee.

- M. Bills may be referred to more than one committee by the Steering Committee for extended deliberation with the provision that the bills be considered separately and all changes made during committee proceeding be reconciled by the respective chairpersons of the committees to which the legislation was referred.
- N. The reconciled legislation must be considered by the original committees for a second vote.
- O. If the chairpersons and committees are unable to reconcile differences in the legislation before the scheduled second reading, the legislation may be withheld from the ASUW Senate until reconciliation is complete.
- P. Chairpersons will jointly report the results of committee proceedings during regularly scheduled ASUW Senate meetings.
- Q. The ASUW Secretary shall reproduce the proposed bills and resolutions and provide copies to the Senators prior to the Senate meetings.