

SENATE RESOLUTION #1433

Title: WYSPIRG Support

Introduced: April 14, 1982

Thesis:

Sponsors: Kristi Wallin, Brenda Marincic

1. Be it resolved by the Student Senate of the Associated Students of the
2. University of Wyoming that the ASUW support the formation of WYSPIRG;
3. and be it further resolved that students be allowed to decline to pay the
4. WYSPIRG fee at registration with the added option of a refund at a later
5. date.

*A NON-Profit,
NON-Partisan
organization*

*4/20/82 DO NOT
PASS 4/27*

*DO NOT
PASS 4/27*

Referred to: Student Information Service & Ad hoc committee; Tom Matthews for information

Date of Passage: _____ Signed: _____
ASUW Senate Chairperson

"Being enacted on _____, I do hereby sign my name hereto
and approve this Senate action." _____ ASUW President

*Defeated
21-8*

*3rd reading with friendly
amendments
4/27/82
2nd reading
4/27/82
1st reading
4/20/82*



THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
LARAMIE, WYOMING 82071

April 27, 1982

TO: ASUW Steering Committee

FROM: Tom Mattheus, Dean of Students *Tom Mattheus*

SUBJECT: Requested information regarding ASUW Senate Bill 1433

Pursuant to your request for information which may relate to any consideration of the present proposal of funding for the Wyoming Student Public Interest Research Group (WYSPIRG), I can provide the following.

1. Contained in the "Statement of Purpose" of the bylaws for the local WYSPIRG chapter is a strong and clear expression of an intent by WYSPIRG to engage in political lobbying; and, as well, this is indicated in Article III of the proposed articles of incorporation for the state wide organization. In this regard, Chapter VII, Section 8 of the Regulations of the Trustees provides that "...University funds, time, services and facilities may not be used for political purposes." Though this statement is made pursuant to the rights and privileges of University employees, it does set a standard in one area of University involvement in political activities such as lobbying, and I do not know of anything that makes students an exception.
2. Article VIII of the WYSPIRG articles of incorporation provides, in part, as follows:

This Corporation is organized and shall operate exclusively as a non-profit corporation for charitable and educational purposes pursuant to the requirements of Section 501(C)(4) of the Tax Reform Act of 1954, as amended, and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

In this regard, Article 3 §36 of the Wyoming Constitution provides as follows:

§36. Prohibited Appropriations. No appropriation shall be made for charitable, industrial, educational or benevolent purposes to any person, corporation or community not under the absolute control of the state, nor to any denominational or sectarian institution or association.

For some time I have clearly understood that this provision applies to the University in the utilization of its various resources.

3. Any type of mandatorily collected WYSPIRG fee could be interpreted as a fee necessary to gain access to the benefits of this University's educational program when that fee, in fact, is not a part of and does not contribute to that educational program.

Wyoming Statutes 1957, Section 21-336 provides in part:

The objects of such university shall be to provide an efficient means of imparting to young men and women, without regard to color, on equal terms, a liberal education together with a thorough knowledge of the various branches connected with the scientific, industrial and professional pursuits...."

Furthermore, with regard to student fees charged as a part of registration processes, Chapter VIII, Section 2, of the Regulations of the Trustees provides as follows:

All student fees, charges and deposits shall be fixed by resolution of the Trustees and shall be published in the appropriate University publications. All fees are payable in advance, and no student shall be admitted to classes until such fees have been paid, except upon specific authorization of the President of the University.

4. I have discussed this WYSPIRG concept with Deans of Students from Sheridan Community College, Northwest Community College, Casper Community College, and Laramie County Community College; and, contrary to Mr. Bill Walker's earlier perceptions, I do not find any administrative or student support for this concept. These Deans of Students are not supportive of the proposed method of financing WYSPIRG; and they represent their respective student body associations with the following comments: "Community college students don't see the need for a WYSPIRG"; "They (the

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students) are cool to the idea"; "The student government is not even showing any awareness of the issue"; and "They (the students) see no apparent application in their community."

If I may provide any additional information, please contact me.

cc: Charlotte Davis