

SENATE BILL #2016

Title: ASUW Long-Term Mandatory Fee Plan

Date: October 23, 2002

Authors: ASUW Vice President Reed, ASUW President Sapp

Sponsors: Senators Dagit, Fisher

1. WHEREAS, it has become necessary to develop a long-term fee plan, as
2. the University of Wyoming administration has requested that all fee
3. dependent divisions and departments raise fees on a biennial basis, to
4. offset the salary increases that will be incurred during even-numbered
5. years; and
6. WHEREAS, ASUW's primary source of income is the ASUW fee that
7. every full-time student pays unconditionally and is optional to part-time
8. students, and is therefore dependent on enrollment; and
9. WHEREAS, ASUW's secondary sources of income (including the
10. proceeds of the ASUW endowments that cover special projects,
11. equipment, emergencies, and other activities that the ASUW Senate
12. deems necessary) are not guaranteed because of their dependence upon
13. the open market's ability to generate a return beyond the rising cost of
14. inflation; and
15. WHEREAS, the dependency on enrollment creates an uncertainty that
16. ASUW must plan around each year in order to continue to provide
17. funding for ASUW programs and services; and
18. WHEREAS, the costs associated with funding ASUW programs and

19. services significantly increase with every fiscal year; and
20. WHEREAS, the variety and scope of ASUW programming and services
21. have broadened significantly since the last fee increase; and
22. WHEREAS, ASUW funded salaries have increased by \$21,000; and
23. WHEREAS, the ASUW Budget and Planning Committee found it
24. necessary to finance the \$21,000 for the salary increase with funds from
25. the ASUW Reserve.
26. THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Student Senate of the Associated
27. Students of the University of Wyoming that the long-term fee plan, which
28. was developed for the next six years, be implemented (see Addendum A);
29. and
30. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the long-term fee plan be
31. subject to an annual review to compensate for any unforeseen changes
32. that may affect the operations of ASUW.

Referred to: Budget and Planning Committee

Date of Passage: November 5, 2002

Signed: _____

Lori Reed

(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on Nov 7, 2002

I do hereby sign my name hereto and

approve this Senate action.”

[Signature]
ASUW President

ADDENDUM A

ASUW

Long Term Mandatory Fee Proposal October 23, 2002

In the best interest of the student body, ASUW, and the University of Wyoming, it is imperative that a long-term proposal be developed, justified, and adhered to for the sake of planning barring any unforeseen circumstances that may adversely affect the benefits of a long-term plan. It is also necessary, given the recent direction that the University of Wyoming administration has taken, requesting that all fee dependent divisions and departments raise fees on a biennial basis, to offset the salary increases that will be incurred during even years.

ASUW's primary source of income is the ASUW fee that every full-time student pays unconditionally and is optional to part-time students. There are of course secondary sources of income that come from the proceeds of the ASUW endowments that cover special projects, equipment, emergencies, and other activities that the senate deems necessary. These secondary sources of revenue are not guaranteed, much to our disappointment, because they are dependent upon the open market's ability to generate a return beyond the rising cost of inflation associated with these secondary sources. As such, ASUW's only guaranteed source of revenue comes from student fees, which are dependent on enrollment. This dependency on enrollment creates an uncertainty that ASUW must plan around each year in order to continue to provide a multitude of quality services that students have deemed necessary and beneficial to their experience as a student at the University of Wyoming. Traditionally and with great reason, ASUW conservatively develops its budget around low enrollment numbers to prevent unnecessary withdrawals from our emergency reserve. If our annual budget were developed on forecasted enrollment numbers that were not met, even our most compulsory functions would become dependent upon emergency monies that would eventually be depleted.

A portion of ASUW's extensive planning deals entirely with exogenous variables such as: inflation, salaries, programming expenses, and operating expenses. These items are essential to the success and perpetuity of ASUW and are beyond our organization's ability to influence.

ASUW does have the ability to control our programming funds, the extent of our services, and the image and effect that we have on the student body. When analyzing fee altercations it's critical to evaluate the effectiveness of our programming and services. Were our concerts well attended and received? Was ASTEC utilized beyond its own capacity? Did the Student's Attorney live up to her expectations and provide a service that students utilized? Are we compensating the senate and executive staff for their time and energies in a manner that does not limit

membership to a relatively limited pool of students? Questions such as these should be thoughtfully answered before the ASUW Senate should accept a fee increase.

With these ideas in mind and their annual reoccurrence, the following long-term fee plan was developed for the next six years subject to an annual review to compensate for any unforeseen changes that may affect the operations of ASUW.

Proposal

The University of Wyoming, backed by the support of the State, has committed to maintaining a competitive salary base for its faculty and staff that will be lobbied for during even years at the State Legislative session. Consequently, ASUW's section II monies (fees), must be developed around this same principle in order to maintain and compensate our staff at a level competitive with the private sector, ensuring quality and commitment. Salary increases during the academic year 2002 – 2003 totaled \$21,000, all of which were taken from the ASUW reserve, in order to maintain and provide the maximum level of programming and services for students that ASUW has consistently provided. Unfortunately, we cannot continue to depend on the reserve for this shortfall. Consequently, a fee increase of \$1.25 for fiscal year 2003-2004, raised \$.50 on a biennial basis would compensate for the current shortfall and an annual increase in salaries based on inflation and market competition of five to seven percent (5% – 7%).

First Recommend Increase: \$1.25 [Salaries] \$.50
[biennial]

Given the consistent shortfall in Budget and Planning's programming dollars, totaling more than \$65,000 alone in 2001, ASUW would also like to increase these funds in two areas: registered student organization programming dollars and the Finance Appropriation Committee's annual budget. The entire shortfall must not however, be compensated for with a fee increase because the enrollment trend and goals at the University of Wyoming for undergraduates is increasing compensation for this deficit. Consequently a fee increase of .90 cents would provide an additional \$16,000 to split between budgeted programming and the Finance Appropriations Committee. This area of the budget should at a minimum and subject to the needs of students and RSOs, expect a \$.45 biennial increase to compensate for the cost of inflation in addition to annual expansion of programming at a rate of one percent growth.

Second Recommend Increase: \$.90 [Programming] \$.45 [biennial]

ASUW, as a service to the RSOs on campus, provides an average of eighteen hundred column inches of free advertising space within the Branding Iron each year. For the last five years, including 2002, this service has been provided to ASUW free of charge as outlined in the loan agreement ASUW made to Student Publications. This agreement as of June 1st, 2003 will no longer be provided free of

charge and consequently will have to be purchased using ASUW funds. The current cost of advertising is \$5.50 per column inch of advertising, resulting in a \$10,000 expenditure that will begin in the fall of 2003 and continue on into the foreseeable future. This breaks down into an immediate increase of \$.60 for the following year with a biennial increase of \$.03 subject to the advertising needs of ASUW, RSOs, and increasing advertising costs.

Third Recommend Increase: \$.60 [Advertising]

\$.03 [biennial]

Beginning in 2000, under the leadership of Kara Calvert, the ASUW Safe Ride program was developed at an annual cost of nearly \$50,000. The program offers a safe means of travel from various locations around town and runs late at night to provide transportation to members of the community and students a ride home after a night out on the town. Since its first semester of operations, Safe Ride has provided service to more than 100 students per weekend.

Last spring, under the authorship of Vice President Rose and Executive Kinney, the ASUW senate passed Senate Bill #2003 that effectively transferred the program from ASUW to Fleet Operations over the next two years. The purpose of this transfer was to encourage the director of Fleet Operations to seek state and federal grant monies as outlined in a letter by President Dubois, removing ASUW from any financial obligation that was being met by the ASUW reserve.

Currently, the University has stated that no effort or commitment will be made to secure funding for the Safe Ride program. Vice President of Finance, Dan Baccari, informed Secretary Shepherd last week that he would not be signing the memorandum passed by the Senate that would have created an agreement between the University of Wyoming and the Safe Ride program as established by ASUW. Consequently, its future remains uncertain unless ASUW continues to provide funding through its own acquisition of grants, fees, or sponsorship. In order to guarantee operation for the near future and only until other viable means of funding have been guaranteed and secured, the Senate would like to propose a \$3.00 fee that would cover the expenses and growing operating costs of the Safe Ride program. In the event that outside funding is not secured within the next two years the program will need to be reevaluated by the senate. If the senate decides to maintain the fee it should be increased by five percent (5%) in order to cover the cost of salary increases, as outlined by the state, and inflation.

Fourth Recommended Increase: \$3.00 [Safe Ride]
[biennial]

\$.15

Finally there are a variety of needs that can be addressed by the ASUW Senate and the Budget and Planning Committee if it so deems these concerns as necessary changes for ASUW. Currently, the executive staff is earning a wage that does not meet the federal government's requirements for minimum wage. Consequently, the positions within the executive branch and the vice president's position are unknowingly limiting the application pool to candidates that have no significant financial obligations that would otherwise need to be met through higher

paying employment. Therefore, in recognition of this limitation that is placed upon the position, ASUW should consider the possibility of tuition stipends, salary increases, and an increase in the summer internship salaries as well. Given the average time commitment of the executive staff, the ASUW President, and the ASUW Vice-President and the outside obligations that must be met, an hourly wage of \$7 to \$10 should be considered. This increase would require a \$.85 increase in fees.

The ASUW Senate, though considered by many to be a volunteer service to the students at the University of Wyoming, may also want to consider the opportunity of providing incentives that could potentially alleviate a portion of the financial stress associated with the dedicated services of senators. A semester bonus of \$100 dollars, refreshments at senate meetings, and a greater quality of food service during ASUW sponsored events could be accomplished through a fee increase of \$1.00. If in the event these or any other proposals are approved, this portion of the fee should be increased \$.18-20 on a biennial basis to accommodate tuition changes, salary increases, and inflation.

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| Fifth Recommended Increase: \$1.85 [Executive & Senate] [biennial] | \$.20 |
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| Total Recommended Fee Increase: \$7.60 | \$1.33 [biennial] |
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