

SENATE RESOLUTION #2011

Title: School Color Changes

Date: September 27, 2002

Authors: Senators Martin and Nuspl

Sponsors: Senators Martin and Nuspl

1. WHEREAS, the University of Wyoming is founded upon strong traditions
2. and a sense of pride in those traditions; and
3. WHEREAS, the original brown and gold school colors complement those
4. traditions; and
5. WHEREAS, the University of Wyoming needs to have a more defined
6. appearance at sporting events and other university functions; and
7. WHEREAS, the words in the University of Wyoming Alma Mater make
8. reference to the original colors; and
9. WHEREAS, the original brown and gold were chosen by the University of
10. Wyoming Alumni Association in 1895, based on the color of the Brown-Eyed
11. Suzan flower, which is native to Southeastern Wyoming; and
12. WHEREAS, the traditional brown and gold colors are unique not only to the
13. University of Wyoming but also to the State of Wyoming.
14. THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Associated Students of the University of
15. Wyoming that the school colors be officially returned to brown and gold; and
16. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that upon the completion of the current
17. marketing campaign the colors of the University apparel, merchandise, and
18. athletic uniforms be changed back to the original brown and gold.

Referred to: Committee of the Whole

Date of Passage: October 8, 2002

Signed: _____

Lou Reed

(Senate Chairperson)

“Being enacted on October 18, 2002, I do hereby sign my name hereto

and approve this Senate action.”

Keith Spill

ASUW President

DECORA LEGAL SERVICES

A Professional Corporation
1408 Baker Street
Laramie, WY 82072

ANDREW W. DECORA
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW

15 October 2002

Telephone 307-745-0744
Facsimile 307-745-0744

ASUW
University of Wyoming
P.O. Box 3623, University Station
Laramie, WY 82071

Re: Your Resolution with respect to Brown and Gold

Dear Students and Friends of our University:

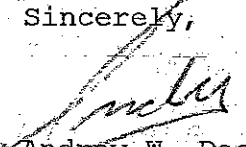
A hearty thank you for your courageous action with respect to your enacted resolution to bring back the traditional colors of brown and gold to our Alma Mater. I read an account of your resolution in the Laramie Boomerang, and the response of President Dubois thereto, in the Laramie Boomerang.

As a proud recipient of four degrees from UW, I am among a large number of silent alumni who have been, and are, very upset with the attempted changes to our honored and beloved historical traditions. I am particularly angry at the money-oriented reasoning stated by President Dubois to you and others to justify making changes to otherwise unchangeable traditions. There are some things that are above money!

Inherent in the very word, tradition, is the concept of something that is timeless and enduring. Something that we hold in loving memory of times past. As you can see from my long history here at UW, that is the case with me. I will always remember with the fondest of memories my on-campus days at UW. I remember well, when I enrolled in a class about the history of the University of Wyoming in my freshman year, 1946. It is in that class that I first learned about the traditions of UW, including our school colors.

Well, I digress, I am enclosing a letter to the editor that I am dispatching today to 17 Wyoming newspapers. I know many of my colleagues will read and support you and your very thoughtful work. Good luck in your future studies at UW.

Sincerely,


Andrew W. Decora
BS '50, MS '57, PhD '62, JD '90
UW Distinguished Alumnus, 1978

enc

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Letters to the Editor
LARAMIE DAILY BOOMERANG
320 Grand Avenue
Laramie, WY 82070

Re: UW Tradition - Some History

Dear Editor:

Kudos to the ASUW on their adoption of a resolution to bring back our University's traditional colors of brown and gold. I was shocked and disappointed by President Dubois' e-mail response to the ASUW. President Dubois' response continues his irreverent disregard for tradition, on this matter, trashing historical UW tradition by commercializing traditions deemed sacred by many of us alums. Dr. Dubois further justifies his unwelcome changes by citing the increase in marketing success of apparel sales bearing the "new colors", and asserts that the change is a done deal, ignoring where the traditions originated in the first place!

From whence come the historical symbols of our Alma Mater? Professor Wilson O. Clough, in his treatise, "History of the University of Wyoming, 1887-1964, page 38, (available at the Albany County library.), records, and I quote in pertinent part:

". . . At the March meeting the Board adopted the official seal of the University: 'in circular form with the words, 'The University of Wyoming, Laramie' in circular form between two gold cords, and in the center of the seal, an open book with a quill pen diagonally across the book and word 'Equality' underneath the book on the center of the seal.'" (Emphasis, mine).

(Continuing), Less officially, the University colors of brown and yellow were selected some time before 1892. Dean Soule later recalled that he was on the committee for their selection, perhaps with Nelson and Miss Hebard, and that they had difficulty making a decision. Soule kept a saddle horse at the time, and as he was riding one Saturday he came upon a dale filled with brown-eyed Susans. Struck with the color, he picked a bunch and presented them to the committee with his suggestion. Thus the brown and yellow of Wyoming." (Emphasis again, mine.).

And that's where this all began. Tradition, tradition!

Andrew W. Decora, Laramie
BS '50, MS '57, PhD '62, JD '90
UW Distinguished Alumnus, 1978

