

**SENATE RESOLUTION #2350**

**TITLE: War Memorial Stadium Safety and Equality Act**

**DATE: February 15, 2012**

**AUTHORS: Senators Hull and Messer**

**SPONSORS: Senators Abernathy, Chenchar, Defebaugh, Drumhiller, Parry, Purcell, and Unangst; Student-at-Large Brink**



1. WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Student Government of the Associated Students of the
2. University of Wyoming (ASUW) to act on behalf of the student interest by providing a voice
3. of student opinion; and,
4. WHEREAS, students should be able to expect a safe environment during all university
5. athletic events; and,
6. WHEREAS, current policy by University of Wyoming (UW) Athletics allows for the sale
7. and consumption of beer, wine and spirits to patrons of the Wildcatter Stadium Club and
8. Suites (WSCS); and,
9. WHEREAS, the same sale and consumption of beer, wine and spirits to patrons of the
10. general stadium audience is not allowed under current policy; and,
11. WHEREAS, a recent ASUW survey showed that 66.7% (n=845) of students view the current
12. policies at War Memorial Stadium (WMS) and the WSCS to be unfair, the breakdown of
13. such is "somewhat unfair" (16.8% 142/845), "unfair" (18.1% 153/845) and "very unfair"
14. (31.8% 269/845); and,
15. WHEREAS, the provision of alcoholic beverages to the patrons of the WSCS demonstrates
16. the inequality with regards to wealth; and,
17. WHEREAS, the UW Administration, on several accounts, has shown a strong opposition to

03/06/12: failed with 14 ayes and 15 nays

18. the sale and consumption of alcohol at UW athletic events; and,

19. WHEREAS, the A-Team (AWARE's Campus-Community Coalition) which is composed of

20. Laramie Police Department (LPD), University of Wyoming Police Department (UWPD),

21. Dean of Students Office, City of Laramie, Student Health Services, Albany County School

22. Board, Residence Halls Association (RHA), ASUW, as well as other entities; in a recent

23. meeting, supported the removal of alcohol from WSCS (attachmentA); and,

24. WHEREAS, previously, ASUW suggested further security measures in the form of either a

25. single uniformed or plain-clothed law enforcement official to be monitoring WSCS (as is in

26. the student section), however Athletics Department declined; and,

27. WHEREAS, in the ASUW survey, 660/845 (78.1%) of students self-reported as walking to

28. these athletic events; and,

29. WHEREAS, patrons of the WSCS are at a higher predisposition to drive greater distances

30. following athletic events than students who attend events at WMS; and,

31. WHEREAS, the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) as a whole has been

32. moving away from providing alcoholic beverages at its events; and,

33. WHEREAS, the only schools within the Mountain West Conference to allow alcohol sales at

34. their venues are Colorado State University, The University of Nevada Las Vegas and San

35. Diego State University; and,

36. WHEREAS, per President Tom Buchanan has stated that UW has a reputation of a "binge

37. drinking" university; and,

38. WHEREAS, UW has suffered great loss and irreparable harm with alcohol related accidents,

39. including the loss of student athletes.

40. THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Student Government of the Associated Students of the

03/06/12: failed with 14 ayes and 15 nays

41. University of Wyoming (ASUW) that we strongly discourage the sale and consumption

42. of alcoholic beverages at all University of Wyoming (UW) Athletic Events.

**Referred to:** Student Outreach and Policy Committee

**Date of Passage:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

(ASUW Chairperson)

**“Being enacted on \_\_\_\_\_, I do hereby sign my name hereto and**

**approve this Senate action.”** \_\_\_\_\_

**ASUW President**



The A-team recognizes the controversial nature of alcohol and athletic events, and appreciates the opportunity to participate in dialogue. While we can understand the argument for allowing alcohol to be sold in the general seating area of the stadium, we believe that the risks outweigh the potential benefits, and are not supportive of the ASUW Resolution (#2340). Listed below are reasons why we discourage the sale of alcohol in the stadium.

- Major football games already strain police resources as is. Typically, they aim for 1 officer per 500 fans. When alcohol is served at games, the ratio needs to be more like 1 officer per 300 fans in order to maintain the same level of safety.
- Alcohol sales would potentially increase profits for UW but the costs due to security costs would make this increase negligible.
- Only looking at alcohol sales from a profit point of view ignores the many harms associated with drinking, such as alcohol poisoning, DUIs, accidental injury, etc.
- Increasing the presence of alcohol in the stadium could diminish the positive image of UW football games, being a family-friendly atmosphere.
- Since allowing alcohol in the Wildcatter boxes and not in the general seats can be perceived as a mixed message, it seems more appropriate to advocate for the removal of alcohol from the Wildcatter boxes instead of advocating for the addition of alcohol to the full stadium.
- The elimination of alcohol at sports events is a recommended best practice according to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.
- Costs for stadium structural improvements for safety purposes (i.e. higher stair railings) would need to be considered.
- Alcohol would become more accessible to underage students.
- Because of the university's proactive efforts to change the culture around drinking, selling alcohol in the stadium would be a step back and send a mixed message.