



SENATE BILL #2403

TITLE: Legislative Process Revisions of 2013

DATE: August 28, 2013

AUTHOR: Senator Messer

SPONSORS: Senators Dinneen and Powell

1. WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Student Government of the Associated Students of the
2. University of Wyoming (ASUW) to represent and articulate the needs and opinions of the
3. student body; and,
4. WHEREAS, this is primarily accomplished through legislative action; and,
5. WHEREAS, the committee process is essential to any legislative action; and,
6. WHEREAS, the Standing Committees of the ASUW should be given broad responsibilities
7. to effectively achieve a thorough committee process.
8. THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Student Government of the Associated Students of the
9. University of Wyoming (ASUW) that Article VI of the ASUW Rules and Procedures be
10. amended to reflect the language contained in Addendum A.

Referred to: Constitution Committee

Date of Passage: 9-17-13 Signed: Kia N Murdoch
(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on 9/24/2013, I do hereby sign my name hereto and
approve this Senate action.” Brett Kalkreuth
ASUW President

RULES AND PROCEDURES ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Article VI Legislative Action

Section 1. Legislative Process

- A. Bills and resolutions may be submitted by any fee paying student. All bills and resolutions must be sponsored by no less than two (2) Senators of the ASUW Senate or by an ASUW standing committee. Authors may sponsor their own legislation but then must have at least two additional Senator sponsors. Regardless of their fee paying student status, members of the Judicial Council may not author or sponsor legislation due to their association.
- B. Bills and resolutions must be read in no less than two (2) Senate meetings by the ASUW Marshal before passage.
- C. Upon referral to a standing committee by the Steering Committee, an ASUW Executive shall submit an advertisement for a bill or resolution to the Branding Iron. The advertisement must contain the following information: the name of the bill or resolution, a neutral brief description, the name of the committee to which the bill or resolution has been referred, the name of that committee's chairperson, and the email address or other contact information of the committee chairperson. If multiple bills or resolutions are referred by the Steering Committee at a single time, one advertisement may be used to advertise multiple bills or resolutions.
- D. The bill or resolution shall be read the first time by the ASUW Marshal and the ASUW Vice President shall immediately report the committee(s) to which the bill or resolution has been referred by the Steering Committee. There shall be no debate following the first reading.
- E. Committee procedures for handling bills, resolutions, hearings, and other committee business shall be determined by Committee Rules and Procedures established in Article VI, Section 2.
- F. After being reported out of committee, the ASUW Vice President shall place the bill or resolution on the agenda and it shall be read a second time and recommendations of the committee(s) shall be given by the chairperson(s) of the committee(s) to whom it was assigned. The bill or resolution is now open for debate and subject to amendments. During debate, no Senator may propose any amendment that contradicts or changes the intent of the original legislation.
- G. At the end of debate, the bill shall be read a third time by the ASUW Marshal and shall be voted upon at the end of this reading. No debate or amendment shall be permitted after the chair has put forth the question to the voting membership. The final vote on all ASUW bills and resolutions shall be a roll call vote. The passage of a motion for unanimous consent on the final vote for any ASUW bill or resolution shall qualify as a roll call vote under this section and shall be recorded by the ASUW Marshal as a roll call vote with all senators present at the meeting voting "aye."
- H. Following action by the ASUW on a bill or resolution, the original copy of the legislation shall be signed by the presiding officer of the Senate to attest to the action.

- I. This signed legislation shall be submitted to the ASUW President for his/her action. If this legislation is signed by the ASUW President, goes into effect without his/her signature, or his/her veto is overridden by the ASUW Senate, it shall be entered and kept in a volume of legislation of the ASUW by the Secretary.
- J. None of the above rules shall be construed as an abridgment of the right of any senator to move to ~~table~~ postpone indefinitely or definitely until any future time.
- K. In the case of an emergency, a bill or resolution may be voted on in the meeting of its introduction if the Senate, by a four-fifths (4/5) vote of its members present, shall vote to suspend the rules- (Suspends Article VI, Paragraphs B and C) and resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole (as prescribed in the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order.) After such action, the proper committee shall be asked for its recommendation. This recommendation may have been prepared prior to the Senate meeting or the committee may meet in a special session during the Senate meeting if a quorum of the committee is present.
- L. Abernathy Clause:
 - i. All roll call votes shall include votes only of Senators present at roll call. Any Senators present at roll call but not responding in roll call votes shall have their votes counted as abstentions. Senators leaving prior to the adjournment of the meeting without permission of the presiding officer, and who, by their leaving, miss a roll call vote, shall have their names removed from future roll call votes of that meeting. Senators leaving with permission of the presiding officer will have their names called at any roll call votes following their return.
- M. Any action on a current bill or resolution will override previous Senate action on the same subject matter. Any legislation previously enacted by the ASUW Senate shall remain in full force and effect until such time as the ASUW Senate repeals or amends such prior actions, or it expires of its own accord, except prior actions of the ASUW Senate which shall automatically be considered superseded, if inconsistent with these by-laws.

Section 2. Committee Powers and Procedures

- A. Powers - Standing committees of ASUW shall be authorized to hold meetings, make investigations into any matter within their jurisdiction, report on the findings of such investigations to the ASUW Senate, and shall have any and all necessary authority to carry out their functions as established under the ASUW By-Laws. Each standing committee shall be authorized to originate bills and resolutions within its jurisdiction, in addition to considering legislation or other business referred to it.
- B. Meeting times - Each standing committee shall fix regular weekly, biweekly, or monthly meeting days for the transaction of business before the committee and additional meetings may be called by the committee chair as he/she may deem necessary.
- ~~B.C.~~ Electronic Meetings – No official business (debate on issues before the committee, votes, etc.) may be conducted via electronic communications.
- ~~C.D.~~ Quorum - Each standing committee is authorized to fix the number of its senators (but no less than four (4) voting members in addition to the Chair) who shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of such business as may be considered by said committee.
- ~~D.E.~~ Proxies - No senator shall be allowed to cast a vote in committee by proxy.
- ~~E.F.~~ Records - Each standing committee shall keep as complete a record as practicable of all committee actions. The results of votes taken in any committee meeting on any legislation, amendments, or other business considered by the committee shall be

reported by the committee chair when such legislation, amendments, or other business is brought before the full ASUW Senate.

- F.G. Procedures - It shall be at the discretion of the chair of the committee to determine the level of parliamentary procedure necessary for the committee to effectively conduct its business. The committee chair, in cooperation with committee members, shall make reasonable efforts to run the meeting as efficiently as possible under the circumstances.

Section 3. Bills and Resolutions

- A. Scheduling - Once a bill or resolution is referred to an ASUW standing committee by the ASUW Steering Committee, the committee chair shall set a date and time for the standing committee to discuss the bill or resolution. This discussion can take place during the normal meeting times of the committee or at a different time to be determined by the committee chair.
- B. Consideration Requirements - The meeting in which the legislation is discussed must be attended by a quorum of committee members and may be attended by the authors of the legislation. The committee consideration of bills, resolutions, or other legislative acts shall be open to the public, except when a committee is asked to consider matters which fall under executive privilege. Should a committee meeting be closed for executive session, no legislative business or votes shall be recorded until the meeting is reopened to the public. The committee chair shall have full discretion to determine when and where to hold the meeting and how much public notification and/or advertising is necessary to encourage public involvement in the process. The committee chair shall also have discretion to determine the process of inviting comments, either written or in person, from University of Wyoming Administration Officials and Employees, the ASUW President, Vice President, Executives, Senators, ASUW Ex-Officios, Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs), and Students.
- C. Purpose of Authors' Attendance - The authors of the legislation shall be encouraged to attend the committee meeting to discuss the purposes behind the legislation and to answer questions from committee members regarding issues including, but not limited to: justification, subject matter, implementation, financing, and other relevant considerations regarding the legislation. If the authors are not able to attend the committee meeting in which their legislation will be discussed, they are encouraged to submit a supplementary document containing sufficient information to assist the committee in its consideration of the legislation.
- D. Committee Consideration of Legislation: Amendments - The standing committee shall have broad powers to amend any bill, resolution, or other legislative act referred to it. The committee shall not have the power to completely contradict the original intent of the legislation through amendment. All amendments adopted during committee consideration shall be submitted to the ASUW Secretary for inclusion in the legislation prior to consideration by the Senate. The amended language submitted must be bolded or highlighted to show changes to the legislation. Additionally, the amended legislation must include a header stating the legislation is amended, the name of the committee who amended it, and the date amended. The text of amendments shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Senate no later than 12:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to the Senate meeting in which the legislation is to be considered.
- E. Committee Consideration of Legislation: Time - It shall be within the discretion of the committee chair(s) to determine the time necessary for full consideration of any

legislative matter before the committee. The committee chair(s) shall inform the Vice President of the Senate and the Secretary of the Senate no later than 12:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to the Senate meeting in which the legislation will be considered under second reading if legislation will not be ready for consideration by the Senate. ~~committee(s) will report any pending legislation for second reading. If the committee is not prepared to make a recommendation, the committee chair will be required, during their report to the Senate, to explain the reasons for the committee's action. If the Vice President is not informed otherwise by the committee chair, the referred legislative business shall be deemed ready for Senate consideration. If the Senate desires to take up legislation that has not been reported out of committee, senators can discharge the committee of legislation using appropriate motions in Robert's Rules of Order.~~

- F. Committee Consideration of Legislation: Duties of Committee Chair - It shall be the duty of the chairman of each committee to promptly report to the Senate any legislation, amendment, or other business requiring a vote of the Senate, which has been approved by the committee and to take necessary steps to bring the matter to a vote. It shall also be the duty of the committee chair(s) to reconcile conflicting amendments should legislation or other committee business be referred to two or more committees, or in any other circumstances where conflicting amendments may arise between committees. Irreconcilable committee amendments shall be offered by the respective committee chairs in the form of general amendments during Senate consideration, in the order the committees were referred the legislation.