



**SENATE Bill #2427**

**TITLE: Abolishment of the ECO Council**

**DATE: March 31, 2014**

**AUTHOR: SAL Chris Ryan; Senator Moore**

**SPONSORS: Chief of Staff Haakinson; Executive Darrow; Senators Andersen, Dinneen, Haukaas, Kebert, Lundell, and Matlock; SALs Hellbaum and Kelly.**

1. WHEREAS, the ECO Council was established to maintain programs and awareness of
2. sustainability at the University of Wyoming (UW); and,
3. WHEREAS, the ECO Council was not fulfilling its purpose, and had not for several years, as
4. demonstrated by the lack of awareness and use of the program; and,
5. WHEREAS, there are multiple Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs) and other groups on
6. campus that, in their own judgment, successfully raise awareness and sponsor activities,
7. similar to the ECO Council's original mission; and,
8. WHEREAS, the Academic, Technology, and Sustainability (AT&S) Committee conducted
9. extensive research into the subject including visiting RSOs, distributing surveys, and
10. evaluating the success of ECO, as seen in addendum B; and,
11. WHEREAS, the response from sustainability RSOs was lacking and the responses received
12. indicated that what the RSOs wanted was not compatible with the mission of the Associated
13. Students of the University of Wyoming (ASUW); and,
14. WHEREAS, discussion with representatives of the leadership of the RSOs yielded a vision
15. of the ECO Council that was not compatible with the Council's original mission; and,
16. WHEREAS, in the research completed by AT&S, groups stated that they felt the
17. sustainability mission on campus is accomplished by the activities of their RSOs; and,

18. WHEREAS, it was the consensus of AT&S after weighing all the research that continuing to  
19. fund and facilitate the ECO Council would not be beneficial to the student body nor a  
20. worthwhile use of ASUW resources.
21. THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Student Senate of the Associated Students of the  
22. University of Wyoming (ASUW) that the ECO Council be abolished as a program; and,  
23. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the ASUW By-Laws be amended to reflect the  
24. language contained in Addendum A.

Referred to: Program and Institutional Development Committee

Date of Passage: 4/15/2014

Signed: Kia N. Mureloch

(ASUW Chairperson)

"Being enacted on 4/21/14, I do hereby sign my name hereto and  
approve this Senate action." Brett Kahler

Addendum A.

**THE BY-LAWS  
ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**

**ARTICLE II  
Legislative Branch**

Section 10. Senate Committees:

- A. In order to provide continuity in ASUW activities and business along with providing a mechanism for timely participation by the ASUW in University processes, the following permanent ASUW Senate committees are established:
- i. The ASUW Academics, Technology and Sustainability Committee:
    - a. Purpose. The Committee shall serve as the means by which the ASUW formulates student philosophy and position concerning University scholastic and technological affairs to include academic policies, grading, class scheduling, faculty and course evaluations, student access to current technologies as they relate to education, quality of technology on campus, and other matters that affect the interests of students in their academic endeavors. The Committee shall also be responsible for formulating student philosophy and position concerning University issues with sustainability and will be annually charged with providing meaningful sustainability education, resources, and programming to students. The Committee shall be the point of contact between sustainability RSOs and ASUW.
    - b. Powers. The Committee shall consider and render recommendations to the Senate on all academic, technological, and sustainable matters referred to it by the Senate or the ASUW Steering Committee; further, this Committee shall serve as a forum and liaison to the Senate for any individual student or group of students who have a concern about their academic welfare and quality or accessibility of academic, technological, and sustainable services available at the University. The Committee shall also be responsible for regularly updating and maintaining the ASUW website in conjunction with the ASUW Secretary.
    - c. Composition. The Committee shall consist of a minimum of five (5) ASUW Senators, one (1) of whom shall serve as chairperson, and a minimum of three (3) ASUW Students-at-Large, with a minimum of one (1) being a Freshman Senator. The ASUW Vice President shall appoint one (1) Executive Assistant to serve as an ex-officio on the committee.

**ARTICLE II**  
Legislative Branch

Section 10. Senate Committees:

- viii. The ASUW Program and Institutional Development Committee:
- a. Purpose. The Program and Institutional Development Committee shall serve as a means by which the ASUW Student Senate shall advise and assist with all ASUW programs. Furthermore, the committee shall be responsible for ensuring that the ASUW is constantly developing into a more effective organization.
  - b. Powers. The Committee shall advise and assist all programs of the ASUW and shall formally and informally evaluate aspects of the program which include but are not limited to the budget, student fee allocation, and staffing of all the current programs of the ASUW. The Committee shall also provide recommendations to all programs of the ASUW and the ASUW Senate and Executive Branch on staff, budget, etc. The Committee will maintain regular contact with all programs of the ASUW and will regularly provide institutional and programmatic support to all programs of the ASUW. The Committee will be responsible for submitting yearly reports to the ASUW Budget and Planning Committee, as well as the full Senate, pertaining to the effectiveness and need for funding in specific areas for each ASUW program.  

Additionally, the Committee shall be responsible for the formulation and execution of long term policies and goals for the ASUW Student Government and its programs. It shall have the authority to request any information it deems necessary of other ASUW Committees and entities, and it shall use this information to determine areas that require additional focus. Subsequently, the Committee will be responsible for formulating action plans to address these areas of concern.
  - c. Composition. The Committee shall consist of a minimum of seven (7) Senators of the ASUW, one (1) of whom shall serve as chairperson, three (3) ASUW Students-at-Large, one (1) being a Freshman Senator, and a unique student representative of each ASUW program or service shall have the opportunity to serve as a voting member.
    - a. These program and service representatives may be from, but not limited to:
      - i. Associated Students Technical Services (ASTECH)
      - ii. United Multicultural Council
      - iii. A.L. Lupton Financial Literacy Program
      - iv. Freshman Senate
      - v. Students' Legal Services
      - vi. Non-Traditional Student Council
      - vii. Panhellenic Council
      - viii. Interfraternity Council
      - ix. ECO

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**ARTICLE VIII**  
Services and Programs

Section 1. All services and programs funded by the ASUW shall be placed in one (1), and only one (1), of the following categories:

- A. High Interaction Governance Groups
  - i. These high interaction governance groups experience a high degree of interaction with students who come before these groups to petition for support of various student needs and concerns. Because of this highly interactive nature, these groups require consistent public visibility including meetings times and locations. Therefore, the following groups will be considered to have first priority when the ASUW schedules meeting times and locations with the Union during the first run week one priority scheduling block. These include in specific order:
    - a. ASUW Senate
    - b. All Traditionally Sponsored ASUW Programming
    - c. Freshman Senate (business meetings only)
    - d. Non-Traditional Student Council (business meetings only)
    - e. Interfraternity Council (business meetings only)
    - f. Panhellenic Council (business meetings only)
    - g. RSO Funding Board
    - h. Budget and Planning Committee
    - i. Mandatory Student Fee Committee
    - j. United Multicultural Council (business meetings only)
  - ii. No program or service may be classified as a High Interaction Governance Group without meeting all of the criteria specified above or without a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the ASUW Senate, approval of the Wyoming Union Board and consent of the Vice President of Administration.
  - iii. All Scheduling under this section must be completed through the ASUW Secretary. Any group that chooses to schedule its meetings on its own will be considered part of week three priority scheduling.
- B. Low Interaction Governance Groups
  - i. These low interaction governance groups provide governance which is either internal to ASUW, require little interaction with the public or both. Because of this, these groups are not to be considered priorities for scheduling during the first run-week one priority scheduling block in the Wyoming Union. These should be encouraged to make use of the ASUW Senate Office for their weekly meetings whenever possible. Groups which choose not to use the senate office are subject to the availability and scheduling policies of all other student groups of the Union Events Office. These include:
    - a. Academics, Technology and Sustainability Committee
    - b. Constitution Committee
    - c. Elections Committee
    - d. Safe Ride Advisory Board
    - e. Steering Committee
    - f. Student Outreach and Policy Committee
    - g. Students' Program Advisory Committee
- C. Other Programs and Services

- i. The following groups operate either in an advisory capacity to ASUW, have little need for consistence in meeting times and locations, or have available meeting space which they ought to be encouraged to utilize. These include:
    - a. Associated Students Technical Services (ASTECS)
    - b. United Multicultural Council
    - c. A.L. Lupton Financial Literacy Program
    - d. Freshman Senate
    - e. Student Legal Services
    - f. Non-Traditional Student Council
    - g. Panhellenic Council
    - h. Interfraternity Council
- D. This section shall become effective upon approval of related policy changes to the Wyoming Union Board scheduling policy.

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## ADDENDUM B:

### Survey Interpretation

The ECO survey served a variety of purposes, with the intent to gather information regarding more than one area of ECO in one format. The survey was distributed to members of RSOs who focus on sustainability as part of their missions. Based on survey results and committee discussion, the questions, results, and interpretations listed below were deemed to be the most significant to this legislation:

**Question:** Do you know what the ECO Council is? (Yes/No)

When coding “Yes” as 1 and “No” as 0, the mean was found to be 0.18. This means that in general, the average student did not know what the ECO Council is. This can also be seen based on the fact that only about 18.2% of the students who responded to the survey know what the ECO Council is. From this, it can be concluded that an understanding of the ECO Council or its presence on campus was never attained.

**Question:** Do you feel as if your organization is a constructive outlet for students who want to make a difference? (Yes/No/Not sure)

All of the students surveyed answered “Yes” to this question. This supports the presumption that the responsibilities of ECO are being fulfilled by other organizations on campus.

**Question:** Does your organization fulfill your needs as someone who is interested in sustainability? (Yes/No/Not sure)

When coding “Yes” as 2, “No” as 0, and “Not sure” as 1, the mean was found to be 1.82. 82% of students who responded to this survey answered “Yes” to this question. These results support the idea that the responsibilities of ECO are being met by other organizations on campus and that students do not feel the need to join other RSOs in order to meet their needs as students interested in sustainability issues.

Based on these questions and the overall response to the survey, it can be concluded that there is no need for the ECO Council. RSOs on campus are meeting the needs of students and thus, there is no need for the ECO Council to be continued as an ASUW program.

