

**SENATE BILL #2543**



**TITLE:** Revisions to WyoVocal

**DATE INTRODUCED:** March 21, 2017

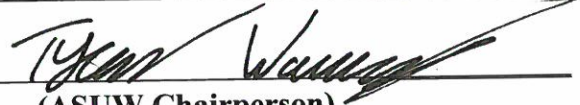
**AUTHOR:** Executive Long; Program and Institutional Development Committee

**SPONSORS:** Senators Ellingrod and Morton

1. WHEREAS, The mission of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (ASUW)
2. Student Government is to serve our fellow students through accurate representation; and,
3. WHEREAS, WyoVocal was introduced during the 102<sup>nd</sup> Administration of ASUW to serve
4. as a platform for students to voice concerns to the ASUW Student Government; and,
5. WHEREAS, WyoVocal is currently an underutilized resource on the University of Wyoming
6. (UW) campus; and,
7. WHEREAS, few formal actions or pieces of legislation have come as a result of WyoVocal
8. suggestions from the UW student population; and,
9. WHEREAS, the use of WyoVocal has decreased significantly since the initial launch of the
10. program; and,
11. WHEREAS, the ASUW Program and Institutional Development (PID) Committee believes
12. that the decrease in use by students is largely due to a lack of education and marketing
13. concerning WyoVocal as a resource to students on the UW campus; and,
14. WHEREAS, the PID Committee continues to see WyoVocal as a useful avenue for student
15. engagement and dialogue; and,
16. WHEREAS, there are five (5) pending issues on WyoVocal that are listed as planned; and,
17. WHEREAS, there is no official form of oversight for WyoVocal on the ASUW Legislative
18. Committees to provide accountability.

19. THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
20. (ASUW) Student Government that the WyoVocal Operating Procedures be amended to
21. reflect the language in Addendum A; and,
22. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the WyoVocal Terms of Service be amended to
23. reflect the language in Addendum B; and,
24. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the ASUW Executive Branch shall have
25. authority over the ongoing operations of WyoVocal as outlined in Addenda A and B; and,
26. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the ASUW Program and Institutional Development
27. Committee shall have responsibility regarding the oversight of WyoVocal as an ASUW
28. Program.

Referred to: AT&S, PID

Date of Passage: 03/28/17 Signed:   
(ASUW Chairperson)

"Being enacted on 04/03/2017, I do hereby sign my name hereto and

approve this Senate action."   
ASUW President

## Addendum A

# WyoVocal Operating Procedures

### Access:

1. Access to the WyoVocal platform will be limited to currently enrolled students at the University of Wyoming.
  - a. The credit hour threshold to be granted access to the WyoVocal platform will be one (1) credit hour.
  - b. Faculty and/or Staff, unless enrolled as a student, will not be granted access to the WyoVocal platform.
2. WyoVocal will remain open during the summer to continue collecting issues and votes, with maintenance of WyoVocal handled by the ASUW Executive Branch during the summer semester.
  - a. No official action is to be taken until normal WyoVocal operations resume at the beginning of each fall semester.

### General Responsibilities:

1. Perform minimal research in order to determine if a submitted issue is a feasible and/or appropriate task in which the ASUW Student Government can make a positive change within.
  - a. If a submitted issue is deemed to be an unfeasible and/or inappropriate task in which the ASUW Student Government cannot make a positive change within:
    - i. Update the status of the issue as closed with an explanation of why or how the issue is not within the limits of the ASUW Student Government, as well as an invitation for students to contact the ASUW Student Government directly with any questions or concerns students might have.
      1. Students who submitted the issue, as well as those who voted on the issue will be automatically emailed the issue's status update.
    - ii. Monitor comments within the closed issue in order to:
      1. Update the status of the issue to answer any pertinent questions raised by students so they are continually educated on the reasoning behind the decision to decline the issue.
        - a. If answers cannot be easily explained, or confusion ensues from previous status updates, invite students to a one-on-one meeting in order to properly articulate and explain such answers.
  - b. If a submitted issue is deemed to be a feasible and/or appropriate task in which the ASUW Student Government can make a positive change within:
    - i. Merge any issue which relates to another issue and update the status of the merged issues with an explanation of why the issues were merged, as well as an invitation for students to contact the ASUW Student Government directly with any questions or concerns they may have.
      1. Students who submitted the issues, as well as those who voted on



the issues will be automatically emailed the merged issue's status update.

- ii. Monitor comments within the issue in order to:
  1. Update the status of the issue to answer any pertinent questions raised by students.
    - a. If answers cannot be easily explained, or confusion ensues from previous status updates, invite students to a one-on-one meeting in order to properly articulate and explain such answers.
  2. Monitor the language used within a submitted issue and comments within an issue's thread for hateful and/or harmful speech.
    - a. Though WyoVocal has a natural profanity filter which automatically deletes any issue submitted or comment within an issue's thread containing inappropriate language, hateful and/or harmful speech will also not be allowed.
      - i. Any language used within a submitted issue or comment within an issue's thread attacking or marginalizing an individual's personal identity or experience and/or a group identity or experience, subsequently creating an unsafe environment for all individuals using the WyoVocal platform, will be deemed as hateful and/or harmful speech.
    - b. Any language within a submitted issue or comment within issue's thread containing hateful and/or harmful speech will be immediately deleted.
      - i. Students whose submitted issue or comment within an issue's thread have been deleted will be sent an email detailing the specific submitted issue or comments within an issue's thread which have been deleted, an explanation of why such action was taken, and a warning of potential sanctions for continual infractions of hateful and/or harmful speech.
        1. The ASUW President, ASUW Vice President, and Assistant Dean of Students for Leadership Development should be included on any such email.
        2. If a particular student has continual infractions of hateful and/or harmful speech, sanctions can be placed upon said student at the discretion of the ASUW Executive Branch.
        3. Possible sanctions against students who have continual infractions of hateful and/or harmful speech could be, but are not limited to:
          - a. Suspension from the WyoVocal platform for a time period deemed appropriate;
          - b. Complete ban from current and future use of the WyoVocal platform; and/or
          - c. Information brought to the University of Wyoming's Dean of Student's Office for potential Student Code of Conduct violations.
      - ii. Language within a submitted issue or comment within an issue's thread used to criticize the ASUW Student Government will not be deleted, unless it attacks or marginalizes an individual's personal identity or experience and/or a group identity or experience.
  3. Once the minimum vote threshold has been established by the ASUW Executive

Branch and approved by the PID Committee at the beginning of each fall semester has been reached for any submitted issue:

- a. Perform basic research on the issue to determine a recommendation for which ASUW Legislative Committee and/or Executive Branch designee should be tasked with further research and development on the issue.
  - b. Meet with the ASUW Vice President and the ASUW Steering Committee to approve applicable benchmarks and timeline for completion of the issue and finalize which ASUW Legislative Committee and/or Executive Branch designee should be tasked with further research and development on the issue.
    - i. A single ASUW Legislative Committee or Executive Branch designee shall not be assigned more than 2 issues from WyoVocal to work on at a single time.
  - c. Update the status of the issue with contact information for which ASUW Legislative Committee and/or Executive Branch designee has been tasked with further research and development on the issue.
    - i. Students who submitted the issue, as well as those who voted on the issue, will be automatically emailed the issue's status update.
  - d. Continue to update the status of the issue monthly with the progress the assigned ASUW Committee and/or Executive Branch designee has made on the issue.
    - i. Progress reports must demonstrate measurable and meaningful progress from the ASUW Committee and/or Executive Branch designee towards the completion of the issue.
    - ii. Progress reports must be presented monthly to the President and the Steering Committee for approval and for posting the update to WyoVocal.
    - iii. Reports may include documented contact information, meeting minutes, timelines, and/or drafted legislation for assigned issues.
    - iv. Assess how the update is meeting the approved benchmarks for completion as established per Section 3, Subsection c above.
  - e. If the issue is still unresolved when WyoVocal at the beginning a new ASUW Student Government's term in office, the issues will be reassigned to a ASUW Legislative Committee and/or Executive Branch designee by the ASUW Steering Committee during the second meeting of the semester.
4. If the vote threshold minimum is not reached for any submitted issue within a 100 day time period, starting on the original date the issue was submitted or the first day of the fall and spring terms if submitted during summer or winter breaks:
- i. Update the status of the issue as closed with an explanation of why the issue is being closed.
    1. Students who submitted the issue, as well as those who voted on the issue will be automatically emailed the issue's status update.
  - ii. Monitor comments within the closed issue in order to:
    1. Update the status of the issue to answer any pertinent questions raised by students so they are continually educated on the reasoning behind the decision to decline the issue.
      - a. If answers cannot be easily explained, or confusion ensues from previous status updates, invite students to a one-on-one meeting in order to properly articulate and explain such



answers.

#### Advertising Responsibilities:

1. The ASUW Executive Branch shall be in charge of coordinating the promotion of WyoVocal at orientations, particularly for first year students during the summer.
2. The ASUW Executive Branch shall also be in charge of coordinating an event at the beginning of the fall semester to educate students on what WyoVocal is and how to use it.
  - a. This event shall occur during the first week of the fall semester.
  - b. Event coordination with the appropriate ASUW Committees and Executive Branch designees must occur prior to the beginning of the summer session.
3. The ASUW Student Government shall provide regular, continuous outreach and advertising concerning WyoVocal and its operations throughout the academic year.

#### Special Responsibilities:

1. Keep an electronic record of all submitted issues that are either deleted, closed, or merged, as well as comments within an issue's thread that are deleted with a short explanation of why such action was taken.
2. Keep an electronic record of all submitted issues which an ASUW Legislative Committee and/or Executive Branch designee has been tasked with further research and development on.
3. Work with ASUW Legislative Committees and/or Executives to determine any issue they would like to be submitted to WyoVocal in order to gauge basic student opinion.
  - a. Determine if the issue is a feasible and/or appropriate task in which the ASUW Student Government can make a positive change within.
4. Communicate with ASUW President, ASUW Vice President, and other Executives on any potential areas of concern for a unified and cohesive ASUW Student Government response and/or action.
5. The ASUW Program and Institutional Development Committee shall have responsibility concerning the oversight of WyoVocal.
  - a. All changes to any part of day to day operations must be reported to the ASUW Program and Institutional Development Committee at the earliest convenience.
  - b. All changes to the vote threshold minimum and the operations document must be approved by the ASUW Program and Institutional Development Committee.
  - c. Review of WyoVocal for effectiveness, marketing success, outreach statistics, fiscal accountability, and methods of improvement should be completed each spring by the ASUW Program and Institutional Development Committee in conjunction with additional relevant ASUW Committees.

## Addendum B

### WyoVocal Terms of Service:

#### 1. Access:

- a. The Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (ASUW) Student Government's purpose is to serve students of the University of Wyoming. Therefore, access to the WyoVocal platform will be limited to currently enrolled students at the University of Wyoming.
  - i. The credit hour threshold to be granted access to the WyoVocal platform will be one (1) credit hour.
  - ii. Faculty and/or Staff, unless enrolled as a student, will not be granted access to the WyoVocal platform.
- b. WyoVocal will remain open during the summer to continue collecting issues and votes, with maintenance of WyoVocal handled by the ASUW Executive Branch during the summer semester.
  - i. No official action is to be taken until normal WyoVocal operations resume at the beginning of each fall semester.

#### 2. Usage:

- a. Students of the University of Wyoming can submit any issue they find relevant on campus to the WyoVocal platform.
  - i. The ASUW Student Government will perform minimal research in order to determine if a submitted issue is a feasible and/or appropriate task in which the ASUW Student Government can make a positive change within.
    1. If a submitted issue is deemed to be an unfeasible and/or inappropriate task in which the ASUW Student Government cannot make a positive change within, the ASUW Student Government will:
      - a. Update the statue of the issue as closed with an explanation of why or how the issue in not within the limits of the ASUW Student Government, as well as an invitation for students to contact the ASUW Student Government directly with any questions or concerns students might have.
        - i. Students who submitted the issue, as well as those who voted on the issue will be automatically emailed the issue's status update.
      - b. Monitor comments within the closed issue in order to:
        - i. Update the status of the issue to answer any pertinent questions raised by students so they are continually educated on the reasoning behind the decision to decline the issue.
          1. If answers cannot be easily explained, or confusion ensues from previous status updates, the ASUW Student Conferment will invite students to a one-on-one meeting in order to properly articulate and explain



such answers.

2. If a submitted issue is deemed to be a feasible and/or appropriate task in which the ASUW Student Government can make a positive change within, the ASUW Student Government will:
  - a. Merge any issue which relates to another issue and update the status of the merged issues with an explanation of why the issues were merged, as well as an invitation for students to contact the ASUW Student Government directly with any questions or concerns they may have.
    - i. Students who submitted the issues, as well as those who voted on the issues will be automatically emailed the merged issue's status update.
  - b. Monitor comments within the issue in order to:
    - i. Update the status of the issue to answer any pertinent questions raised by students.
      1. If answers cannot be easily explained, or confusion ensues from previous status updates, the ASUW Student Government will invite students to a one-on-one meeting in order to properly articulate and explain such answers.
3. Advertising Responsibilities
  - a. The ASUW Executive Branch shall be in charge of coordinating the promotion of WyoVocal at orientations, particularly for first year students during the summer.
  - b. The ASUW Executive Branch shall also be in charge of coordinating an event at the beginning of the fall semester to educate students on what WyoVocal is and how to use it.
    - i. This event shall occur during the first week of the fall semester.
    - ii. Event coordination with the appropriate ASUW Committees and Executive Branch designees must occur prior to the beginning of the summer session.
  - c. The ASUW Student Government shall provide regular, continuous outreach and advertising concerning WyoVocal and its operations throughout the academic year.
4. Expectations:
  - a. The ASUW Student Government expects all students who use the WyoVocal platform to assist in its endeavor of creating a safe environment for all users of the WyoVocal platform.
  - b. The ASUW Student Government will never publish the voting records of individual students using the WyoVocal platform, but will hold students accountable to the language they use in their submitted issues and comments within an issue's thread.
    - i. The ASUW Student Government will monitor the language used within a submitted issue and comments within an issue's thread for hateful and/or harmful speech.
      1. Though the WyoVocal platform has a natural profanity filter which



automatically deletes any issue submitted or comment within an issue's thread containing inappropriate language, hateful and/or harmful speech will also not be allowed.

- a. Any language used within a submitted issue or comment within an issue's thread attacking or marginalizing an individual's personal identity or experience and/or a group identity or experience, subsequently creating an unsafe environment for all individuals using the WyoVocal platform, will be deemed as hateful and/or harmful speech.
  2. Any language within a submitted issue or comment within an issue's thread containing hateful and/or harmful speech will be immediately deleted.
    - a. Students whose submitted issue or comment within an issue's thread have been deleted will be sent an email detailing specific submitted issue or comment within an issue's thread which have been deleted, an explanation of why such action was taken, and a warning of potential sanctions for continual infractions of hateful and/or harmful speech.
      - i. The ASUW President, ASUW Vice President, and Assistant Dean of Students for Leadership Development will be included on any such email.
      - ii. If a particular student has continual infractions of hateful and/or harmful speech, sanctions can be placed upon said student at the discretion of the ASUW Executive Branch.
      - iii. Possible sanctions against students who have continual infractions of hateful and/or harmful speech could be, but are not limited to:
        1. Suspension from the WyoVocal platform for a time period deemed appropriate;
        2. Complete ban from current and future use of the WyoVocal platform; and/or
        3. Information brought to the University of Wyoming's Dean of Student's Office for potential Student Code of Conduct violations.
  3. Language within a submitted issue or comment within an issue's thread used to criticize the ASUW Student Government will not be deleted, unless it attacks or marginalizes an individual's personal identity or experience and/or a group identity or experience.
5. Further Development of Submitted Issues:
- a. Once the vote threshold minimum has been reached for any submitted issue, the ASUW Student Government will:
    - i. Perform basic research on the issue to determine a recommendation for which ASUW Legislative Committee and/or Executive Branch designee

- should be tasked with further research and development on the issue.
- ii. Meet with the ASUW Vice President and the Steering Committee to finalize which ASUW Legislative Committee and/or Executive Branch designee should be tasked with further research and development on the issue.
- iii. Update the status of the submitted issue with the contact information for which ASUW Legislative Committee and/or Executive Branch designee has been tasked with further research and development on the issue.
  - 1. Students who submitted the issue, as well as those who voted on the issue, will be automatically emailed the issue's status update.
- iv. Continue to update the status of the issue monthly with the progress the assigned ASUW Committee and/or Executive Branch designee has made on the issue.
- v. If the issue is still unresolved when WyoVocal at the beginning a new ASUW Student Government's term in office, the issues will be reassigned to a ASUW Legislative Committee and/or Executive Branch designee by the ASUW Steering Committee during their second meeting of the semester.
- b. If the vote threshold minimum is not reached for any submitted issue within the designated time period, the ASUW Student Government will:
  - i. Update the status of the issue as closed with an explanation of why the issue is being closed.
    - 1. Students who submitted the issue, as well as those who voted on the issue will be automatically emailed the issue's status update.
  - ii. Monitor comments within the closed issue in order to:
    - 1. Update the status of the issue to answer any pertinent questions raised by students so they are continually educated on the reasoning behind the decision to decline the issue.
      - a. If answers cannot be easily explained, or confusion ensues from previous status updates, invite students to a one-on-one meeting in order to properly articulate and explain such answers.
- 6. Changes to Terms of Service:
  - a. The ASUW Student Government reserves the right to change any aspect of the WyoVocal Terms of Service at any point, for any reason.
    - i. The ASUW Student Government will keep the WyoVocal Terms of Service on the ASUW website for open access and update any changes in a timely manner to inform users of such changes.