**SENATE BILL #2589**

**TITLE:** Establishment of the Senate Vacancy Committee as a Special Committee

**DATE INTRODUCED:** December 5th, 2017

**AUTHORS:** Senators Cloud and Fried; Chief of Staff Thomson-Lichty

**SPONSORS:** Senators Frauendienst, Hardy, Kostelecky, Stromberg, Westlake; Freshman Senators Dalman, Houghton, and Woodward

1. WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
2. (ASUW) Student Government to represent our fellow students accurately; and,
3. WHEREAS, the ASUW Senate consistently experiences challenges with maintaining a full
4. Senate roster; and,
5. WHEREAS, the ASUW Senate Vacancy Committee was dissolved by recent changes to
6. the ASUW By-laws and ASUW Standing Committees; and,
7. WHEREAS, vacancies occur consistently and unexpectedly throughout the term; and,
8. WHEREAS, the list of eligible candidates from the preceding ASUW Election is generally
9. exhausted quickly towards the beginning of the term; and,
10. WHEREAS, it is vital to the function of the ASUW to maintain quorum for both ASUW
11. Senate meetings and ASUW committee meetings; and,
12. WHEREAS, without quorum the ASUW Senate and ASUW Standing Committees are
13. extremely limited in their ability to convene meetings and vote on matters of importance to
14. the ASUW; and,
15. WHEREAS, filling Senate vacancies in a timely fashion is vital to the function of the
16. ASUW Student Government; and,
17. WHEREAS, special elections throughout the year as vacancies occur would not allow the
18. ASUW Senate to fill vacancies in a timely manner; and,
19. WHEREAS, the Steering Committee has the power to discipline Senators and draft
20. Articles of Impeachment; and,
21. WHEREAS, allowing the Steering Committee to fill Senate vacancies gives the Committee
22. both the power to discipline Senators and then also potentially choose their replacements;
23. and,
24. WHEREAS, giving the Steering Committee both of these powers may create a conflict of
25. interest at some point in the future; and,
26. WHEREAS, the process for filling Senate vacancies have been solely dependent on the
27. discretion of the members of the Senate Vacancy Committee in the past; and,
28. WHEREAS, in order to ensure proper representation within the ASUW Senate,
29. representatives from each College should have the opportunity to participate in the process
30. for fulfilling Senate vacancies; and,
31. WHEREAS, offices within other branches of the ASUW Student Government must be
32. confirmed by the Senate; and,
33. WHEREAS, the current Senate Vacancy Committee only convenes in the case of a
34. vacancy; and,
35. WHEREAS, it is unnecessary for the Senate Vacancy Committee to operate as an ASUW
36. Standing Committee due to the smaller scope of the Committee in terms of size, duties, and
37. meeting frequency; and,
38. WHEREAS, it would be more efficient and beneficial to the Senate to designate the Senate
39. Vacancy as a Special Committee.
40. THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
41. (ASUW) Student Government that the ASUW by-Laws be changed to reflect the changes
42. in Addendum A; and,
43. THEREFORE, be it further enacted by the Associated Students of the University of
44. Wyoming (ASUW) Student Government that the ASUW Rules and Procedures be changed
45. to reflect the changes in Addendum B; and,
46. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that these changes outlined in Addenda A and B go
47. into effect January 1, 2018.

**Referred to: ­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**Senate Vacancy and Steering\_\_\_\_\_

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

**(ASUW Chairperson)**

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

**approve this Senate action.”**  \_

**ASUW President**

**Addendum A**

1. Special committees may be formed at the discretion of the ASUW Senate, and shall operate until dissolved by the ASUW Senate and according to By-Laws approved by the Senate at the time of committee formation, as well as all rules established for standing committees.
2. The ASUW Senate Vacancy Committee
   1. Purpose. The Committee shall, year round, fill senate vacancies as they arise, as outlined in Article IV, Section 2, Subsection C of the By-Laws.
   2. Powers. The Senate Vacancy Committee shall convene following the resignation of a Senator if the list of eligible candidates from the preceding Election has been exhausted. The ASUW Vice President will be responsible for convening the committee in order conduct interviews in accordance with Article IV, Section 2, Subsection C, in the event that they become necessary.
   3. Composition. The Committee shall be composed of four (4) ASUW Senators, one of which will be appointed as the chair, and one (1) executive ex-officio. Appointments to this committee will be made by the ASUW Vice President. Senators appointed to this committee may not be members of the Steering Committee.
3. The ASUW Census Committee:
4. Name. The ASUW Census Committee will also be referred to as the “Cowboy Count Committee.”
5. Purpose. The Committee shall assist in local and regional efforts to enhance the results of the decennial census, specifically working to allow for the full and accurate count of student populations both on and off campus. They shall have the responsibility to promote the Census in a reasonable manner, be the contact organization for federal, state, and local officials while they conduct their efforts surrounding the Census, and work to enhance student understanding of the Census, its function and benefit to students and their community. The committee shall dissolve on the last full business day of the year in which the Census is conducted and be formed at the beginning of each fall semester prior to the next decennial census year.
6. Powers. The Committee shall be vested with all necessary and appropriate powers to carry out its purpose under the ASUW By-Laws and its defined purpose. The ASUW Census Committee will have the authority to speak for ASUW on all matter surrounding the Census, be the contact organization for all interested parties involved in the Census, serve ASUW in an advisory capacity to expand their base of knowledge surrounding the Census, and shall recommend to the Senate actions it deems appropriate to fulfill its functions as a special committee of ASUW. The committee shall also have the power to take action it deems necessary and appropriate to enhance the efficacy and scope of the Census.
7. Composition. The Committee shall be composed of a minimum of three (3) ASUW Senators, (1) of which will serve as the chairperson, with a minimum of two (2) ASUW Students-at-Large with one (1) being a Freshman Senator appointed by the Freshman Senate, all subject to the approval of the ASUW Vice President. In addition, two ASUW Executives shall serve as ex-officio members of the committee to be appointed by the ASUW Vice-President.
8. The ASUW Mandatory Student Fee Committee
9. Purpose. The Committee shall serve as a means by which the ASUW Student Senate shall formulate recommendations on mandatory student fee requests from university fee units. The committee shall meet every fee year to hear and review the mandatory fee units’ proposals with recommendations being made to the ASUW Senate. During the years in which fees are not adjusted, the committee shall meet to review the mandatory fee units’ programs, budget, and use of fees to evaluate and prepare for the next year’s mandatory student fee recommendations. Additionally the committee will be charged with exploring entity’s requests and possible merits for new fees.
10. Powers. The Committee shall hear mandatory fee requests from campus fee units, and may recommend adjusting the requested fee, give a vote of non-support for the request, or endorse the requested amount for each fee unit. The Committee shall draft legislation supporting a recommendation on a mandatory student fee package, or individual fees, to the ASUW Senate for a vote.
11. Composition. The ASUW Mandatory Student Fee Committee shall be composed of four (4) ASUW Senators, two (2) of which should be returning senators, and three (3) Students-at-Large appointed by the ASUW Vice President. The ASUW Vice President shall serve as chairperson of the committee.
12. The ASUW Child Assistance Scholarships Committee
13. Purpose. The Committee shall serve as a means by which scholarships will be awarded for students who are parents and need financial assistance.
14. Powers. The Committee will meet during the fall semester and will review applications filled out by students applying for assistance. The Committee will then interview applicants and decide awardees for spring scholarships by November 30th. Upon choosing awardees, information for the scholarship recipients must be submitted by November 30th to the UW Financial Aid Office.
15. Composition. The Committee shall be composed of an Executive, who will be charged with the planning of this committee and will serve as chairperson, two (2) ASUW Senators, one (1) ASUW Freshman Senator, one (1) Student-at-Large, one (1) non-traditional student, and an ASUW Advisor or Dean of Students designee.
16. Except where otherwise noted, each committee shall be responsible for electing its respective chair from among its approved members at its first business meeting after the approval of committee assignments. Until such time as a chair is elected, the senator with the longest consecutive service on a respective committee shall preside.
17. The ASUW President and Vice President may require reports from any ASUW committees, program directors, or senators in such form and at such times, as they deem necessary and proper for the furthering of the goals and objectives of the ASUW.
18. All standing and special committees shall endeavor to publicize in advance their meetings and the matters they may have under consideration. Any member of the ASUW shall be entitled to appear before any standing or special committee and be heard upon any pending matter or upon matters within the functions and duties of the committee under the same procedures as established for any ASUW member to appear before the ASUW Senate.

**Addendum B**

Section 2. Procedure for filling Senate vacancies between elections:

1. Upon the resignation, permanent absence or incapacity of any Senator, the senatorial candidate from the college who was eliminated last according to the instant-runoff in the preceding election shall fill the vacancy.
   1. In accordance with the ASUW Elections Policy, senators terminated from their senate seats due to a change in college shall be placed subsequent to all other candidates from the preceding election of the college to which they change.

B. The ASUW Vice President will notify the person with the next highest number of votes as soon as a Senator’s resignation, permanent absence or incapacity takes place. The person notified will have two school days to accept or refuse the Senate position. Upon acceptance, the person will be sworn in at the next ASUW Senate meeting. In the event of refusal, the same procedure will be followed with the next available candidate. This process will include write-in candidates, if applicable.

C. In the event that a vacancy occurs and the list of eligible candidates from the preceding Election has been exhausted, Steering Committee will begin an application and interview process to fill the vacant seat.

1. As soon as possible after the vacancy occurs, a call for applicants will be made to the affected College with the application period lasting two (2) weeks from the time of initial notice.
2. At the close of the application period, the ASUW Senate Vacancy Committee, with the aid of the ASUW Adviser, will review the applications for eligibility (see ASUW Elections Policy.)
3. All those meeting initial eligibility requirements will be contacted with an interview time. Interviews will be conducted no later than two (2) weeks after the close of the application period.
4. After all interviews have been conducted, the ASUW Senate Vacancy Committee will debate and vote on which candidate shall be granted the seat. If no candidate receives a majority, then all but the two leading candidates are removed from consideration, and a second vote is taken.
5. The Senate Vacancy Committee Chairperson will notify the chosen applicant as soon as possible after a decision has been made.
6. Upon acceptance, the Senate Vacancy Committee Chairperson will present the chosen applicant to the ASUW Senate. The Senate shall approve or reject the chosen applicant by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

The candidate will be sworn in immediately following their confirmation or at the first ASUW Senate meeting following their confirmation.