

THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OPINION

Re: The Interpretation of “University credit” language in Article IV, Section 1 (A) of the ASUW Constitution

The Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (“ASUW”), Judicial Council (the “Council”) convened March 11, 1997, in the Wyoming Union to render and interpretation of Article IV, Section 1 (A) of the ASUW Constitution. Specifically, the Council was charged with the duty of determining whether “University credit” meant any university credit or University of Wyoming credit. Article IV reads:

Section 1. ASUW representatives in the positions of ASUW President, ASUW Vice President, ASUW Executive Assistance, ASUW Senators, and all members of the Judicial Council shall:

A. As undergraduate students, in the case of the ASUW President, ASUW Vice President, and all members of the Judicial Council, have completed not less than sixty (60) hours of *University credit* at the beginning of the academic year of their terms of office; or . . . (emphasis added).

Members of the Judicial Council present were as follows:

Stacey Bain
Cody Hartley
Sam Krone
Echo Miller
Julie Yates (Chair)

OPINION

The Judicial Council unanimously held that the language “University credit” in (A) refers to credit either earned at the University of Wyoming or earned at another university but accepted by the University of Wyoming by way of transfer.

DISCUSSION

In accordance with principles of English grammar, discussion of a specific institution requires the first letter to be capitalized. Discussion of institutions generically demands the first letter to be lowercase. The Chicago Manual of Style, states;

Full titles of institutions and companies and their departments and divisions are capitalized. In some cases, especially when they might otherwise be mistaken, shortened version of those titles, *even solitary generic terms, are also capitalized.* Otherwise, such

generic terms as school, company, and press are lowercased when used alone; . . . (emphasis added).


“University” could be a generic term. However, the word refers to a proper institution because of the first letter is capitalized. In the ASUW Constitution, the University of Wyoming is the proper institution referred to by the use of “University.”

The Council determined that accepted transfer credits would be considered University of Wyoming credits. Once credits are accepted by this institution, they are indistinguishable from credits obtained at the University of Wyoming. The Council opined that if transfer credits are considered University of Wyoming credits for various programs and scholarships at this University that ASUW must also consider transfer credits as University of Wyoming credits.

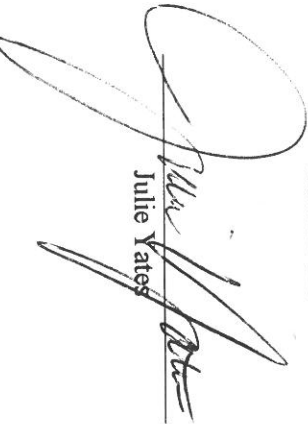
Respectfully Submitted, this 19 day of March, 1997;


Stacey Bain


Cody Hartley


Sam Krone


Echo Miller


Julie Yates