

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

ASUW Student Government

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ASUW Judicial Council Ruling Regarding ASUW Senate Resolution #2043

Dear President Sapp,

On April 13, 2003 the ASUW Judicial Council met and voted unanimously on the issue present to us, by you, concerning the **Senate Resolution #2043**, USA Today Collegiate Readership Program.

We, as a Council found no evidence in the ASUW Constitution or By-laws that indicates the Senate has the authority, or power, to place an issue, such as funding initiatives, on the General Election ballot. As a result, we recommend that the Constitution Committee for next year develop a plan to revise the ASUW Constitution to include such language that grants power to the ASUW Senate to place funding initiatives on the General Election ballot and referendum.

Regarding the issue of, if the ASUW President or Senate has the implied power to add this type of funding initiative to the ASUW general Election ballot this year: the ASUW Judicial Council voted unanimously that since the ASUW Senate does not have the explicit power to add initiatives or referendums to the ballot in the Constitution, the ASUW Senate does not retain the power to include funding initiatives and resolutions on the upcoming ballot. Therefore, pending the approval of the ASUW Senate, the Judicial Council would find Senate Resolution #2043 unconstitutional.

This issue will be addressed at the upcoming Senate meeting on April 22, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

**Chrissy L. Davis, ASUW Chief Justice
And the ASUW Judicial Council Members**

CC: President Dubois
Dean Parkinson, ASUW Judicial Council Advisor
Dean Turner, Dean of Students
Matt Caires, ASUW Advisor

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SENATE RESOLUTION #2043

Title: Collegiate Readership Program

Date: March 26, 2003

Authors: Senators Baugh and McKee

Sponsors: Senators Barney, Baugh, Beauneir, McKee

1. WHEREAS, the need for students to have an affordable, reliable and
2. consistent means of maintaining an awareness for current events locally,
3. nationally and internationally has grown as a result of September 11th, the
4. war on terrorism and the current conflict in Iraq; and
5. WHEREAS, departments and professors frequently require students to use
6. newspaper publications in their assignments, often at the personal expense
7. of students; and
8. WHEREAS, the Gannet Company has organized the Collegiate Readership
9. Program to provide an affordable and controlled means of distributing an
10. array of newspaper publications available only to fee paying students; and
11. WHEREAS, the distribution and recycling of newspapers are coordinated and
12. the sole responsibility of *USA Today*, a division of the Gannet Company, with
13. no obligation from the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming or
14. the University of Wyoming staff to provide labor; and
15. WHEREAS, the comparison of the results of the pre-pilot surveyed students
16. and post-pilot surveyed students conducted by *USA Today* show increased
17. readership and demand when newspapers are readily available as seen in

18. Addendum A; and
19. WHEREAS, the results of Addendum A confirm a majority approval from
20. students surveyed to pay for the Collegiate Readership Program through
21. student fees; and
22. WHEREAS, over 250 American universities and colleges, listed in
23. Addendum B, currently participate in the Collegiate Readership Program
24. financed through student fees.
25. THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Associated Students of the University
26. of Wyoming that during the 2003 general elections of the Associated
27. Students of the University of Wyoming that the following three (3) questions
28. be placed on the elections ballot to be voted on by those students choosing
29. to participate in the 2003 elections.
30. a. Would you support a student fee, to be paid by all students, to fund the
31. collegiate readership program, as piloted by the *USA Today* newspaper
32. in conjunction with the ASUW?
33. b. If yes, would you support a semester fee of \$2.50 or \$3.50, the difference
34. of which is explained in the document provided to you at the polling
35. station?
36. c. Do you feel that you had sufficient information to vote on the Collegiate
37. Readership Program as provided to you by the ASUW?; and
38. THEREFORE, be it further resolved by the Associated Students of the
39. University of Wyoming that should a majority vote support the
40. implementation of a student fee to support the Collegiate Readership Program,

41. that this fee be implemented for fiscal year 2005 at the level indicated by
42. the tabulated results of voters; and
43. THEREFORE, be it further resolved by the Associated Students of the
44. University of Wyoming, the Executive Branch with the support of the
45. Legislative Branch of the ASUW, provide and distribute information
46. pertaining to this program at all polling stations prior to and during the
47. elections that accurately reflects the intent and purpose of the Collegiate
48. Readership Program as well as the results of the surveys conducted by the
49. USA Today Company.

Referred to: Elections Committee

Date of Passage: _____ **Signed:** _____
(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on _____, I do hereby sign my name hereto

and approve this Senate action.” _____
ASUW President

*passed in committee
4/03*

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
NEWSPAPER READERSHIP
POST-SURVEY

Total number of responses received:

447

**1. On average, how many days a week have you read a newspaper in the last month?
 (NOT including your campus newspaper)**

5+ Days	N =	134	30%
3-4 Days	N =	122	28%
1-2 Days	N =	138	31%
None	N =	48	11%
		<u>442</u>	

2. For which topics do you read newspapers: (Check all that apply)

Business/Financial News	N =	91	20%
National News	N =	288	64%
International News	N =	216	48%
Local News	N =	275	62%
Sports News	N =	245	55%
Editorial and Opinion	N =	133	30%
Entertainment News	N =	203	45%

**3. What do you think are some of the benefits of reading newspapers on a regular basis:
 (Check all that apply)**

Increased knowledge of local events	N =	349	78%
Increased knowledge of national/international news	N =	361	81%
Greater understanding of ethical issues	N =	161	36%
Ability to communicate more effectively with other students	N =	158	35%
Increased participation in class discussions	N =	179	40%
Improved quality of class assignments (papers, exams, presentations)	N =	123	28%
Improved communication skills (vocabulary, reading, writing)	N =	189	42%
Enriched knowledge of current events/issues	N =	306	68%
Help prepare for job interviews	N =	97	22%

4. Which newspapers do you currently read? (Check all that apply)

Casper Star Tribune	N =	161	36%
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USA TODAY	N =	177	40%
Laramie Boomerang	N =	206	46%
Denver Post	N =	163	36%
New York Times	N =	54	12%
Wall Street Journal	N =	43	10%
Other (write in)	N =	117	26%

**5. Which newspapers would you read if they were available on campus?
(Check all that apply, not including your campus newspaper.)**

Casper Star Tribune	N =	151	34%
USA TODAY	N =	185	41%
Laramie Boomerang	N =	165	37%
Denver Post	N =	191	43%
New York Times	N =	147	33%
Wall Street Journal	N =	81	18%
Other (write in)	N =	41	9%

6. How would you prefer to obtain your newspaper? (Check one)

Coin-operated dispensers	N =	29	10%
Subscription/Lock boxes	N =	17	6%
Newsstand/Store	N =	24	9%
In residence halls	N =	68	25%
Purchase in dining halls	N =	2	1%
Available in student union/academic buildings	N =	137	49%
		<u>277</u>	

**7. What factors influence your decision to read newspapers?
(Check all that apply)**

Proximity of pick-up	N =	257	57%
Choice of newspapers	N =	249	56%
Cost of newspapers	N =	216	48%
Location of lock box	N =	64	14%

**8. Do you think that the availability of newspapers on campus would contribute to the habit
of reading a newspaper on a regular basis?**

Yes	N =	377	88%
No	N =	21	5%
Don't know	N =	28	7%
		<u>426</u>	

**9. Since coming to college, your newspaper readership has:
(Not including your campus newspaper)**

Increased	N =	221	52%
Decreased	N =	93	22%
Remained the same	N =	103	24%
Don't know	N =	9	2%
		<u>426</u>	

10. How important do you think newspapers are to your education?

Very important	N =	122	28%
Important	N =	183	43%
Somewhat important	N =	106	25%
Not important	N =	18	4%
		<u>429</u>	

11. How often do you access a newspaper on the Internet?

3+ times a week	N =	96	22%
Once a week	N =	96	22%
Once a month	N =	68	16%
Never	N =	169	39%
		<u>429</u>	

**12. What do you feel is the value of having a selection of newspapers
available Monday-Friday on your campus?**

\$4.00-\$7.00 per semester	N =	252	60%
\$8.00-\$12.00 per semester	N =	85	20%
\$13.00-\$16.00 per semester	N =	29	7%
None	N =	55	13%
		<u>421</u>	

**13. Would you be willing to pay the amount indicated above as part of your student fees
to continue the Collegiate Readership Program?**

Yes	N =	289	68%
No	N =	134	32%
		<u>423</u>	

NOTE: Some responses do not equal 100% due to rounding.
Data entry of surveys provided by Quality Data Systems in Crofton, MD.