



## SENATE BILL #2722

**TITLE:** Revisions to the ASUW Senate Vacancy Process, the Elections Committee, and Senatorial Requirements

**DATE INTRODUCED:** November 10, 2020

**AUTHOR:** Chief of Legislative Affairs Swilling

**SPONSORS:** The ASUW Steering Committee

1. WHEREAS, the purpose of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (ASUW)
2. Student Government is to serve our fellow students in the best manner possible; and,
3. WHEREAS, the current process for filling vacancies in the ASUW Senate is handled by the
4. executive branch; and,
5. WHEREAS, it would make more sense if this process was handled by other members of the
6. Senate, such as the Elections Committee; and,
7. WHEREAS, the current process for filling a vacancy in the ASUW Senate requires a special
8. election to be held if there are more candidates running than vacancies present in the
9. college/school; and,
10. WHEREAS, special elections typically have very low turnout and very low amounts of
11. student engagement; and,
12. WHEREAS, special elections also take a lot of time and energy from the executive branch
13. and professional staff in order to plan and execute; and,
14. WHEREAS, this time and energy could be better spent serving students in a myriad of other
15. ways; and,
16. WHEREAS, a one-year term is not enough time to justify holding a special election; and,
17. WHEREAS, making the Elections Committee a standing committee would allow them to
18. both handle the process of filling vacancies and conduct outreach for ASUW elections
19. throughout the entire year; and,
20. WHEREAS, expanding the application to include a resume and cover letter, allowing the
21. Elections Committee to interview all candidates, and creating a confirmation vote for

22. selected candidates is enough to ensure that all applicants would represent their constituents
23. in a fair and unbiased manner.
24. THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
25. (ASUW) Student Government that the ASUW By-Laws be amended to reflect the changes
26. outlined in Addendums A, B, and C; and,
27. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that these changes take effect at the start of the 109<sup>th</sup>
28. ASUW Administration.

**Referred to:** Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy; Elections; Steering

**Date of Passage:** November 17, 2020 **Signed:** 

(ASUW Chairperson)

**“Being enacted on May 3, 2021, I do hereby sign my name hereto and**

**approve this Senate action.”** 

**ASUW President**

## **Addendum A**

### **Article 2. Legislative Branch**

#### Section 2.02 The ASUW Senate

#### 11. Standing Committees

##### **H. The Elections Committee:**

- a. Purpose: The Committee shall serve promote ASUW Elections and conduct outreach to students to promote participation. The Committee shall, in conjunction with the ASUW Vice President, oversee the process by which senatorial vacancies are filled, as outlined by Article 4, Section 4.02 of the ASUW By-Laws.
- b. Powers: The Committee shall be vested with all necessary and appropriate powers to carry out its purpose under these rules. The Committee shall hold no fewer than two (2) information sessions for all candidates and possible candidates seeking office within ASUW between the date applications are available and the time applications are due.
- c. Composition: The Committee shall consist of a minimum of five (5) ASUW Senators, one (1) of whom shall serve as chair, and at least one (1) First-Year Senator. The chair shall not be permitted to run for the position of ASUW President or Vice President in the election that occurs during their time as chair. The ASUW Vice President shall appoint a minimum of one (1) executive to serve as an ex-officio on the committee. The ASUW Advisor, or designee, shall serve as advisor.
- d. Additional information on the purpose, powers, and composition of the ASUW Elections Committee can be seen in Article 5, Section 5.01 of these By-Laws.

#### 12. Special Committees

##### ~~E. The ASUW Elections Committee:~~

- ~~d. Purpose: The Committee shall convene three full academic weeks before the end of the fall semester and in the spring semester to administer all ASUW election policies for the general election in the spring. The Committee shall not administer special elections.~~
- ~~e. Powers: The Committee shall help plan and execute outreach for the promotion of ASUW elections. The Committee shall be vested with all necessary and appropriate powers to carry out its purpose under these rules. The Committee shall hold no fewer than two (2) information sessions for all candidates and possible candidates seeking office within ASUW between the date applications are available and the time applications are due.~~
- ~~f. Composition: The Committee shall consist of a minimum of five (5) ASUW Senators, one (1) of whom shall serve as chairperson, and at least one (1) First-Year Senator. The ASUW Vice President shall appoint a minimum of one (1) Executive Assistant to serve as an ex-officio on the committee. The ASUW Advisor, or designee, shall serve as advisor.~~

- g. ~~Additional information on the purpose, powers, and composition of the ASUW Elections Committee can be seen in Article 5, Section 5.01 of these By Laws.~~

## **Addendum B**

### **Article 4. Vacancy of Office**

#### **Section 4.01 Executive Officers**

##### **1. Executive Vacancy Procedure**

- A. Upon the resignation, permanent absence, or incapacity of the President, the Vice President shall become ~~P~~resident.
- B. Upon the resignation, permanent absence, or incapacity of the Vice President, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall become Vice President.
- C. Upon the resignation, permanent absence, or incapacity of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Senate Parliamentarian shall become the President Pro Tempore.
- D. Upon the resignation, permanent absence, or incapacity of the aforementioned members of ASUW, the following order of offices shall assume the executive responsibilities until a special election within the Senate will be held to fill the open position with current senators:
  - a. Senate Sergeant at Arms
  - b. Senate Marshal
  - c. Chief of Staff
- E. Any further line of succession may be outlined by the President and approved by the ASUW Senate, ~~within the first four (4) Senate meetings of that ASUW Administration.~~

#### **Section 4.02 Senate**

##### **1. Senate Vacancy Procedure**

- A. At the beginning of each ASUW Administration, a list of potential ASUW candidates, including the senatorial candidate from the college who was eliminated last according to the instant-runoff in the preceding election and write-in candidates, shall be compiled by the ASUW Executive Branch.
- B. 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.
  - a. 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 business 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.
- B. If a vacancy occurs and the list of eligible candidates from the preceding Election has been exhausted, the ASUW Vice President Steering Committee

will direct ~~an ASUW Executive~~ the ASUW Elections Committee to begin an application and election process to fill the vacant seat. The application shall require a cover letter and a résumé.

- a. 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.
- b. At the close of the application period, the ASUW Adviser, will review the applications for a candidate's eligibility as stipulated by the ASUW Election Policy.
- c. The ASUW Elections Committee shall interview all eligible candidates. After the interview process has completed, the Committee shall select a candidate to fill the vacant seat.~~All those meeting initial eligibility requirements will be contacted and given the official guidelines and timeline of the vacancy election.~~
- d. All selected candidates will be subject to a confirmation vote by the ASUW Senate. Candidates shall be confirmed by a vote of an absolute majority of present Senators.~~Candidates will have one full week to campaign within their respective college. All allocations for campaigning shall not exceed \$50.00 with a expense report being delivered to the ASUW main office the Tuesday following the voting period.~~
- e. ~~Senate Vacancy Elections will be held in a respective college for one day, 8am to 5pm, to all students in a college eligible to vote, in a manner consistent with the ASUW Election Policy.~~
- f.e. The ASUW Vice President will notify the chosen candidate as soon as they are confirmed by the Senate.~~possible after an election concludes.~~ Upon acceptance, the candidate will be sworn in ~~at the next ASUW Senate Meeting immediately after being confirmed by the ASUW Senate.~~
- g.f. This system will not be used once applications for the general election open.
- h.g. All Senate Vacancy elections shall follow the above outlines procedures and adhere as closely as possible to the policies outlined in the ASUW Elections Policy.

## Addendum C

### Section 2.02 The ASUW Senate

#### 1. Responsibilities and Authorities

##### 4. ASUW Senator Responsibilities

- A. Senators shall attend regularly scheduled meetings of the ASUW Senate, and any special meetings of the ASUW Senate as scheduled by the ASUW Vice President.
- B. Senators shall be allotted a set amount of unexcused absences, as determined by the ASUW Steering Committee.
- C. Senators shall serve on a minimum of one ASUW Standing Committee, one ASUW Standing or Special Committee, and one University or ASUW Special Committee. ~~two (2) ASUW Standing Committees, or one (1) ASUW Standing Committee and one (1) University Committee.~~
- D. ASUW Senators shall be required to attend a diversity workshop. This workshop should focus, but is not limited to, the diversity as it pertains to the University of Wyoming to increase awareness and decrease insensitivity towards underrepresented populations throughout campus. This diversity training will be developed by UMC in coordination with the ASUW Vice President. This training will count as one (1) service hours for the period in which it is held.
- E. ASUW Senators shall be required to attend a sexual misconduct prevention and awareness training. This training should focus on, but is not limited to, raising awareness of sexual assault at the University of Wyoming, how to prevent it, and how to support victims of sexual assault. This sexual assault prevention and awareness training will be developed by STOP Violence, or the equivalent program within Student Affairs in coordination with the ASUW Vice President. This training will count as one (1) service hour for the period in which it is held.

- F. Senators will be required to accumulate a total of two (2) service hours per service period. Service periods are defined in the following table:

**Service Periods**

August/September	January/February
October	March/April
November/December	