

SENATE BILL #2764



TITLE: Authorizing Expenditures from the ASUW Student Services Endowment for the Creation of a Gaming Lounge and an Ablution Basin

DATE INTRODUCED: November 30, 2021

AUTHORS: President Swilling

SPONSORS: The ASUW Budget and Planning 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 ASUW Budget and Planning Committee annually opens applications for
4. special projects, and this year has received multiple requests, totaling in excess of the
5. \$90,000 that has been allocated to fund such special projects; and,
6. WHEREAS, multiple proposed projects could either not be funded or could be only partially
7. funded with the funds allocated for special projects; and,
8. WHEREAS, despite this, the ASUW Budget and Planning Committee believes that these
9. projects are well-written proposals that would benefit the students at the University of
10. Wyoming; and,
11. WHEREAS, the ASUW maintains multiple endowments at the University of Wyoming
12. Foundation, among these the Student Services (Facilities) Endowment, created by Senate bill
13. #2042; and,
14. WHEREAS, this endowment currently has a corpus in excess of \$2.2 million, and allocatable
15. funds of \$347,843; and,
16. WHEREAS, the purpose of this endowment is to, “finance the enhancement of student
17. service buildings, venues, or other projects at the University of Wyoming as designated by
18. the ASUW Student Government.”; and,

PASSED 25-0

19. WHEREAS, by using this endowment, ASUW could fund some of the remaining
20. special projects that could not be fully funded; and,
21. WHEREAS, after significant discussion, the ASUW Budget and Planning Committee
22. decided that funding the proposed gaming lounge, as shown in Addendum A, and the
23. ablution basin, as shown in Addendum B, would enhance the student experience at the
24. Wyoming Union; and,
25. WHEREAS, the gaming lounge is a joint proposal by the Student Organizations and
26. Entertainment Office and the Esports Team, who requested \$46,450 to build a gaming
27. lounge in the basement of the union in Pete's Game room, with the proposal requesting
28. \$25,000 to go towards infrastructure (walls, paint, electric hookups, and TV mounting),
29. \$5,000 going towards data, \$12,750 towards furniture, \$2,700 going towards television
30. screens, and \$1,000 going towards aesthetic "gaming" lighting; and,
31. WHEREAS, the gaming lounge would be placed within Pete's Game Room, and any student
32. could come to the Union to play video games; and,
33. WHEREAS, the special projects proposed legislation that was authored after extensive
34. discussion within the Budget and Planning Committee commits \$21,643 to this project, with
35. \$20,450 going towards data, furniture, half the television monitor cost, and \$1,193 going
36. toward their fund to buy PC gaming systems; and,
37. WHEREAS, this still leaves \$24,807 in unmet need from their request, in addition to the fact
38. that, even if their request was funded in full by ASUW funds, there would still not be
39. enough to fund the entirety of the gaming lounge; and,
40. WHEREAS, in addition to the gaming lounge, the Center for Student Involvement and
41. Leadership, in coordination with the International Student Association, requested \$15,000 for

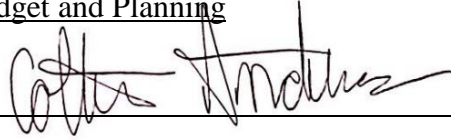
PASSED 25-0

42. the installation of a foot washing basin and new flooring within the Reflection Room to
43. accommodate students who need to wash before prayer; and,
44. WHEREAS, there were no remaining funds from special projects to fund this request, but it
45. could be easily funded using the Student Services Endowment; and,
46. WHEREAS, funding this would be a demonstrable act by which ASUW could show our
47. commitment to creating a welcoming environment for international students.
48. THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
49. (ASUW) Student Government authorizes the expenditure of \$67,000 from the ASUW
50. Student Services Endowment, to be spent as outlined in Addendums C and D, and that, in
51. exchange for this funding support, the stipulations outlined therein shall be held as binding
52. upon the architects and enactors of these proposals; and,
53. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that these funds shall be revoked and returned to the
54. liquid assets of the endowment if a project that these funds are allocated for is permanently
55. canceled or the funds have not been taken out by the end of Fiscal Year 2023, whichever
56. comes first; and,
57. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that any remaining funds from these allocations that are
58. unnecessary for the completion of these projects shall also be returned to the liquid assets of
59. the endowment; and,
60. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the ASUW Accountant shall be tasked with
61. communicating and overseeing the disbursement of these funds; and,
62. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that this authorization take effect immediately upon
63. passage and enactment of this bill.

PASSED 25-0

Referred to: Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy; Budget and Planning

Date of Passage: December 7th, 2021 **Signed:** _____



(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on December 7th, 2021**, I do hereby sign my name hereto**

and approve this Senate action.” _____


ASUW President

Addendum A

E-SPORTS GAMING LOUNGE PROPOSAL

Introduction and Background

Video gaming is a popular hobby of college students – it often involves strategy, develops skills, and includes social components. Over the past decade, eSports lounges have been popping up on college campuses where students can gather, game together, and compete. Here at the University of Wyoming a eSports club started about 5 years ago. The mission of Esports is to make an inclusive space that is welcoming to all, giving all gamers a home on campus. Two years ago, UW's Esports club was officially recognized as a Club Sport and now travels competitively throughout the Mountain West. As recent as October 2 of this year, the Wyoming Esports Club hosted the first Esports Border War with the University of Colorado Boulder in A&S Auditorium. E-gaming and E-sports is not solely a student org activity either but rather an activity participated by hundreds of students across UW, often from their own bedrooms, some leisure players and others competitive.

Proposal

In a collaborative effort, the Wyoming Esports Club, Campus Recreation, and Student Organizations and Entertainment are requesting \$46,450 for the development and construction of an E-Sports lounge in the lower level of the Wyoming Union. The location to be used for the E-Sports lounge is the northern end of Pete's Game Room – not only is it a fitting location based on the name, the layout of the space creates unique opportunities for students, student orgs, and E-sports when Wyoming hosts competitions. The funds requested are not the full scope of the project and the financial breakdown is shared further in this document. The funds being requested would primarily support the infrastructure for the space – wall, painting, electric and data installation, lighting, furniture, and gaming systems. UW does not currently have labs with processors meant for gaming. When Esports hosts events and practices, students bring in their own systems at great personal risk while transporting.



Figure 1. Recently built E-Sports Lounge at Washington.

Benefit to Students

When the pandemic hit, most student organizations paused their activities. A handful pivoted to virtual offerings. E-Sports was uniquely positioned to maintain their operations including practices, programming, and competition. The popularity of E-sports boomed during the pandemic and they provided an even greater service to their members and other UW students. Now as students return to campus and in-person experiences, Esports is looking to bring back in-person practices, trainings, and events. The use of the space is not exclusive to Esports either. Similar to the billiard tables in Pete's Game Room being reserved for the UW Billiards Club, the E-sports lounge could also be reserved for practices/events but outside of those reservations they are stations available to persons affiliated with UW for the purpose of gaming.



Having a central location at UW and in the Wyoming Union, often seen as the 'living room of campus', is a natural fit because of the nature of the events, activities, and socialization that occurs in the building. The University maintains intramural fields for club sports and intramural activities that has a broad campus impact and we ought to replicate the services and support for e-gaming.

Projected Budget

Projected Expense	Projected Cost
Infrastructure (walls, paint, electric hookups, tv mounting)	\$ 25,000.00
Data	\$ 5,000.00
Aesthetic "Gaming" Lighting	\$ 1,000.00
Furniture	\$ 12,750.00
Television monitors	\$ 5,400.00
Gaming monitors	\$ 4,675.00
Gaming systems (14xPCs)	\$ 29,680.00
Gaming systems (6xConsoles)	\$ 3,000.00
Games, Subscriptions, and Services	\$ 3,000.00
Totals	\$ 89,505.00

Funding Support	
Special Project Request (infrastructure, data, furniture, lighting, half television monitor cost)	\$ 46,450.00
Club Sports Council for gaming monitors	\$ 1,500.00
Student Orgs and Ent. (television monitors, games and sub. costs)	\$ 5,700.00
Fundraising	\$ 5,000.00
*seeking additional funding for difference and/or reviewing equipment downgrades to reduce costs	

Addendum B

Proposal

We propose to install a foot washing basin and new flooring within the Reflection Room to accommodate students who need to wash before prayer.

Background

The Wyoming Union offers a space called the Reflection Room for students who wish to pray, meditate, reflect, or briefly nap. The Union Events Office has made efforts to improve this space for students by painting the walls, upgrading furniture and lighting, supplying rugs, and hanging imagery on the wall.

The Problem

Despite many of the improvements, the Reflection Room is still inadequate for the religious needs of some students. Certain faiths require a washing of faces, hands, arms, and feet prior to prayer. Students who need to perform this purification ritual have been using the nearby restrooms where the sinks are 33.5 inches tall. Students must take their shoes off, lift their legs nearly 3 feet, and then place their washed foot on the bathroom floor. Washing in these spaces before prayer is impractical, unhygienic, and unsafe.

Solution

Due to similar concerns, and even some students slipping in restrooms, institutions across the country have installed foot washing stations for students. These small ground-level sinks are typically located in Student Unions near or inside a prayer space. The following institutions installed foot washing stations in their Student Union:

Boise State University,
Cal State Northridge,
Eastern Michigan University,
Long Beach State University,
Minnesota State University,
Ohio State University.
Sacramento State University,
San Diego State University,
University of Delaware,
University of Michigan,
University of Florida,
University of Connecticut,
University of Minnesota,
University of North Texas,
University of Utah,
And Wichita State University.



Benefits to Students

The proposed washing station improves accessibility, health, and safety for students. The convenience of being located in the Wyoming Union might boost use of the space; students may not need to go somewhere else to wash and pray. More importantly, this station can make students feel like their basic needs are being addressed by the institution. Students are more likely to attend the University of Wyoming if they know their needs will be met.



Considerations

The Reflection Room contains an old custodial closet, but this space is unavailable for washing. It contains dangerous electric panels which cannot be accessible to the public. Instead, we propose to install a small wash basin on the outside of the closet. This basin would be located in the Reflection Room for privacy and would utilize the existing plumbing.

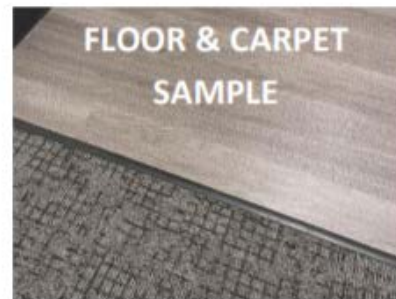
As a result of placing a wash basin inside the room, some linoleum flooring would need to be installed to prevent carpet from getting wet. It is also proposed the carpet is replaced due to the age. Custodial staff would need to add this washing station to their list of places to clean. For ease of cleaning, we are proposing a porcelain basin instead of stainless steel.

Many of the walls in the original section of the Wyoming Union contain asbestos – a cancer causing chemical. The installation of a wash basin would

require abatement to ensure the construction and use of the facility is safe.

Cost

UW Operations estimates the cost for this project will be \$15,000. The cost is inclusive of asbestos abatement, plumbing, installation of a porcelain basin, new flooring, and patching of drywall. A “Request For Estimate (RFE)” is underway with UW Operations to provide an itemized final cost for the project.



Sponsors

This proposal is co-proposed by:

The Center for Student Involvement and Leadership
International Students and Scholars

Addendum C**Gaming Lounge Funding Allocation**

Item	Allocation
Infrastructure (walls, paint, electric hookups, TV mounting)	\$25,000
Television monitors	\$2,700
Gaming monitors	\$4,000
Gaming PCs	\$17,000
Gaming consoles	\$3,300
Total	\$52,000

Stipulations for funding:

- No portion of these funds shall be spent on aesthetic lighting.
- No decreases in quality of equipment shall be accepted, even in such cases when decreases would allow more equipment to be purchased – instead, fewer pieces of equipment of equal or higher quality than those initially proposed shall be prioritized.
- ASUW's Budget and Planning Committee shall be updated as to the status of this project not less than once a month, or, in periods when the Budget and Planning Committee is not meeting, the ASUW President, Vice President, and Accountant shall be notified in their stead, again not less than once a month.
- ASUW's Budget and Planning Committee shall also be consulted on major decisions for this project – such as equipment purchases, colors and lighting decisions, and related things, or, in periods when the Budget and Planning Committee is not meeting, the ASUW President, Vice President, and Accountant shall be consulted in their stead.

Addendum D

Ablution Basin Funding Allocation

Item	Allocation
Ablution basin and related installation costs	\$15,000
Total funding	\$15,000

Stipulations for funding:

- The International Students and Scholars Office shall be consulted as to best practices for such an endeavor. They shall also be notified upon completion of the project, so that they may be informed of this important development that could positively impact many of the students that they serve.
- Also upon the completion of this project, further efforts shall be made to connect with the student groups who would benefit from this, so as to ensure that this service will be utilized.
- ASUW's Budget and Planning Committee shall be updated as to the status of this project not less than once every other month, or, in periods when the Budget and Planning Committee is not meeting, the ASUW President, Vice President, and Accountant shall be notified in their stead, again not less than once every other month.