



SENATE BILL #2769

TITLE: Restructuring the ASUW Senate to an At-Large Model and Reducing the Number of Senators

DATE INTRODUCED: November 30, 2021

AUTHOR: President Swilling and Vice President Anderson

SPONSORS: Senators Castronovo, Ewalt, and Rhymes; Chief of Legislative Affairs Carrier

1. WHEREAS, the purpose of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
2. (ASUW) Student Government is to serve our fellow students in the best manner possible;
3. and,
4. WHEREAS, the 109th Administration of the ASUW is seeking to restructure the ASUW
5. Senate so as to make it a more representative and productive body, as well
6. as act proactively with respect to the larger academic reorganization of the University of
7. Wyoming (UW); and,
8. WHEREAS, the 109th administration of the ASUW has established an Ad-
9. Hoc Committee to lead the restructuring of ASUW; and,
10. WHEREAS, the committee has, after extensive discussion, elected to pursue changing
11. the ASUW Senate's representation structure from representation by college to at-large
12. representation of the UW student body; and,
13. WHEREAS, an at-large model of representation was the product of these extensive
14. discussions, with the stated intent of allowing Senators to focus on issues common to all
15. students, as well as greatly reduce difficulties we have filling Senate seats, as well as
16. eliminate inequitable distribution of representation, where, in the 109th Senate, the
17. Senator for the School of Energy Resources represents 32 students, while the Senators for
18. the College of Engineering and Applied Science represent 460; and,

19. WHEREAS, this decision also stems from the proposed reorganizations of numerous
20. colleges which would hinder ASUW Elections in the year the reorganization takes place
21. and the belief that ASUW senators already focus on all-encompassing student issues
22. more often than they do college-specific issues; and,

23. WHEREAS, the committee has also deemed it appropriate to reduce the number of senate
24. seats in the ASUW Legislative Branch from thirty-two (32) to twenty-one (21); and,

25. WHEREAS, this decision stems from the desire to pay senators hourly to promote
26. productivity amongst ASUW senators, to make a more cohesive and collaborative body,
27. and to alleviate the ASUW Vice President and the ASUW Elections Committee of some
28. of the burden of filling vacancies, which consumes a great deal of time and effort.

29. THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
30. (ASUW) Student Government that the changes outlined in Addendum A are approved by
31. the ASUW Senate, which officially initiates the process to change the ASUW
32. Constitution; and,

33. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the ASUW Senate approves and orders an
34. ASUW general election be held before the opening of the spring 2022 applications for the
35. student representative elections, so that this constitutional change may be voted on by
36. ballot referendum before those begin; and,

37. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the ASUW Senate approves the language shown
38. in Addendum B for this ballot referendum; and,

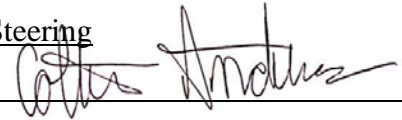
39. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that, upon the passage of this ballot initiative by
40. an absolute majority of voting members of the ASUW, the ASUW Constitution be
41. amended to reflect the changes outlined in Addendum A; and,

42. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that upon the passage of this ballot initiative by an
43. absolute majority of voting members of the ASUW, the ASUW By-Laws be amended to
44. reflect the changes outlined in Addendum C; and,
45. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that if the ballot initiative outlined in Addendum B
46. does not pass, this legislation shall be rendered null and void in its entirety.

Referred to: Ad-Hoc Restructuring; Ad-Hoc Strategic Planning; Advocacy, Diversity, and
Policy; Elections; Program and Institutional Development; Steering

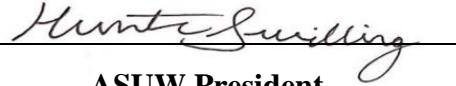
Date of Passage: December 7th, 2021

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

ARTICLE VI ASUW Legislative Branch

The Legislative Branch of the ASUW shall consist of the ASUW Vice President, a student senate, which shall be made up of the student senators annually elected by the ASUW membership, and First-Year Senate Delegates. All legislative powers of the ASUW shall be vested in the ASUW Student Senate.

- Section 1. The ASUW Student Senate shall include ~~thirty-two (32)~~twenty-one (21) elected Senators, and three (3) First-Year Senate Delegates. This body shall be constituted in accordance with the following provisions:
- A. ASUW Senators shall represent every fee-paying student at the University of Wyoming, and be annually elected by the same.
 - B. The First-Year Senate Constitution will outline the selection process of the First-Year Senate delegates
~~Each of the University's colleges and sole degree-granting programs shall have at least one (1) student senator; and~~
 - ~~B. The remaining twenty-three (23) senators shall be allocated to those colleges with more than one thirtieth (1/30) of the total full-fee paying University students.~~
 - ~~This allocation shall be done in exact relation to the percentage of such students who are enrolled in the college; and~~
 - C. ~~All calculations will be based upon the enrollment in the colleges during the semester prior to the general election.~~
 - D. ~~The First-Year Senate Constitution will outline the selection process of the First-Year Senate delegates.~~

- Section 2. In order to provide continuity in ASUW activities and business along with providing a mechanism for timely participation by the ASUW in University processes, the ASUW Senate may create Standing and Ad-Hoc committees.

Addendum B

Referendum Language

Do you support the following change to the ASUW Constitution? This proposed amendment received more than two-thirds support from current ASUW Senators, and would reduce the number of ASUW Senators by eleven (11), and transition to an at-large representation model. The purpose would be to have a smaller, more equitable, efficient, and representative Senate. A new ASUW College Council will be created to specifically represent college-specific concerns and issues, while the ASUW Senate will focus on issues pertinent to the entire student body, such as ending food insecurity, support and funding student organizations, and promoting mental health awareness, as well as other topics students care about.

ARTICLE VI

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B. The First-Year Senate Constitution will outline the selection process of the First-Year Senate delegates.

~~Each of the University's colleges and sole degree-granting programs shall have at least one (1) student senator; and~~

~~B. The remaining twenty-three (23) senators shall be allocated to those colleges with more than one thirtieth (1/30) of the total full-fee paying University students.~~

~~This allocation shall be done in exact relation to the percentage of such students who are enrolled in the college; and~~

~~C. All calculations will be based upon the enrollment in the colleges during the semester prior to the general election.~~

~~D. The First-Year Senate Constitution will outline the selection process of the First-Year Senate delegates.~~

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mechanism for timely participation by the ASUW in University processes, the ASUW Senate may create Standing and Ad-Hoc committees

Addendum C

6. Membership

a. Membership in the ASUW Senate shall consist of:

- ~~i. Thirty-two~~Twenty-one (21/32) elected, or, if filling vacancy, appointed Senators, each of whom shall represent all students at the University of Wyoming, and who shall be annually elected by the same, are apportioned using Hamilton's method as outlined below with ~~two (2)~~ Senators representing the sole degree-granting programs, and in accordance with Article 6, Section 1 of the ASUW Constitution.
- ~~ii. Each of the University's colleges and sole degree-granting programs is allocated one (1) ASUW Senate Seat.~~
 - ~~i. The remaining ASUW Senate Seat shall be allocated to those colleges and sole degree-granting programs with more than one thirty second (1/32) of the total fee paying University students using Hamilton's method as follows:~~
 - ~~i. Compute the natural quota for each college with more than one thirty second (1/32) of the total fee paying University students using the formula:-~~
 - ~~i. x = the number of ASUW Senate seats (32) minus the number college and sole degree-granting programs~~
 - ~~ii. NQ = a college or sole degree-granting program's natural quota~~
 - ~~iii. E = the number of fee paying students enrolled in that college or sole degree-granting program~~
 - ~~iv. T = the total number of fee paying students enrolled in those colleges or sole degree-granting programs with more than one thirty second (1/32) of the total fee paying University students~~
 - ~~ii. Allocate to each college with more than one thirty second (1/32) of the total fee paying University students a number of student senators equal to the whole number portion of their natural quotas.~~
 - ~~iii. If all ASUW Senate Seats are not allocated in the previous step the remaining student senators are allocated one by one in order to the colleges with the largest fractional portions in their natural quotas.~~
 - ~~iv. The total allocation for each college is the sum of the ASUW Senate Seats allocated in steps 1 and 2.~~

Article 5. Elections Policy

Section 5.01 ASUW Elections Committee

1. Responsibilities and Authorities

A. The Elections Committee shall annually prescribe and disseminate to all official candidates in the ASUW General Elections the Elections Code. The Elections Code must be approved by the ASUW Senate before the conclusion of the fall semester and will include but is not limited to:

a. All election and associated dates will be determined by the Committee to fit the current academic calendar following the guidelines set forth in this article.

b. Campaigning and publicity rules which shall be established by the Elections Committee.

~~c. Seat allocation will be calculated by the Committee with the help of the ASUW Advisor using the methods described by the Article 2 Section 2.02 Subsection 6 of the ASUW By-Laws and in Article VI Section 1 of the ASUW Constitution. The calculations and results of the seat allocation must be included in the Elections Code.~~

c. The elections committee will be allowed to determine the amount of quantity of funds included in the candidate printing fund and they will determine the amount of money each candidate will be eligible for.

d. Any other information deemed relevant to elections by the Committee.

B. Applications, financial expense report forms, and the Elections Code shall be provided by the Elections Committee and be made available to all ASUW Members by 9:00 a.m. on a school day selected by the Committee before the fourth (4th) week of the spring semester.

C. The Committee shall, host a minimum of two (2) general information sessions between the date's applications are available and the time applications are due for ASUW Student Representative Elections. These sessions must be open to the campus; style and programming will be at the discretion of the Committee.

D. The results of the voting in each election, including the number of votes received by each candidate, shall be released by the Committee after they have been announced by the ASUW Advisor.

E. The Committee along with the ASUW Advisors are authorized to determine the software needed conduct voting and to count all ballots of the elections according to Instant-Runoff Voting.

F. The Committee will work in collaboration with the ASUW Advisor to ensure that all candidates adhere to all rules outlined in both this Article and the Elections Code.

G. The Chair of the Committee will be Responsible for communicating all official elections information through the ASUW Elections Email.

H. Other responsibilities and authorities of the Elections Committee are outlined throughout this Article.

2. Composition

A. The Chair of the Elections Committee cannot run for any position in the General Election they are overseeing.

a. Should the Chair of the Committee decide to run for a Senate position they can remain Chair with the approval of the ASUW Senate before the filing deadline. This approval will require a 4/5 vote of confidence by the Senate.

B. No member of the Committee can run for President or Vice President in the General Election.

C. If a member of the Committee wishes to declare their candidacy for President or Vice-President, they must resign as a member of the Committee in order to officially declare their candidacy before filing closes.

Section 5.02 ASUW Advisor

1. Responsibility and Authority

A. The ASUW Advisor can delegate any of their responsibilities within this Article to the Chair of the Elections Committee or to any members of the ASUW Business Office who are not running in the ASUW Election. If the ASUW Advisor position is vacant, the members of the ASUW Business Office will assume the responsibilities outlined for the ASUW Advisor.

B. The ASUW Advisor along with the Elections Committee is authorized to determine the software needed to count all ballots of the elections according to Instant-Runoff Voting.

C. The ASUW Advisor will be responsible for compiling the list of eligible voters prior to the opening of voting.

D. The ASUW Advisor shall ensure that no speech, advertisement, or any other related activity pertaining to the current election and its respective races occurs inside the ASUW Office or at official ASUW functions, other than those sponsored and conducted by the Elections Committee.

E. The ASUW Advisor will work in collaboration with the Elections Committee to ensure that all candidates adhere to the Elections Code.

F. All votes will be counted, tabulated, and announced by the ASUW Advisor following the procedures outlined in Section 5.03 of this Article.

G. The ASUW Advisor will be responsible for hosting the candidate workshop to explain the elections rules on the date applications are due at a time and place to be announced by the ASUW Elections Committee.

H. The ASUW Advisor will be responsible for enforcing any sanctions put on candidates by the Judicial Council.

I. Other responsibilities and authorities of the ASUW Advisor are outlined throughout this Article.

Section 5.03 Process for ~~the General Elections~~ Student Representative Elections

1. Applications:

A. Applications will be created by the Elections Committee and monitored by the ASUW Advisor.

B. Applications will be made available to all ASUW Members no sooner than the start date of the spring semester as outline by the Office of Academic Affairs.

C. The filing deadline for all applications will be no later than 4:30 p.m. on a date that is no less than three (3) weeks following the release of the applications.

D. All candidates who submit applications after the filing deadline will be considered write-in candidates.

E. All dates related to the applications will be decided by the Elections Committee and must be included in the Elections Code.

2. Candidate Workshop

- A. The candidate workshop will be scheduled planned and hosted by the ASUW Advisor and will be used to explain the elections, process, rules, and dates to all candidates.
 - B. All candidates will be required to attend the candidate workshop. Candidates who are unable to attend the workshop must inform the ASUW Advisor prior to the workshop and will be required to attend a makeup session.
 - C. The candidate workshop will be held after the filing deadline on the same day.
- 3. Ballots
 - A. The names listed on the ballot will include all qualified President and Vice President tickets and all qualified Senate candidates. The names of write-in candidates will not be included on the ballot.
 - B. The ballot will include an appropriate photo and statement submitted by each candidate. The length of the candidate statements will be set by the Elections Committee and must be included in the Elections Code. Photos will be deemed appropriate at the discretion of the Elections Committee and the ASUW Advisor.
 - C. The order of candidates on the primary and general ballots will be determined by a random drawing conducted by the ASUW Advisor as soon as possible.
 - D. All voting will be conducted using electronic online ballots.
 - a. The use of alternative voting methods is permitted and will be development by the ASUW Advisor and the Elections Committee and use of such methods will be at the discretion of the ASUW Advisor.
 - E. Should an initiative be included on the ballot it must follow the procedures outlined in Section 5.07.
- 4. Elections
 - A. The elections will be held no less than four (4) weeks after the filing deadline and the elections end date must allow for at least one (1) regular senate meeting to be held before the spring semester finish date as outlined by the Office of the Registrar.
 - B. The Elections Committee shall make an effort to provide a two (2) week transition period between administrations.
 - C. ~~Thirty-two~~Twenty-one (21) total Senators will be elected. These seats will be divided among each college and degree granting program as stipulated by Article 2, Section 2.02, Subsection 6 of these By-Laws and Article VI, Section 1 of the Constitution all be at-large, and will not represent any particular college or school, but instead all students at the University of Wyoming.
- 5. Voting Methods
 - A. Any ASUW Member will be permitted to vote at any polling place or by voting online.
 - B. Voting must be open between sixty-five (65) and ninety (90) hours.
 - C. Voting will be conducted according to the principles of Instant-Runoff Voting and thus voters will rank their preferences of candidates from first to last.
 - a. The procedures for Instant-Runoff Voting, also known as the Alternative Vote or Preferential Voting, is described in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised in Chapter XIII §45. 11th edition, 2011, p. 425-28.
 - D. The candidates for ASUW elective office who are not eliminated after the instant-runoff shall be declared the winners of those positions. An instant-runoff will be run

until the number of candidates matches the number of apportioned seats. ~~of a college, and the number of winning candidates shall not exceed the number of apportioned seats of any college.~~

a. In the event that there were no candidates for a given elective office, the individual with the greatest number of legitimate write-in votes shall be declared the winner. Otherwise, the vacancy procedure outlined in Article 4, Section 4.02 of these By-Laws will be used.

E. Voters will ~~only be~~ allowed to vote in the senate election ~~in their college or school~~, in the President/Vice-President Election, and for Ballot initiatives.

~~F. Voters who are in the Exploratory Studies Program will vote for candidates in the College of Arts & Sciences.~~

~~G. Voters with more than one major will only be allowed to vote in their primary college, as documented by the Registrar.~~

~~H. Each voter may rank up to, but not exceeding, the number of Senate seats allotted to their college (as outlined Article 2, Section 2.02, Subsection 6 of these By-Laws and Article VI, Section 1 of the Constitution), including write-in candidates.~~

F. Polling places will be considered as any computer station set up by the ASUW Elections Committee for the purpose of voting, and any other locations determined as polling areas by the Elections Committee.

a. Other polling stations will be clearly identified, and all candidates will be informed of what constitutes such polling areas.

b. Personal internet connected devices such as, phones, tablets, calculators, computers are not typically considered as a polling place unless they are being used within a predefined polling area.

6. Results

A. Voting results shall be tabulated by the ASUW Advisor using the method they deem most efficient and effective.

B. No voting information shall be available until the ASUW Advisor has finished tabulating all ballots. With the approval of the ASUW Advisor the Elections Committee can publish current vote tallies up to twenty-four (24) hours before voting closes.

C. The results of voting in each election shall be announced by the ASUW Advisor at a location chosen by the Election Committee with in (24) hours of when the elections results are available.

D. Any write-in candidate or ticket who wins an election must fulfill the write-in candidate requirements outlined in Section 5.04 Subsection 3 and must abide by the campaign rules outline in Section 5.05.

E. The order of replacement seats in the case of a resignation in the Senate shall be determined by reverse order of elimination from the election.

7. Financial Expense Reports:

A. The Financial Expense Report Form will be provided by Elections Committee on the same date applications are made available.

B. The Financial Expense Reports are an itemized statement of expenses incurred during a candidate's or ticket's campaign, and must include the following criteria:

a. Items or services that are donated to the candidate must be included in the expense statement at retail value. All copying and printing costs (including those made in University labs or on personal printers) must be included.

b. Receipts for all expenditures must be attached to the expense statement. If for any reason a receipt is unavailable, the candidate must note the lack of receipt on the expense statement. If the exact amount for expenditures is not known, candidates are expected to accurately estimate the cost involved.

C. The submission deadline for Financial Expense Reports shall be determined by the Elections Committee on a date that is at least three (3) days prior to the inauguration of the incoming administration.

Section 5.04 Candidate Requirements

1. Senator Candidates

A. A candidate for Senator must meet the following requirements:

a. They must be ~~a full-time~~ ASUW fee paying-student and maintain this status.

b. They must have and maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average as an undergraduate and a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average as a graduate or professional student or a 2.0 if the program does not require it.

c. They must have completed no less than twenty-four (24) hours of university credit at the beginning of the academic year of their term of office as an undergraduate student, or eighteen (18) hours as a graduate or professional student.

d. They must have completed no less than twelve (12) of those hours at the University of Wyoming as an undergraduate student, or nine (9) hours as a graduate or professional student at the University of Wyoming.

e. They must submit an application by the required deadline (as outlined in Article 5, Section 5.01, Subsection 1, Clause A of these By-Laws) provided by the Elections Committee.

f. They cannot be a currently serving member of the ASUW Judicial Council. In the event that an individual who wishes to declare their candidacy for Senator and is currently serving as the ASUW Chief Justice or a Justice, they must resign as a member of the ASUW Judicial Council in order to officially declare their candidacy when filing closes.

B. The ASUW Advisor will automatically verify that all candidates are not on Conduct Probation as assigned by the Assistant Dean of Students for Judicial Affairs or designee in the Dean of Students Office. If a candidate is on Conduct Probation, they will be ineligible for the election. All candidates for Senator will run individually.

~~C. Senate candidates shall not be allowed to change the college for which they wish to run after the final filing date of their application. If Senate candidates wish to change colleges after the submission of their application, they shall be required to run as a write-in candidate for their respective new college.~~

2. President and Vice President Candidates

A. Both candidates on a ticket for ASUW President and Vice President must meet the following requirements:

a. They must be a full-time ASUW fee paying student and maintain this status.

b. They must have and maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average as an undergraduate and a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average as a graduate or professional student or a 2.0 if the program does not require it.

c. They must submit an application by the required deadline (as outlined in Article 5, Section 5.01, Subsection 1, Clause A of these By-Laws) provided by the Elections Committee.

d. They must have completed no less than sixty (60) hours of university credit by June 10 of the calendar year in which they were elected as an undergraduate student, or, as a graduate or professional student, they must have completed no less than eighteen (18) hours of university credit by June 10 of the calendar year in which they were elected.

e. They must have completed no less than twenty-four (24) of those hours as an undergraduate student, or eighteen (18) hours as a graduate or professional student at the University of Wyoming.

f. They cannot be a currently serving member of the ASUW Judicial Council or the ASUW Elections Committee. In the event that an individual who wishes to declare their candidacy or is currently serving in one of these capacities, they must resign as a member of the ASUW Judicial Council or the ASUW Elections Committee in order to officially declare their candidacy when filing closes.

g. The ASUW Advisor will automatically verify that all candidates are not on Conduct Probation as assigned by the Assistant Dean of Students for Judicial Affairs or designee in the Dean of Students Office. If a candidate is on Conduct Probation, they will be ineligible for the election.

B. Candidates for President and Vice President will run jointly on a combined ticket. Students will not be able to vote for a President and Vice President individually but must instead vote for a ticket. All election rules will apply jointly to candidates for President and Vice President running on the same ticket.

C. Candidates for President and Vice President who wish to be eligible as candidates for Senator must submit a separate application (by the required deadline as outlined in Article 5, Section 5.01, Subsection 1, Clause A of these By-Laws) to run for Senate.

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 candidates ~~from the college~~ who ~~were~~ 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.~~

a. 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 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. If a vacancy occurs and the list of eligible candidates from the preceding Election has been exhausted, the ASUW Vice President will direct 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~~

~~a. weeks from the time of initial notice determined by the ASUW Elections Committee.~~

b. At the close of the application period, the ASUW ~~Adviser~~ Advisor, 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.

d. Candidates shall be subject to a confirmatory vote by the ASUW Senate. Two-thirds (2/3) of present voting members shall be the threshold for confirmation.

e. The ASUW Vice President will notify the chosen candidate as soon as they are confirmed by the Senate. Upon acceptance, the candidate will be sworn in immediately after being confirmed by the ASUW Senate.

f. This system will not be used once applications for the ~~general ASUW~~ Student Representative Election ~~election~~ open.

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.

~~Section 7.02 Change of Major~~

~~1. Any member of the ASUW Senate who changes their major during their term in office resulting in a change in college shall automatically be terminated from their office.~~