



SENATE BILL #2779

TITLE: Incorporating Financial Need as a Selection Component for all ASUW Scholarships

DATE INTRODUCED: February 1st, 2022

AUTHORS: President Swilling

SPONSORS: Senators Castronovo, Ewalt, Rhymes, and Smith

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, each year, ASUW distributes approximately \$85,000 in scholarship money to
4. students through a variety of scholarships, including the Opportunity for Success Scholarship,
5. the Childcare Assistance Scholarship, the High School Leadership Scholarship, the College
6. Leadership Scholarship, the James C. Hurst Scholarship, the Service-Learning Scholarship, and
7. the Charlotte Hearne Davis Scholarship; and,
8. WHEREAS, ASUW is also creating a new scholarship for Deferred Action for Childhood
9. Arrivals (DACA) recipients and international students; and,
10. WHEREAS, currently only two of these scholarships, the Opportunity for Success Scholarship
11. and the Childcare Assistance Scholarship, specifically note that financial need will be
12. considered when deciding recipients of the scholarship; and,
13. WHEREAS, this policy is manifestly unjust, as it discounts and ignores the significant barriers
14. that students who have financially struggled have faced when it comes to being involved and
15. engaged in their community before and during their time at the University of Wyoming; and,
16. WHEREAS, some scholarships in particular, such as the Leadership Scholarships, are
17. specifically granted on achievements in leadership, the traditional forms of which, such as
18. involvement in student organizations, advocacy, student government, mentorship,
19. volunteering, and other activities can serve to effectively preclude those who cannot afford
20. either the time commitment or the cost of being involved; and,
21. WHEREAS, some students applying to these merit-based scholarships already have the

22. entirety of their tuition and living expenses paid for through other funding and therefore

23. possess the time and funding to participate in more leadership activities, but financially needy

24. applicants may not be considered due to not being perceived as equally competitive; and,

25. WHEREAS, ASUW is granted the power by recent changes that the UW Foundation has made

26. to our endowment agreements to modify the selection criteria of any scholarship that we so

27. choose; and,

28. WHEREAS, integrating financial need as a core selection component of all ASUW

29. Scholarships can help ensure that our funds go to the students who are most in need.

30. THEREFORE, be it hereby enacted by the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming

31. (ASUW) that unmet financial need shall be a selection criterion of all ASUW scholarships,

32. without exception, henceforth and forever; and,

33. THEREFORE, be it further enacted this notice of this policy change shall be immediately sent

34. to the UW Scholarships office, who shall ensure that we have the proper data collected from

35. students to move forward with this policy; and,

36. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that beginning in Fiscal Year 2023 the ASUW Accountant

37. shall determine the criteria for how financial need is assessed by ASUW Scholarship

38. committees, including but not limited to a personal statement of need, declaration of significant

39. funding sources such as the Trustee's Scholars Award, assessment of employment hours

40. during school year, or other appropriate means of assessment; and,

41. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the UW Foundation shall be notified of this change to

42. our scholarship endowments; and,

43. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the member of the ASUW in charge of overseeing our

44. scholarship process shall yearly notify scholarship committee chairs of this selection criterion;

45. and,

46. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that until Fiscal Year 2023, financial need as a selection

47. criterion shall be determined by the unmet financial need as reported by the UW Financial Aid

PASSED 21-2

48. Office on the scholarship applicant review form; and,

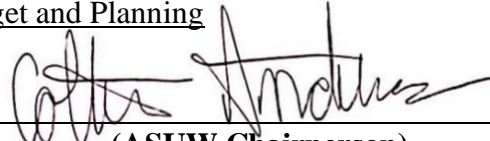
49. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that this policy shall take effect immediately upon

50. enactment of this bill.

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

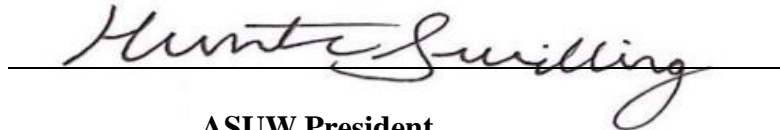
Date of Passage: February 8th, 2022

Signed:


(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on February 8th, 2022**, I do hereby sign my name hereto and**

approve this Senate action.”


ASUW President

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