



SENATE BILL #2854

TITLE: Establishing the ASUW Distance Student Scholarship
DATE INTRODUCED: February 7, 2023
AUTHOR: Vice President Swilling
SPONSORS: Senators Castronovo, Ewalt, Stadler, Willis; President Brown; Chief of Staff Skorcz


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, Article 7, Section 16 of the Wyoming State Constitution states that tuition
5. should “be as nearly free as possible;” and,
6. WHEREAS, the University of Wyoming’s (UW) status as the only four-year institution
7. in the state can mean that UW represents the only feasible option for higher education for
8. some in-state students; and,
9. WHEREAS, UW’s relatively low cost of attendance serves as a significant draw for out-
10. of-state students; and,
11. WHEREAS, despite its status as one of the most affordable universities in the nation, the
12. average UW student graduates with \$24,997 in student loan debt as of 2016; and,
13. WHEREAS, recent decisions, such as yearly 4% increases in tuition and increases to fees,
14. have further compounded this issue; and,
15. WHEREAS, as of Fiscal Year 2023, ASUW charges distance students a fee of \$1/credit
16. hour; and,
17. WHEREAS, ASUW pursued a policy change in 2022 as part of a Senate restructure that
18. allows distance students to serve on the ASUW Senate and vote in all ASUW elections,
19. which they were previously unable to do; and,
20. WHEREAS, ASUW has consistently tried to reduce costs and advocate for our students; and,

PASSED: 20-0-2

21. WHEREAS, helping to reduce the cost of attendance would help achieve those goals by
22. helping more students cope with the high cost of education and reducing future debt
23. burdens; and,
24. WHEREAS, the ASUW Senate allocated \$5,000 to create a Distance Student Scholarship in
25. Fiscal Year 2023; and,
26. WHEREAS, it is important to establish guidelines surrounding this scholarship before it
27. closes on March 15th, 2023.
28. THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
29. (ASUW) Student Government that the ASUW Distance Student Scholarship be
30. created in accordance with Addendum A; and,
31. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the ASUW Budget and Planning Committee be
32. charged with reviewing the continuance of the ASUW Distance Student Scholarship after
33. FY 2023.

Referred to: Budget and Planning; Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy; Program and Institutional Development_____

Date of Passage: February 7th, 2023 **Signed:** 
(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on February 7th, 2023, I do hereby sign my name hereto and approve this Senate action.” _____


ASUW President

Addendum A

The ASUW Distance Student Scholarship

The purpose of the ASUW Distance Student Scholarship shall be to help cover the unmet financial need of deserving students who are classified as full-time full distance students by the University of Wyoming. Student applicants will be evaluated for the scholarship based on demonstrable financial need.

To be eligible for the Scholarship, applicants must:

1. Be enrolled in the University of Wyoming and have ASUW fee-paying status.
2. Demonstrate financial need.
3. Submit a personal statement of no less than 500 words detailing how the scholarship would affect them and their academic careers.
4. Submit a resume.

Recipients of the Scholarship shall receive awards in spring semester of the academic year in which the scholarship is awarded. Scholarship recipients shall be eligible to apply for and be awarded the scholarship year after year; however, being awarded the scholarship in previous years does not guarantee continued awards. The scholarship shall be awarded by the Scholarship Committee, which shall consist of:

- The ASUW President Pro Tempore (chair)
- Up to two (2) ASUW Executives, to be appointed by the ASUW President
- Up to three (3) ASUW Senators
- Up to two (2) ASUW First-Year Senators
- The ASUW Advisor, or designee