

Failed Unanimously

SENATE BILL #2871



TITLE: Reducing First-Year Senate Membership to 17 seats
DATE INTRODUCED: April 18, 2023
AUTHOR: First-Year Senator Keasling
SPONSORS: Senator Bouma, Castronovo, Ewalt, and Stadler; Chief of Legislative Affairs Smith; First-Year Senators Chaudhari and Mahoney

1. WHEREAS, the purpose of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (ASUW)
2. First-Year Senate is to serve our fellow students in the best manner possible; and,
3. WHEREAS, there has been issues keeping and filling the body due to a plethora of reasons;
4. however, having the body be resized to seventeen (17) will aid in the resolution of those
5. issues; and,
6. WHEREAS, the main issue/cause in resignation was due to the lack of wage-based
7. compensation and FYS passed a resolution, FYS Resolution #73, to address FYS wage-based
8. compensation, as outlined in Addendum A; and,
9. WHEREAS, having this body at seventeen members would increase the chance interviews would be
10. needed to select who is in the 111th administration of First-Year Senate; and,
11. WHEREAS, until this administration FYS was smaller than ASUW Senate and reducing FYS to
12. seventeen once again make FYS smaller than ASUW Senate; and,
13. WHEREAS, this still allows for diversity in students and views of the body to be present.
14. THEREFORE, be it enacted by the First-Year Senate (FYS) Associated Students of the University of
15. Wyoming (ASUW) Student Government that the First-Year Senate membership be reduced to
16. seventeen members, beginning in the 111th Administration; and,
17. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the ASUW FYS Constitution is updated to reflect
18. these changes, as shown in Addendum B, and also in any other FYS working documents that
19. mentions how many seats are in FYS; and,
20. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that these changes take effect at the beginning of the 111th

Failed Unanimously

21. Administration of ASUW.

Referred to: ___Program and Institutional Development _____

Date of Passage: _____ Signed: _____

(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on _____, I do hereby sign my name hereto

and approve this Senate action.” _____

ASUW President

Addendum A: FIRST-YEAR SENATE RESOLUTION #73

FIRST-YEAR SENATE RESOLUTION #73

TITLE: A Resolution Regarding First-Year Senator Compensation
DATE INTRODUCED: February 14, 2023
AUTHOR: First-Year Senators Knopp and Medina
SPONSORS: Senator Ewalt, Chief of Legislative Affairs Smith, First-Years
Senator Chaudhari, Keasling

1. WHEREAS, the purpose of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
2. (ASUW) First-Year Senate is to serve our fellow students in the best manner possible;
3. and,
4. WHEREAS, the First-Year Senate (FYS) is an integral part of ASUW because of the
5. representation of voices for First-Year Students at the University of Wyoming (UW);
6. and,
7. WHEREAS, in order to best represent our fellow First-Year Students a diverse and
8. robust voting body is required; and,
9. WHEREAS, the First-Year Senate's impact and influence would greatly increase if
10. there were more members as well as a more diverse composition; and,
11. WHEREAS, the biggest deterrent from joining or remaining in First-Year Senate is a
12. lack of fair compensation for the time commitment that it [FYS] requires; and,
13. WHEREAS, in order to increase membership and diversity for First-Year Senates
14. moving forward, a wage-based compensation mechanism for First-Year Senators would
15. aid in retention of members and in the filling of vacancies; and,
16. WHEREAS, First-Year senate has seen six resignations since the beginning of the 110th
17. administration, and is now operating with 12 voting members as reflected in Addendum

Failed Unanimously

18. A; and,
19. WHEREAS, resignation en masse is not a stand-alone issue and has been a trend over
20. the past several years; and,
21. WHEREAS, many First-Year Senators are members of all three standing FYS
22. committees as reflected in Addendum B which hinders diversity of thought, but is the
23. only way to have committees worth having; and,
24. WHEREAS, Many First-Year Senators put in more than eight hours a week for an
25. uncompensated position; and,
26. WHEREAS, First-Year Senators are the only appointed members within a program or
27. entity in ASUW that do not receive any sort of wage-based compensation; and,
28. WHEREAS, current budget deliberations have struck down compensation mechanisms
29. proposed by the First-Year Senate and its advisors, and have limited forms of
30. compensation to scholarships, and
31. WHEREAS, the First-Year Senate understands the complexities accompanying
32. compensation for the First-Year Senate as outlined in Addendum D.
33. THEREFORE, to properly acknowledge and recognize comments about the initiative
34. and the “amazing work ethic” of the First-Year Senate from full senators and in
35. acknowledgement of the effort poured into ASUW by many First-Year Senators, be it
36. resolved that the First-Year Senate encourages the continued cooperation with all of
37. ASUW to find a solution to the complex issue that is First-Year Senator compensation;
38. and,
39. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that not fulfilling this obligation will lead to a
40. lack of diversity in the First-Year Senate as reflected in Addendum C; and,

Failed Unanimously

41. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the full

42. ASUW Senate, President Brown, and Vice-President Swilling upon its passage.

Referred to: Diversity and Policy, Procedures

Date of Passage: 2/21/23 Signed: Aidan S McGuire

(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on _____, I do hereby sign my name hereto
and approve this Senate action.” _____
ASUW President

Addendum A

Attendance and membership of the First-Year Senate From the beginning of the year to present

Senators/Executives/Ex-Officios								
Date: 10.25.22		Attendance						
P = Present; A = Absent; L = Late; LE = Left early								
Senators								
1	Hannah Aston	P	A	L	LE	Y	N	A
2	Jackson Catchpole	P	A	L	LE	Y	N	A
3	Priya Chaudhari	P	A	L	LE	Y	N	A
4	Calvin Fertig	P	A	L	LE	Y	N	A
5	Schalyer Green	P	A	L	LE	Y	N	A
6	Clayton Keastling	P	A	L	LE	Y	N	A
7	Finley Klinger	P	A	L	LE	Y	N	A
8	Rylan Knopp	P	A	L	LE	Y	N	A
9	Michelle Lake	P	A	L	LE	Y	N	A
10	Adriano Lomonaco	P	A	L	LE	Y	N	A
11	Jasmin Mahoney	P	A	L	LE	Y	N	A
12	Jesica Martinez	P	A	L	LE	Y	N	A
13	Aidan McGuire	P	A	L	LE	Y	N	A
14	Paula Medina	P	A	L	LE	Y	N	A
15	Ven Meester	P	A	L	LE	Y	N	A
16	Zade Orsborn	P	A	L	LE	Y	N	A
17	Payton Pantoney	P	A	L	LE	Y	N	A
18	Mic Swiston	P	A	L	LE	Y	N	A
19	Carter Worcester	P	A	L	LE	Y	N	A
20		P	A	L	LE	Y	N	A
21		P	A	L	LE	Y	N	A
22		P	A	L	LE	Y	N	A
23		P	A	L	LE	Y	N	A
24		P	A	L	LE	Y	N	A
Pro-Staff								
1	Project Coordinator Craft	P	A	L	LE			
2	Advisor Ewalt							
3	Assistant Director Hansen	P	A	L	LE			

Failed Unanimously

ASUW STUDENT GOVERNMENT						
2022-2023 Roll Call Attendance and Voting Record						
Senators/Executives/Ex-Officios						
		SB #2853				
Date: 02.7.23		Attendance				
		P = Present; A = Absent; L = Late; LE = Left early				
S e n a t o r s						
1	Jackson Catchpole	P A L LE	Y N	Y N	Y A	Y N A
2	Priya Chaudhari	P A L LE	A	A	N	Y N A
3	Calvin Fertig	P A L LE	Y N	Y N	Y A	Y N A
4	Clayton Kensing	P A L LE	A	A	N	Y N A
5	Finley Klinger	P A L LE	Y N	Y N	Y A	Y N A
6	Rylan Knopp	P A L LE	A	A	N	Y N A
7	Michelle Lake	P A L LE	Y N	Y N	Y A	Y N A
8	Jasmin Mahoney	P A L LE	A	A	N	Y N A
9	Aidan McGuire	P A L LE	Y N	Y N	Y A	Y N A
10	Paula Medina	P A L LE	A	A	N	Y N A
11	Ven Meester	P A L LE	Y N	Y N	Y A	Y N A
12	Payton Puntaney	P A L LE	A	A	N	Y N A
13	Carter Worcester	P A L LE	Y N	Y N	Y A	Y N A
14		P A L LE	A	A	N	Y N A
15		P A L LE	Y N	Y N	Y A	Y N A
Pro-Staff						
16	Project Coordinator Craft	P A L LE	Y N	Y N	Y A	Y N A
17	Advisor Ewalt	P A L LE	A	A	N	Y N A
18	Assistant Director Hansen	P A L LE	Y N	Y N	Y A	Y N A
			A	A	N	Y N A

Failed Unanimously

Note that the First-Year Senate is comprised of 13 members 12 of which are voting members. This is compared to the cap of 21 members.

Failed Unanimously

Traditions, and Student Outreach Committee Attendance				
NAME	Date	8-Feb		
Paula Medina		e		
Priya Chaudhari		p		
Rylan Knopp		p		
Carter Worcester		p		
Michelle Lake		p		
Calvin Fertig		a		
Payton Puntaney		a		
Jackson Catchpole		p		
Finley Klinger		p		
p if present				
a if absent				
ex if excused				

Note that many First-Year Senators are members in multiple committees which helps committees function.

Addendum C

At the beginning of the year The First-Year Senate started with 21 members. Over the winter break four members resigned many citing monetary issues within their resignation. Having already lost three members from the first semester, most likely to monetary issues, it is increasingly hard to get new members when there is currently no fair compensation for the 8-hour commitment that accompanies First Year Senate. This estimate does not apply for senators in head table or those writing legislation.

This issue is larger than filling vacancies. When senators aren't offered compensation, diversity decreases in the chamber. First Year Students are left to choose between advocating and being able to sustain themselves financially. By not offering fair compensation, First Year Senate becomes a place where only those students who have the financial capabilities in the form of scholarships, family aid, and flexible jobs, etc., are the only ones that can participate. Even worse, those that can remain in the program cannot fully participate or engage with ASUW through legislation as they have to manage work, school, and sports with an already time-consuming activity creating a huge disparity in perspective and thus an inaccurate representation of First Year Student priorities and issues.

Addendum D

- 1. First-Year Senate acknowledges that during Budget Deliberations the possibilities and complexities of First-Year Senate Compensation were discussed. There were documents provided outlining the cost of potential First-Year Senate pay on a standard pay-scale of 12 dollars per hour. This, combined with reduced hours, resulted in an upward limit of 66,000 dollars. The attempted mitigation of this was the following of typical program procedure in paying exclusively executives. It was determined that Head Table constitutes First-Year Senate's executive leadership. Thus, the cost of paying these members still amounted to a total of roughly 11,000 dollars and does not address the larger issues.**
- 2. First-Year Senate also acknowledges that it cannot properly function within a conventional compensation system as a program. Thus, First-Year Senate is fully open to deliberations regarding the restructuring of First-Year Senate. This comes with the full acceptance that as it stands, First-Year Senate should not be a program but rather be converted into a different body.**
- 3. First-Year Senate further recognizes that regardless of the end result of these compensation deliberations, First-Year Senate members cannot universally receive payment. The only universal compensations solutions would likely revolve around supplies or supplemental materials rather than direct payment of senators.**

Addendum B

ARTICLE VI
First-Year Senators

- Section 1. The First-Year Senate shall consist of a group of appointed First-Year students in accordance with the appointment process outlined in the First-Year Senate Bylaws: from which a Head Table shall be elected following the process outlines in the First-Year Senate Bylaws.
- Section ~~1~~ 2. Voting Membership: Each Fall, ~~twenty-one (21)~~ **seventeen (17)** First-Year students at the University shall be selected to serve as the voting members for the academic year.
- Section ~~2~~ 3. In order to provide continuity in First-Year Senate activities and business along with providing a mechanism for timely participation by the First-Year Senate in University and ASUW processes, the First-Year Senate may create Standing, Special, and Ad-Hoc committees.