



SENATE RESOLUTION #2843

TITLE: ASUW Support of the Re-Introduction of Anti-Hazing Legislation in the Wyoming State Legislature

DATE INTRODUCED: November 29, 2022

AUTHORS: President Brown

SPONSORS: Senators Bouma, Engelby, Ewalt, McLean, Meiklejohn, Schliebe, and Willis; Directors Heddins and Murffit; Ex-Officios Beacham, Brummell, Jaruszewski, and Knepper

1. WHEREAS, the purpose of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
2. (ASUW) is to serve our fellow students in the best manner possible; and,
3. WHEREAS, the University of Wyoming (UW) defines hazing as, “any intentional or
4. unintentional act that would endanger the mental or physical health or safety
5. of a student for the purpose of pledging or associating with, being initiated into,
6. affiliating with, holding office in any organization whose membership consists primarily
7. of students;” and,
8. WHEREAS, the Presidential Directive from 2016, referenced in Addendum A, provides
9. examples of what hazing could be constituted as; and,
10. WHEREAS, ASUW, the College Panhellenic Association
11. (CPH), and the Interfraternity Council (IFC) have contributed several years of work on
12. addressing hazing at the UW and in the state of Wyoming; and,
13. WHEREAS, members of the 107th Administration of the ASUW, as well as CPH and
IFC, have
14. lobbied the Wyoming Legislature, urging lawmakers to pass an anti-hazing policy and
15. procedure for K-12 schools and higher education institutions; and,

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16. WHEREAS, the 107th and 108th Administrations of the ASUW worked with the
17. Education Committee of the Wyoming State Legislature to craft a definition of hazing
18. and a policy that would require K-12 and higher education institutions to educate their
19. students about what hazing is and why it is dangerous; and,
20. WHEREAS, the 109th Administration of the ASUW passed Senate Resolution #2754 the
21. Anti-Hazing Education Act of 2021; and,
22. WHEREAS, #2754 alongside advocacy efforts with IFC and CPH resulted in the
23. Wyoming State Legislature introducing SF#59 in 2021 as referenced in Addendum B;
24. and,
25. WHEREAS, SF#59 unfortunately did not progress in the Wyoming State Legislature
26. in the 2021 Legislative Session; and,
27. WHEREAS, previous legislation in the Wyoming Legislature that made hazing a
28. criminal offense were not supported by the ASUW; and,
29. WHEREAS, despite the efforts of the ASUW, CPH, and IFC recent changes in
30. the legislature have made it difficult to get a bill on hazing passed; and,
31. WHEREAS, the UW has not documented any hazing events on campus since 2007 as
32. referenced in Addendum C; and,
33. WHEREAS, students in the fraternity and sorority community are required by their
34. national chapter organizations to take trainings that include anti-hazing education; and,
35. WHEREAS, UW Athletics also participates in anti-hazing trainings for their athletes;
36. and,
37. WHEREAS, the ASUW does not believe that these systems currently in place
38. sufficiently meet the needs of the UW campus;

PASSED: UNANIMOUSLY

39. WHEREAS, there is no policy at the UW that requires student organizations to conduct
40. anti-hazing training or participate in anti-hazing education efforts; and,
41. WHEREAS, the ASUW does not require members of the three (3) branches to undergo
42. anti-hazing training; and,
43. WHEREAS, this body recognizes the difficulty in mandating anti-hazing training to
44. student organizations and is committed to working with the Student Organizations and
45. Entertainment Office on distributing information and facilitating educational
46. opportunities to student organizations at the UW; and,
47. WHEREAS, a statewide policy, and a policy at the UW, that educates students about the
48. dangers of hazing could help prevent hazing related deaths and create a culture of saying
49. no to behaviors and actions that make students uncomfortable; and,
50. WHEREAS, the ASUW recognizes that while there has not been documented hazing
51. incidents since 2007, that does not mean they do not occur; and,
52. WHEREAS, the ASUW alongside our partners in advocating for anti-hazing legislation
53. are committed to seeing a change in state legislation for anti-hazing policies as well as
54. furthered anti-hazing education and advocacy at the UW.
55. THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
56. (ASUW) Student Government supports the creation and implementation of a statewide
57. K-12 and higher education policy on hazing; and,
58. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW Student Government commits to
59. working with the Student Organizations and Entertainment Office, the College
60. Panhellenic Association, the Interfraternity Council, and the Student-Athletic Advisory
61. Council on both implementing education opportunities for informing students about

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62. hazing as well as strongly advocating at the Wyoming State Legislature for anti-hazing
63. legislation; and,
64. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW Student Government commends the
65. work of those in the fraternity and sorority community and UW Athletics for conducting
66. anti-hazing education at the UW for years to the best of their ability with the resources
67. made available; and,
68. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW Student Government supports and
69. encourages further efforts to combat hazing on the UW campus by the aforementioned
70. groups as well as the greater campus community; and,
71. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that the ASUW Student Government again commits
72. to advocating at the Wyoming State Legislature alongside the Interfraternity Council and
73. College Panhellenic Association during the Spring 2023 Legislative Session.

Referred to: Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy

Date of Passage: December 6th, 2022 Signed: 
(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on December 6th, 2022, I do hereby sign my name
hereto

and approve this Senate action.” 

Addendum A


**PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE
THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
PD 8-1988-1**

Revised May 11, 2016

SUBJECT: Hazing by University Organizations

1. **General Information.** The University of Wyoming is committed to a safe and secure environment for its students. For this reason, the University prohibits any act or failure to act which constitutes hazing.
2. **Purpose.** The directive below outlines the University's policy related to hazing.
3. **Definitions.**
 - a. "Hazing" is defined as any intentional or unintentional act that would endanger the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging or associating with, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, seeking and/or maintaining membership in any organization whose membership consists primarily of students. Such activities and situations include, but are not limited to, paddling in any form; creating excessive fatigue; physical and mental shocks; forced road trips; forced consumption of any substance, including alcohol; requirements to publicly wear apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts or buffoonery; morally degrading or humiliating games and activities; and any other activities prohibited by law, University regulation, and/or University policy.
 - b. For the purpose of this policy, "organization" is defined as an intercollegiate or intramural athletic team; recognized student organization; association, order, society or similar group that is officially affiliated with the University and whose membership consists primarily of enrolled students.
4. **Policy.** Hazing is prohibited regardless of location, intent, or consent of participants and will not be tolerated. Hazing is a violation of UW Regulation 8-30 (Student Conduct) and will be addressed in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.
5. **Responsibility.** The Dean of Students, or designee, is responsible for the administration of this Policy and Directive.

Approved


Richard C. McGinity
University President

May 11, 2016
Date

Source: Originally approved January 27, 1988

PASSED: UNANIMOUSLY

Addendum B

SENATE FILE NO. SF0059

Hazing.

Sponsored by: Joint Education Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to education; requiring school districts to
2 adopt a policy on hazing in addition to policies on
3 harassment, intimidation or bullying, requiring the
4 University of Wyoming and the community colleges to adopt
5 policies on hazing; and providing for an effective date.

6

7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-4-312(a) by creating a new
10 paragraph (iii) and by renumbering (iii) as (iv),
11 21-4-313(a) (i) and (ii), 21-4-314(a), (b) (intro), (i)
12 through (iv), (vi), (vii) and (ix), (c), (e) and (f),
13 21-17-204 by creating a new subsection (d) and 21-18-304(a)
14 by creating a new paragraph (xii) are amended to read:

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16 **21-4-312. Definitions.**

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(a) As used in this act:

(iii) "Hazing" means an intentional act or situation that is committed for the purpose of membership or affiliation with a group, team or other person and that causes embarrassment, harassment or ridicule or risks emotional or physical harm to a student or employee. "Hazing" can occur regardless of the person's willingness or consent to participate in the act or situation;

~~(iii)~~(iv) "This act" means W.S. 21-4-311 through 21-4-315.

21-4-313. Prohibition against hazing or harassment, intimidation or bullying; reporting to school officials.

(a) No person shall engage in:

(i) Hazing or harassment, intimidation or bullying; or

1 (ii) Reprisal or retaliation against a victim,
2 witness or person who reports information about an act of
3 hazing or harassment, intimidation or bullying.

4

5 **21-4-314. School district implementation; state**
6 **policies, training and technical assistance.**

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8 (a) ~~Not later than December 31, 2009,~~ Each school
9 district shall adopt a policy prohibiting hazing and
10 harassment, intimidation or bullying at school. The school
11 district shall involve parents and guardians, school
12 employees, volunteers, students, administrators and
13 community representatives in the process of creating the
14 policy. Policies created under this section shall be
15 continuously reviewed and may be revised as necessary.

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17 (b) The policy prohibiting hazing and harassment,
18 intimidation or bullying shall include, without limitation:

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20 (i) A statement prohibiting harassment,
21 intimidation or bullying of a student and a statement
22 prohibiting hazing;

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1 (ii) A definition of "harassment, intimidation
2 or bullying" which includes at minimum the definition as
3 provided in W.S. 21-4-312(a)(i) and a definition of
4 "hazing" which includes at minimum the definition as
5 provided in W.S. 21-4-312(a)(iii);

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7 (iii) Consequences and appropriate remedial
8 actions for persons committing acts of hazing or
9 harassment, intimidation or bullying or engaging in
10 reprisal or retaliation;

11

12 (iv) Procedures for reporting and documenting
13 acts of hazing or harassment, intimidation or bullying,
14 including a provision for reporting anonymously. However,
15 formal disciplinary action shall not be taken solely on the
16 basis of an anonymous report. The procedures shall
17 identify the appropriate school personnel responsible for
18 receiving a report and investigating a complaint;

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20 (vi) A statement that prohibits reprisal or
21 retaliation against a person who reports or makes a
22 complaint of hazing or harassment, intimidation or
23 bullying;

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2 (vii) A strategy for protecting a victim from
3 additional hazing or harassment, intimidation or bullying,
4 and from retaliation following a report;

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6 (ix) A process for discussing the district's
7 hazing and harassment, intimidation or bullying policy with
8 students; and

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10 (c) To assist local school districts in developing a
11 policy under subsection (b) of this section, the department
12 of education shall ~~not later than September 1, 2009,~~
13 develop model policies applicable to grades kindergarten
14 through twelve (12) and teacher preparation program
15 standards on the identification and prevention of hazing
16 and harassment, intimidation or bullying. In addition, the
17 department shall provide necessary training programs and
18 technical assistance to districts in carrying out this act.

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20 (e) Information regarding the school district's
21 policy against hazing and harassment, intimidation or
22 bullying shall be incorporated into each district's
23 professional development programs and shall be provided to

1 volunteers and other noncertified employees of the district
2 who have significant contact with students.

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4 (f) School districts may establish hazing and
5 harassment, intimidation or bullying prevention programs or
6 other initiatives and may involve school staff, students,
7 administrators, volunteers, parents, law enforcement and
8 community members.

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10 **21-17-204. Additional powers and duties; sectarian or**
11 **partisan instruction or test prohibited.**

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13 (d) To provide for the government of students, the
14 board of trustees shall adopt a policy prohibiting hazing.
15 The policy shall include a definition of "hazing" which
16 includes at minimum the definition as provided in W.S.
17 21-4-312(a)(iii).

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19 **21-18-304. District board generally; duties.**

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21 (a) The community college district board shall:

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1 (xii) Adopt a policy prohibiting hazing. The
2 policy shall include a definition of "hazing" which
3 includes at minimum the definition as provided in W.S.
4 21-4-312(a)(iii).

5

6 **Section 2.**

7

8 (a) Not later than November 1, 2021, the department
9 of education shall develop model policies applicable to
10 grades kindergarten through twelve (12) and teacher
11 preparation program standards on the identification and
12 prevention of hazing as provided in W.S. 21-4-314(c), as
13 amended in section 1 of this act.

14

15 (b) Not later than July 1, 2022, each school district
16 shall adopt a policy prohibiting hazing as provided in W.S.
17 21-4-314(a) and (b), as amended in section 1 of this act.

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19 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2021.

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(END)

Penalty against fraternity shocks some at UW

JARED MILLER Star-Tribune capital bureau Oct 6, 2007 0

LARAMIE - Aggressive sanctions imposed against a University of Wyoming fraternity this week for drinking violations evoked a wide variety of reactions from UW students and Greeks society members.

The university temporarily revoked Sigma Nu's charter on Thursday, banned the fraternity from conducting official events and opened an investigation in the wake of allegations that students at the fraternity house were "dangerously intoxicated."

"It's shocking," said Autumn Calhoun, a sophomore Chi Omega pledge. "I would have thought it would have been a different frat. All of those guys are so down to earth."

UW administrators, meanwhile, were holding closed hearings with fraternity members and witnesses Friday to determine what happened.

Vice President for Student Affairs Sara Axelson said the accusations stem from a party at the Sigma Nu fraternity house in early September.

Members of other campus Greek organizations stepped forward last week with allegations of dangerous levels of alcohol consumption and inappropriate behavior at the party.

More details will be released at the conclusion of the hearings, probably late next week, Axelson said.

Word of the sanctions spread quickly through the UW Greek community, which is composed of nine fraternities and six sororities, all headquartered in communal homes near the center of campus.

PASSED: UNANIMOUSLY

Students gathered on Greek house steps to discuss the events. Members distributed news reports about the crackdown via e-mail trees.

Alex Smeaton, public relations chairman for the Inter Fraternity Council at UW, said drinking-related problems happen almost every week on Fraternity Row, but most are minor.

Really big parties with out-of-control drinking happen two or three times a semester, he said.

What's more notable, he said, is that fellow Greeks blew the whistle on the alleged inappropriate behavior at Sigma Nu.

"I think it's a positive thing because it shows that we aren't just looking the other way when something happens and we are holding each other accountable," Smeaton said.

Merrick Douglass, a junior education major, said she knows several Sigma Nu members and was surprised to learn they were in trouble. She also said the penalties seem over the top.

"That frat goes way back, and to have its charter revoked over a party is kind of harsh," Douglass said.

Andrew Bradfield, a Sigma Alpha Epsilon pledge, said he hopes the fact that other Greeks turned in Sigma Nu doesn't create negative feelings within the fraternal community.

"We try to strive for unity, so if it was another Greek (who notified school officials) then it probably was necessary," Bradfield said. "We're not out to stab each other in the back."

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Students not involved with the Greek community said they weren't surprised to learn of the allegations against Sigma Nu.

"This town in general just has a lot of alcohol stuff going on," said Luke Jensen, a senior social studies and education major. "Kids start (drinking) on Thursday and go until late Saturday night or Sunday.

"I've never seen kids who have had alcohol poisoning, but I've seen plenty who were damn close, and dangerous to themselves and others," Jensen said.

Sophomore biology major Joe Pearce said Greeks have a reputation for partying hard, and reports of "pretty out of control and inappropriate" alcohol consumption are common on campus.

"Drinking is a big deal here," Pearce said.

Ashley Spear, a senior architectural engineering major and past president of the student organization that oversees campus sororities, said the problems at Sigma Nu will reflect badly on all Greeks.

However, Spear said, serious drinking infractions are not that common at UW fraternities and sororities.

"Especially when you look at our neighbors to the south," Spear said, referring to Colorado universities.

Axelson said the Greek community at UW is strong, and serious conduct infractions are rare.