

SENATE BILL #2894



DATE INTRODUCED: 09/12/23


AUTHOR: Chief of Legislative Affairs Knopp

SPONSORS: Senators Medina and McGuire

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, omnibus bills are characterized as addressing multiple issues under a
4. single piece of legislation; and,
5. WHEREAS, omnibus bills by nature tend to be lengthy pieces of legislation, as they
6. cover a variety of issues, which increases the workload senators and executives need to
7. comprehend said bills; and,
8. WHEREAS, the majority of the changes present in these omnibus bills are clerical
9. changes; and,
10. WHEREAS, the Chief of Legislative Affairs (COLA) has the power to amend the
11. working documents for these clerical errors so long as they do not change the meaning
12. or intent of the working documents; and,
13. WHEREAS, these bills degrade the transparency that ASUW needs to have to serve the
14. students in the best manner possible, through obscuring the true nature of a bill and/or
15. being far too long for the average Student-at-Large to plausibly comprehend; and,
16. WHEREAS, the meetings where these bills have been introduced have resulted in
17. meetings where the Senate debates the omnibus packages late at night, resulting in a
18. lack of proper discourse on some of the merits of these bills; and,
19. WHEREAS, these omnibus bills could be reasonable separated into multiple bills
20. where the purpose of these bills would be more transparent, and would subsequently

21. reduce the size of these bills tremendously; and,
22. WHEREAS, the precedent for this legislation is derived from constitutional law,
23. specifically the Single Subject Rule which is held by many state constitutions; and,
24. WHEREAS, the Steering Committee is well fit to determine whether or not a bill has a
25. single subject or goes beyond the single subject rule; and,
26. WHEREAS, in order for the Sole Subject Rule to work the Steering committee will
27. need to establish a precedent of what violates a “Sole” Subject and what does not; and,
28. WHEREAS, this precedent should be codified in some way shape or form once it is
29. established.
30. THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Associated Students of the University of
31. Wyoming (ASUW) Student Government that the ASUW Rules and Procedures be
32. amended as outlined in Addendum A; and,
33. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the ASUW By-Laws be Amended as outlined
34. in Addendum B; and,
35. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that these changes take effect upon this bills
36. passage.

Referred to: Program and Institutional Development, Steering

Date of Passage: September 19th, 2023 Signed: 
(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on September 19th, 2023, I do hereby sign my name hereto

and approve this Senate action.” 

ASUW President

Addendum A

Associated Students of the University of Wyoming

Rules and Procedures

Section 6.01 ASUW Legislative Process

1. Bills and resolutions may be submitted by any fee paying student. All bills and resolutions must be sponsored by no less than two (2) Senators or ex-officio members of the ASUW Senate as defined in Article 8, section 8.01 of the ASUW By-Laws, who are not authors, or by an ASUW standing committee. Students-at-Large, ASUW Programs or Services, and Recognized Student Organizations may also sponsor legislation. Regardless of their fee paying student status, members of the Judicial Council may not author or sponsor legislation due to their association.

2. Bills and Resolutions must follow the Sole Subject Rule outlined as follows: bills and resolutions must only address one topic in the body and addendums of the bill/resolution. The subject shall be derived from the title of the legislation. A bill/resolution violates the “Sole Subject” Rule if it had a general title and/or its provisions were un-topical, unreasonably topical, or extra-topical. Other changes and comments can be made in the bill/resolution if those changes are reasonably topical to the subject the Bill attempts to address. Any fee-paying student may appeal the decision that any legislation violates the “Sole Subject” Rule to the Judicial Council for review. Legislation passed prior to Senate Bill 2894’s passage shall be exempted from this._

3. Bills and resolutions must be read in no less than two (2) Senate meetings by the ASUW Marshal before passage.

4. Upon referral to a standing committee by the Steering Committee, an ASUW Executive shall advertise the ASUW bill or resolution on at least one social media platform. The advertisement must contain the following information: the name of the bill or resolution, a neutral brief description, the name of the committee to which the bill or resolution has been referred, the name of that committee’s chairperson, and the email address or other contact information of the committee chairperson. If multiple bills or resolutions are referred by the Steering Committee at a single time, one advertisement may be used to advertise multiple bills or resolutions. Appropriate links to all ASUW bills and resolutions should be included in any advertisement.

5. The bill or resolution shall be read the first time by the ASUW Marshal and the ASUW Vice President shall immediately report the committee(s) to which the bill or resolution has been referred by the Steering Committee. There shall be no debate following the first reading.

6. Committee procedures for handling bills, resolutions, hearings, and other committee business shall be determined by Committee Rules and Procedures established in Article VI, Section 2.

7. After being reported out of committee, the ASUW Vice President shall place the bill or resolution on the agenda and it shall be read a second time and recommendations of the committee(s) shall be given by the chairperson(s) of the committee(s) to whom it was assigned. The bill or resolution is now open for debate and subject to amendments. During debate, no Senator may propose any amendment that contradicts or changes the intent of the original legislation, or propose an amendment that would cause the

legislation to violate the “Sole Subject” Rule as outlined in Section 6.01, Clause 2 of these Rules and Procedures. Intent of legislation shall be derived from the title. The title may not be amended after the legislation is submitted.

8. At the end of debate, the bill shall be read a third time by the ASUW Marshal and shall be voted upon at the end of this reading. No debate or amendment shall be permitted after the chairperson has put forth the question to the voting membership. The final vote on all ASUW bills and resolutions shall be a roll call vote. The passage of a motion for unanimous consent on the final vote for any ASUW bill or resolution shall qualify as a roll call vote under this section and shall be recorded by the ASUW Marshal as a roll call vote with all senators present at the meeting voting “aye.” A. In the event that legislation with multiple addenda has had those addenda divided into separate items via the Motion to Divide the Question (as outlined in Roberts Rules of Order.) each item shall have a third reading. B. After passage of one or more parts of the divided legislation, the ASUW Steering Committee shall be responsible for making all applicable changes to the legislation for the purposes of record keeping.

9. Following action by the ASUW on a bill or resolution, the original copy of the legislation shall be signed by the presiding officer of the Senate to attest to the action.

10. This signed legislation shall be submitted to the ASUW President for their action. If this legislation is signed by the ASUW President, goes into effect without their signature, or their veto is overridden by the ASUW Senate, it shall be entered and kept in a volume of legislation of the ASUW by the Secretary.

11. None of the above rules shall be construed as an abridgment of the right of any senator to move to postpone indefinitely or definitely until any future time.

12. In the case of an emergency, a bill or resolution may be voted on in the meeting of its introduction if the Senate, by a four-fifths (4/5) vote of its members present, shall vote to suspend the rules. (Suspends Article 6, Sections 2, 3, and 4) and resolve itself into Committee of the Whole (as prescribed in the most recent edition of Robert’s Rules of Order.) After such action, the proper committee shall be asked for its recommendation. This recommendation may have been prepared prior to the Senate meeting or the committee may meet in a special session during the Senate meeting if a quorum of the committee is present.

13. Abernathy Clause:

A. All roll call votes shall include votes only of Senators present at roll call. Any Senators present at roll call but not responding in roll call votes shall have their votes counted as abstentions. Senators leaving prior to the adjournment of the meeting without permission of the presiding officer, and who, by their leaving, miss a roll call vote, shall have their names removed from future roll call votes of that meeting. Senators leaving with permission of the presiding officer will have their names called at any roll call votes following their return.

14. Any action on a current bill or resolution will override previous Senate action on the same subject matter. Any legislation previously enacted by the ASUW Senate shall remain in full force and effect until such time as the ASUW Senate repeals or amends such prior actions, or it expires of its own accord, except prior actions of the ASUW Senate which shall automatically be considered superseded, if inconsistent with these by-laws.

15. Senators and Ex-Officios may have electronic document readers (i.e. laptops, tablets, etc.) in all ASUW related meetings to view documents pertaining to the meeting's agenda, as long as use of such devices does not become distracting.

15. Bills, resolutions, or any other ASUW document will regularly be distributed to Senators and Ex Officios in electronic format, unless otherwise requested

Addendum B

The Associated Students of the University of Wyoming

By-Laws

10. Standing Committees

F. The ASUW Steering Committee

- i. Purpose: The Committee shall provide coordination for the various issues, legislative activities, program involvements of the ASUW Executive and Legislative branches, and serve to pursue ASUW recommendations and actions that are referred to, or require action by the University Trustees, the faculty, or administrative units of the University. The Committee shall also organize an informational meeting for Senators serving their first term in office before the first meeting of the new Senate. The Committee shall evaluate the efficacy of the senatorial scholarship program and work with to recommend the amount allocated toward the senatorial scholarship as outlined in Section 2.02, subsection 5 of the ASUW Bylaws.
- ii. Powers: The Committee shall refer proposed ASUW legislation to ASUW standing or special committees for specified action or recommendation prior to final consideration by the Senate. The Committee may refer

bills to itself as long as the legislation is steered to at least one (1) other committee or to itself except when:

1. Legislation that oversees Articles of Impeachment and direct discipline of an ASUW member is introduced.

The Committee shall have the power to change any formatting, grammar, and spelling errors of proposed legislation. These changes will be made with Committee consensus, as long as these edits do not change the intent or function of the proposed legislation as written by the author(s). **The committee shall have the power to determine whether or not submitted legislation follows the “Sole Subject” Rule and furthermore shall have the power to return the legislation to the author if the committee finds that it violates the “Sole Subject” Rule. The committee shall submit a written rationale to the author as well as recommendations for how to amend the bill in accordance with the ruling interpretation of the “Sole Subject” Rule. The committee shall have the power to compose an interpretation to be voted on by the committee, this interpretation shall be the ruling interpretation of the “Sole Subject” Rule and govern whether or not a Bill/resolution follows the Rule.** Further, the Committee may recommend the procedure for implementing consideration of ASUW decisions, actions, or legislation after final action by the Senate, and the committee shall provide regular reports to the Senate on the status or final outcome of all matters that require action by officials outside of the ASUW. The Committee will be responsible for the review of all proposed amendments to the ASUW Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules and Procedures to ensure that those working documents remain consistent with the purpose of the ASUW and its Constitution. The Committee shall review all ex-officio applications and submit approved applications to the ASUW Senate. The Committee shall have the power to investigate and administer warnings and take disciplinary actions against violations of the ASUW By-laws, Rules and Procedures and Senator Handbook. The Committee shall have the power to review any legislation regarding roles, reformations, and duties of committees. The Committee shall also make a bi-monthly report of those Senators who have failed or are currently failing to meet their Senatorial duties as outlined in the By-Laws. The Committee shall be vested with all necessary and appropriate powers to carry out its purpose under these rules. The Committee shall serve to reevaluate the senatorial scholarship on a yearly basis. The committee shall evaluate this prior to the legislative budget submission deadline and make a recommendation to the Budget and Planning Committee.

- iii. Composition: The Committee shall consist of the ASUW Vice President, who shall serve as chairperson, the ASUW President Pro Tempore, the ASUW

Parliamentarian, the ASUW Sergeant at Arms, the ASUW Marshal, two (2) ASUW Senators; elected by the senate, the ASUW Advisor, and (1) Executive appointed by the Vice President to serve as an ex-officio on the committee. The committee shall also elect a secretary, who will take attendance and take notes for the chair. The ASUW Advisor, or designee, shall serve on the committee in an advisory role.