

Passed 19-0-0



SENATE BILL #2897

TITLE: Suspension of the College Council
DATE INTRODUCED: 09/19/23
AUTHOR: Senator Murfitt
SPONSORS: Senators Henniger, Hulen, Knull, Meester

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, Senate Bill #2770 created the College Council in the 109th administration
4. to allow for college-specific representation to still be present within ASUW; and,
5. WHEREAS, during the 110th administration, the College Council struggled with hiring
6. representatives from all the colleges within the University. This problem was one of the
7. primary reasons for the creation of the College Council in the 109th administration; and,
8. WHEREAS, by the Spring 2023 semester, the College Council had burned out as shown
9. in Addendum A; and,
10. WHEREAS, in order for the College Council to remain functional for ASUW, it has to
11. be restructured which will take time; and,
12. WHEREAS, the College Council will need to be suspended during the restructuring
13. phase to comply with ASUW's By-Laws; and,
14. THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Associated Students of the University of
15. Wyoming (ASUW) Student Government that the College Council be suspended for the
16. duration of the 111th administration to be restructured; and,
17. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that if the College Council is not successfully
18. restructured by the end of the 111th administration then the program will cease to exist

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19. within ASUW; and,

20. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that these changes take effect immediately upon

21. passage of this legislation.

Referred to: Advocacy, Diversity, and Policy, Outreach Programming and Elections, Program and Institutional Development.

Date of Passage: September 26th, 2023 Signed: Jessica Jeter
(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on September 26th, 2023, I do hereby sign my name hereto and approve

this Senate action.” SABER SMITH

ASUW President

Addendum A

A Brief Report on the State of the ASUW Programs

Written by ASUW Project Coordinator Cameron Craft March 28th, 2023

This document will provide a brief overview of the ASUW Programs. It will address where the programs experienced success, where they need improvement, and how programs can be handled differently moving into the 111th ASUW administration and beyond. While this report will address the major topics surrounding each program and their operations, it is by no means a finalized document. Rather, it should serve as a starting point for continuing conversation regarding the programs and their place and potential within ASUW.

College Council

What went well?

One of the clearest indicators for potential success within the College Council is the number of applicants it received in both the initial recruitment round, as well as the subsequent recruitment which occurred near the end of the Fall 2022 semester. As a caveat, I'll note that applications for the CC reflected issues the ASUW Senate has seen in the collegiate representation model. While there were plenty of applications for colleges such as the College of Arts and Science, there were no applications from the College of Law, the Haub School, etc. Ironically, this issue was one of the issues which led to the creation of the CC. In the initial application round over the summer, the CC received 13 applications, with a further four applications received later in the semester. I see this as a clear indicator that there is a desire for college specific representation.

What didn't go well?

The College Council experienced immense growing pains in its first year as an established council, though that shouldn't be taken as an admonishment of the program, or the members involved. Instead, the challenges the CC faced, I believe, provide an opportunity to assess the CC, and any similar programs created in the future. Simply put, while the creation of the CC was well intended and aimed to fill the gap in college specific representation which was created by the shift to the senator-at-large model, it was created without a detailed enough plan for its success. To begin, the legislation which created the CC did not include a detailed mission statement, constitution, or objective further than the CC needs to provide college specific representation to the ASUW. In effect, the CC was intended to be filled with individuals tasked with many of the same duties as a senator, (reviewing/drafting legislation, committee meetings, delivering communications to the senate, etc.) without receiving the same powers, trainings, support structures, or compensation as senators. They were tasked with doing this primarily by holding office hours and engaging with administration within their respective colleges. Without an established presence or procedures, office hours proved to be difficult to find/maintain, and

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both administrators/council members were uncertain as to the powers/possibilities of being connected to ASUW.

Additionally, per the legislation/by-laws governing the CC, current members of ASUW were (and still are) excluded from joining the CC. While we were able to attract some former ASUW members to the CC who were still wanting to be involved in ASUW despite taking a step back, the exclusion of current members made it so that the majority of the CC were inexperienced with ASUW policies and procedures. As a result, the members of the College Council either spent much of their limited budgeted time learning about all aspects of ASUW, or were unequipped to enter meetings with college administration on how ASUW could support the college's needs. Moving into the 111th, this problem will only be exacerbated as the CC did not receive any funding for salaries or trainings in the FY24 budget.

With the loose structure, and relative lack of resources, the CC burned out by the end of the Fall 2022 semester. Once the Spring 2023 semester commenced, Director Murfitt and Chief Smith (the latter replacing the former for Director Murfitt to focus on election prep) both attempted to schedule meetings with the council members but ultimately were unable.

What are we going to do differently next time?

To ensure the success of the College Council moving forward, there needs to be systemic changes in order to support the council members themselves, while also integrating the council

further into ASUW. First, I would advise that CC membership be opened to current ASUW members. Doing so would alleviate many of the issues the CC currently faces. It would solve the issue of compensation, as in the 111th administration senators will receive an hourly wage. It would solve the issue of training/knowledge on ASUW's abilities and funding. While knowing the entirety of ASUW's operations such as the budget and specific endowments is a monumental task, an ASUW insider is much more likely to have and gain knowledge about the organization than an outsider. That being said, the CC should still be open to those outside of ASUW, though they would need to acknowledge their position would be a volunteer position.

In addition, the purpose of the CC needs to be readdressed. Rather than being a place for students to come and speak on college specific issues, I believe the CC would function much more smoothly as an outreach arm of ASUW. By sending members of the CC to groups within their college (such as classes, clubs, honors organizations, etc.) to give presentations on ASUW, I believe that the CC will find magnitudes more success than the more passive approach undertaken in the 110th administration.