



**SENATE BILL #2914**

**TITLE:** Establishing Clear and Concise Speaking Rules  
**DATE INTRODUCED:** 10/23/23  
**AUTHOR:** Senators Keasling and McGuire  
**SPONSORS:** Senators Gomelsky and Saint, President Smith, Vice President Petri

1. WHEREAS, the purpose of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming is to
2. serve the students in the best manner possible; and,
3. WHEREAS, there has been consistent discussion in recent weeks regarding speaking
4. rights on the senate floor; and,
5. WHEREAS, the precedent of using germane on the floor to enforce rules regarding
6. speaking rights was recently overturned; and,
7. WHEREAS, neither the ASUW By-laws or Rules and Procedures outline rules for
8. speaking on the floor, outside of Robert's Rules of Order; and,
9. WHEREAS, questions have been raised regarding the procedure for when a student
10. elapses their speaking time; and,
11. WHEREAS, it has recently been determined that limiting speaking time on the floor
12. requires a vote from the senate according to Robert's Rules of Order; and,
13. WHEREAS, ASUW ought to strive to protect the right to freedom of expression for all
14. students; and,
15. WHEREAS, restrictions on the length and breadth of a speaker's speech could serve to
16. unduly restrict the voices of students; and,
17. WHEREAS, simultaneously the senate ought to have the power to preserve reasonable
18. debate and timeliness.
19. THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
20. (ASUW) Student Government that the ASUW Rules and Procedures be amended as
21. reflected in Addendum A; and,
22. THEREFORE, be it further resolved that these changes take effect immediately upon
23. the passage of this bill.

Failed 11-8-2

Referred to:

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Date of  
Passage: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on \_\_\_\_\_, I do hereby sign my name hereto and approve  
this Senate action.”

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ASUW President

## Addendum A

### Section 2.03 ASUW Senate Meeting Governance

1. All ASUW Senate Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the most recent revision of Robert’s Rules of Order.

A. In the event that Robert’s Rules of Order contradict the ASUW Constitution, ASUW By-Laws, and/or ASUW Rules and Procedures, the procedures outline in these governing documents shall take precedence over Robert’s Rules of Order.

#### 2. ASUW Senate Regular Meeting Speaking Rules

A. During Open Forum, regardless of if the speaker is in ASUW, the speaking time is five (5) minutes.

B. There shall be two (2) speaking lists per debatable motion.

i. Changing the number of speaking lists shall be done through the process of unanimous consent.

C. The speaking time minimum for debatable motions will not be set at below four (4) minutes. However, for nomination speeches the minimum shall not be set at below two (2) minutes.

D. The speaking time maximum for debatable motions will not be set at above ten (10) minutes. However, for nomination speeches the maximum shall be set at five (5) minutes.

E. The speaking time shall be set at ten (10) minutes at the start of any regular meeting of the ASUW Senate.

i. Changing the speaking time within these limits shall be done through a simple majority vote.

ii. Changing the speaking time beyond these bounds will require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the present voting members of the ASUW Senate.

F. When a speaker's time has elapsed, the Chair shall verbally notify them that their time has elapsed, and at the discretion of the Chair the speaker may finish their current thought/sentence. If the speaker continues to speak after the notification, the Chair has the discretion of gaveling until the speaker concludes or requesting that the Sergeant-At-Arms escort the speaker out of the chambers.

G. During their time, a speaker shall have the exclusive rights to their time within Robert's Rules of Order and the ASUW Rules and Procedures.