



SENATE Bill #2925

TITLE: **Reforming the Senator Vacancy Process for the ASUW Vice President to Nominate Vacancies**

DATE INTRODUCED: **11/14/23**

AUTHOR: **President Smith, Vice-President Murfitt**

SPONSORS: **Senators Hennigar, Meester, Rzeszut, Knull, Keasling, Hulen**

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 #2842 created the ASUW Senate Vacancy Board to select
4. applicants to fill seats in the ASUW senate; and,
5. WHEREAS, ASUW has had many senate vacancies in the 111th administration that
6. have needed to be filled; and,
7. WHEREAS, historically, senate vacancies are a common occurrence within ASUW,
8. especially at semester; and,
9. WHEREAS, the Senate Vacancy Board is not efficient due to the inherent struggle to
10. search for students at large to rotationally fill the ASUW Vacancy Board on a volunteer
11. basis; and,
12. WHEREAS, there are severe conflicts of interest that can arise with the current Vacancy
13. Board setup, since very few students apply, then friends of applicants could be appointed
14. to the Student-at-Large seats on the ASUW Vacancy Board automatically; and,
15. WHEREAS, the ASUW President should not be the person facilitating the vacancy
16. procedure because of their vast responsibilities; and,
17. WHEREAS, it is more appropriate for the leader of the Legislative Branch to nominate

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18. senators for the vacancies; and,
19. WHEREAS, the process would be more efficient if the senate vacancies were overseen
20. by the ASUW Vice-President who would select nominees to be confirmed by the ASUW
21. Senate; and,
22. WHEREAS, any confirmation has an additional checks and balance process through an
23. appeal to the ASUW Judicial Council; and,
24. WHEREAS, this process would mirror the procedures used in nominating directors to
25. the ASUW Executive Branch and the appointments of Judicial Council Justices.
26. THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Associated Students of the University of
27. Wyoming (ASUW) Student Government that the ASUW be amended to reflect the
28. changes in Addendum A; and,
29. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that these changes take effect immediately upon
30. passage of this bill.

Referred to: Committee of the Whole

Date of Passage: November 14th, 2023

Signed: _____

Kameron Mufatto
(ASUW Chairperson)

“Being enacted on November 14th, 2023, I do hereby sign my name hereto and approve this Senate action.” SABER SMITH

ASUW President

Addendum A

The Associated Students of the University of Wyoming By-Laws

Article 4. Vacancy of Office

Section 4.02 Senate

1. Senate Vacancy Procedure

A. At the beginning of each ASUW Administration, a list of potential ASUW candidates will be created, including the senatorial candidates who were elected in the initial student representative election. This shall include write-in candidates.

B. Upon the resignation, permanent absence or incapacity of any Senator, the ~~ASUW Senate Vacancy Board (outlined in Article 4, Section 4.02, Subsection 2) will be enacted to fill the vacancy except:~~ ASUW Vice President will fill the vacancy except:

- a. Eligible students applying to fill vacancies are outlined within the ASUW Elections Policy, Section 1.05.
- b. When the vacancy occurs in the Summer months, while the Intercession Oversight Committee is invoked. Vacancies during this period of time will have the following proceeding:

- 1 Upon the resignation, permanent absence or incapacity of any Senator, during the Summer months, the senatorial candidate who received the next highest number of approval votes shall fill the vacancy.

- 2 The ASUW Vice President will notify the person with the next highest number of votes as soon as a Senator's resignation, permanent absence or incapacity takes place. The person notified will have two business days to accept or refuse the Senate position. Upon acceptance, the person will be sworn in at the next ASUW Senate meeting. In the event of refusal, the same procedure will be followed with the next available candidate. This process will include write-in candidates, if applicable.

~~2. ASUW Senate Vacancy Board~~

~~A. The board shall, in conjunction with the ASUW Vice President, oversee the process by which senatorial vacancies are filled as outlined by Article 4, Section 4.02, Subsection 1 of the ASUW By-Laws.~~

~~B. Composition: The board is composed of five (5) voting members; The ASUW Vice-President, The OPE Committee Chairperson, and three (3) randomly selected Students-at-Large (SAL) or ASUW ex-officios. The board shall be presided/chaired by the ASUW President who will not have a vote, nor can they break any ties.~~

~~a. The selection of SALs and/or ex-officios shall be randomly appointed by a circulated list of interested students that are not ASUW Senators, Executives, or apart of the Judicial Council.~~

- ~~b. The three (3) SAL and/or ex-officio members shall be newly selected, if possible.~~
- ~~c. If this list of interested SALs or ex-officios is exhausted, programs of ASUW must select a member to represent the board organized by the ASUW Project Coordinator.~~

C. If a vacancy occurs, the ~~board~~ ASUW Vice President will begin an application and election process to fill the vacant seat. The application shall require a cover letter and a résumé.

a. As soon as possible after the vacancy occurs a call for applicants will be made with the application period determined by the ASUW Vice President ~~Vacancy Board~~.

b. At the close of the application period, the ASUW Advisor will review the applications for a candidate's eligibility as stipulated by the ASUW Election Policy.

c. The ASUW ~~Senate Vacancy Board~~ Vice President shall interview all eligible candidates. After the interview process has been completed the ~~Committee~~ ASUW Vice President shall select a candidate to fill the vacant seat.

d. Candidates shall be subject to a confirmatory vote by the ASUW Senate. Two-thirds (2/3) of present voting members shall be the threshold for confirmation.

e. The ASUW Vice President will notify the chosen candidate as soon as they are confirmed by the Senate. Upon acceptance, the candidate will be sworn in immediately after being confirmed by the ASUW Senate.

f. This system will not be used once applications for the ASUW Student Representative Election open.

g. All Senate Vacancy elections shall follow the above outlines procedures and adhere as closely as possible to the policies outlined in the ASUW Elections Policy.

D. The ASUW Vice President shall provide to the ASUW Senate a written statement providing a summary of the vacancy process, a summary of all candidates, and a justification for the selection of the nominee.