**SENATE BILL #2651**

**TITLE:** Establishing the ASUW Opportunity for Success Scholarship

**DATE INTRODUCED:** March 2, 2019

**AUTHOR:** Senator Strock

**SPONSORS:** Senators Marston and Pierson

1. WHEREAS, the purpose of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
2. (ASUW) Student Government is to serve our fellow students in the best manner possible;
3. and,
4. WHEREAS, the average cost of attendance at a public four your university has increased
5. by 304.5% in the past 30 years; and,
6. WHEREAS, in the same amount of time the average student debt of a graduating student
7. has increased 633.3%; and,
8. WHEREAS, Article 7, Section 13 of the Wyoming State Constitution states that tuition
9. should “be as nearly free as possible;” and,
10. WHEREAS, the University of Wyoming’s (UW) status as the only four-year institution
11. on the state can mean that the UW represents the only feasible option for higher
12. education for some in-state students; and,
13. WHEREAS, UW’s relatively low cost of attendance serves as a significant draw for out-
14. of-state students; and,
15. WHEREAS, despite its status as one of the most affordable universities in the nation, the
16. average University of Wyoming (UW) student graduates with $24,997 in student loan
17. debt; and,
18. WHEREAS, recent decisions, such as the implementation of programmatic fees and
19. yearly 4% increases in tuition, have and continue to push up UW’s cost of attendance;
20. and,
21. WHEREAS, both the UW Strategic Plan Breaking Through: 2017-2022 and the ASUW
22. Student Government Strategic Plan Moving Forward: 2018-2022 identify goals to
23. increase recruitment and retention of students at UW; and,
24. WHEREAS, helping to reduce the cost of attendance would help achieve those goals by
25. helping more students cope with the high cost of education and reducing future debt
26. burdens; and,
27. WHEREAS, currently all ASUW Student Government offered scholarships are either
28. merit-based or awarded as a form of compensation; and,
29. WHEREAS, creating a need-based scholarship would help traditionally under-served
30. populations, including but not limited to low-income students, students of color, non-
31. traditional students, and first-generation students, who are often disproportionately
32. impacted by high costs of education; and,
33. WHEREAS, there is $165,000 in the ASUW Reserve currently, $65,000 above the
34. required floor of $100,000.
35. THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming
36. (ASUW) Student Government that the ASUW Opportunity for Excellence Scholarship be
37. created in accordance with Addendum A; and,
38. THEREFORE, be further it enacted that $30,000 be allocated form the ASUW Reserve to
39. the ASUW Opportunity for Excellence Scholarship for Fiscal Years (FY) 2020,
40. 2021, and 2022 in accordance with Addendum B; and,
41. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the first awarding of the ASUW Opportunity for
42. Excellence Scholarship be in Fall 2019, beginning a trial period to run until the end of FY
43. 2022; and,
44. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that review, oversight, and evaluation of the ASUW
45. Opportunity for Excellence Scholarship be vested in the ASUW Steering Committee until
46. the end of FY 2022; and,
47. THEREFORE, be it further enacted that the ASUW Budget and Planning Committee be
48. charged with finding a permanent source of funding for the ASUW Opportunity for
49. Excellence Scholarship after FY 2022.

**Referred to:**

**Date of Passage:** **Signed:**

**(ASUW Chairperson)**

**“Being enacted on** **, I do hereby sign my name hereto and**

**approve this Senate action.”**

**ASUW President**

**Addendum A**

**The ASUW Opportunity for Excellence Scholarship**

The purpose of the ASUW Opportunity for Excellence Scholarship (hereafter referred to as the Scholarship) shall be to help cover the unmet financial need of deserving students at the University of Wyoming. Student applicants will be evaluated for the Scholarship based on demonstrable financial need, community involvement, and academic excellence; however, in circumstances requiring differentiation of candidates (i.e., a tiebreaker), financial need shall take precedence over community involvement and academic excellence.

To be eligible for the Scholarship, applicants must:

1. Be enrolled in the University of Wyoming and have ASUW fee paying status.
2. Possess a 2.5 GPA.
	1. In the case of a first-year student to the University, a 3.0 high school GPA or a 2.5 transfer GPA may be substituted.
3. Demonstrate financial need.
4. Submit a personal statement of no less than 250 words detailing how the Scholarship would affect them and their academic careers.
5. Submit a resume detailing their community involvement.
6. Submit an essay of no less than 500 words outlining how to strengthen community at the University of Wyoming.

Recipients of the Scholarship shall receive awards in both the Fall and Spring Semesters of the academic year in which the Scholarship is awarded. Scholarship recipients shall be eligible to apply for and be awarded the Scholarship year after year; however, being awarded the Scholarship in previous years does not guarantee continued awards. The Scholarship shall be awarded each Fall semester by the Scholarship Committee, which shall consist of:

* One (1) ASUW Executive, to be appointed by the ASUW President
* Three (3) ASUW Senators
* Two (2) ASUW First-Year Senators
* Two (2) Students-at-Large
* The ASUW Advisor, or designee
* Organizations, including but not limited to, the United Multicultural Council and the Non-Traditional Student Council, shall be invited to send representatives as they see fit

**Addendum B**

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| Funding Allocations: ASUW Opportunity for Excellence Scholarship |
| Fiscal Year | Total Amount Allocated | Scholarships Awarded |
| 2020 | $10,000 | 5 Scholarships of $2000 each |
| 2021 | $10,000 | 5 Scholarships of $2000 each |
| 2022 | $10,000 | 5 Scholarships of $2000 each |
| Total: | $30,000 | 15 Scholarships over 3 years |