1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

2. **ROLL CALL**

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - November 13, 2002

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**
   a. Confirmation of Sarah Cobler as Lobbyist
   b. COSGA
   c. Faculty Senate - Thursday at 3 p.m.
   d. ASCRC
   e. HuHot in Hurr
   f. Coca-Cola and friends
   g. Housing Forum - Thursday from 6-8 p.m. in UC332-333
   h. Charter Day Student
   i. Other

6. **VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT**
   a. Committee Appointments
   b. Contact info during break
   c. Key to office
   d. Housing Nominations
   e. House Rules Discussion
   f. Other

7. **BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT**
   **STIP** - $99,928.52
   Travel Special Allocation - $11,271.60
   Zero-based Carryover - $73,542.55
   Special Allocation - $6,351.00
   a. Special Allocation Request - Student Escort Services $20,591/$0
   b. SB8-02/03 Resolution to Amend Fiscal Policy 14.0
   c. SB14-02/03 Resolution to Amend Fiscal Policy 5.0
   d. SB23-02/03 Resolution to amend Fiscal Policy 23.3
   c. Transferability Committee
   f. Budgeting
   g. Women's Center (STIP) - $125/$0
   h. Camas (STIP) - $1,500/postponed
   i. Buttered Toast Society (STIP) - $859.95/$405
   j. AIBL (STIP) - $846/$418.15
   k. Office of Transportation (Zero-based) $5,000/$5,000
   l. ASUM Administration (STIP) - $5,225/$5,225
   m. Other

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
To see a list of resolutions with the action taken on them noted and the resolutions currently being considered in their entirety, please go to http://www.umt.edu/asum/government/resolution.htm
a. SB10-02/03 Resolution on Free Speech Area - in committee
b. SB28-02/03 Resolution to Hold Senate Meetings at the COT
c. SB29-02/03 Resolution reaffirming Support for Same-Sex Partner Health Insurance
d. SB30-02/03 Resolution regarding Health Benefits

10. NEW BUSINESS
a. SB26-02/03 Resolution to endorse an increase in the Curry Health Center Fee
b. SB27-02/03 Resolution of support of the Office of Public Safety Fine Increase Proposal
c. SB31-02/03 Resolution opposing Exclusive Coca-Cola Contract

11. COMMENTS

12. ADJOURNMENT
**ASUM Senate Tally Sheet**

**Senate Members**
- Sophia Rena Alvarez
- Mary Burwell
- Thea Delamater
- Kyle Engelson
- Dustin Frost
- Noah M. Genger
- Dustin Hankinson
- Flora Lee
- Katrina Mendrey
- Berv Naasz
- Thierry Ouedraogo
- Cole Price
- Alex M. Rosenleaf
- Ali Tabibnejad
- Rob Welsh
- Chris Wilcox
- Averiel Wolff
- Joanna Wollersheim
- Sico Stevens A. Yao
- Jin Zhou

**ASUM Officers**
- Jon Swan  
  President
- Christy Schilke  
  Vice-President
- Heather O'Loughlin  
  Business Manager

**Faculty Advisors**
- Professor Ausland
- Professor Anderson

ASUM SENATE MINUTES
December 11, 2002
UC332-333 - 6:00 p.m.

Chair Schilke called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. Present: Swan, Schilke, O'Loughlin, Alvarez, Burwell, Delamater, Engelson, Frost, Genger (6:12), Lee, Mendrey, Naasz, Ouedraogo (6:13), Price, Rosenleaf, Tabibnejad, Welsh, Wilcox, Wolff, Wollersheim and Zhou (6:11). Excused was Yao. Unexcused was Hankinson.

The meeting minutes for November 13, 2002, were approved.

Public Comment
*Jessica Kobos spoke in support of MontPIRG's reaffirmation.
*Erin Thompson, Cliff Bradley, Scott Nicholson and Louise Lindebringhs spoke in support of SB31 opposing the Coca-Cola contract.

The Chair recognized the presence of Genger, Ouedraogo and Zhou.
*Beth Norton thanked Senate for supporting same-sex health benefits.
*Jessica Laferriere and Sharon Lanksford spoke in support of SB32 for MontPIRG's reaffirmation.
*Ken Willett spoke on the fine increase resolution that will be considered.
*Robert Williams and Benjamin Courteau spoke in favor of the proposed late night bus service.
*Ted Morrison, Rachel Munson-Young, Bret Thompson, Kim Pappas, Reed Perry, Jennifer Richert, Danielle Arnold, Andrew Glasser, Wendy McFadden, Freya Bass and Aaron Augsburger spoke in favor of SB32 for MontPIRG's reaffirmation.
*David Bell, Curry Health Center Director, explained the proposed fee increase.
*Jeff Green spoke in opposition to the Coca-Cola contract, citing civil rights concerns.
*Nancy McKiddy, Office of Transportation Director, reported that this fall's rides are exceeding all the ride numbers for last year. A carpool/recreation/cross country ride board is coming soon. There will be a holiday shuttle to the airport.
*SPA Director Jennings said SPA internships will be available next semester for legislative work, plus there will be a SLAM table for calling/writing legislators, a lobby day Helena trip, etc. See him for applications for internships. The Bylaws will be suspended for a Coca-Cola contract resolution. He distributed an article. He expressed hope that Senate will support the MontPIRG resolution.

President's Report
a. Sarah Cobler was confirmed as ASUM lobbyist on a motion by Swan-O'Loughlin.
b. Information on a COSGA student government leadership workshop is available in the office.
c. Faculty Senate will meet tomorrow at 3 p.m. in GBB123. ASCRC matters will be discussed: COT courses transferability; pass/no pass proposals; D passing grade or not plus other matters. Swan believes a vote on these matters should be postponed until there is further discussion.
d. The ASUM Senate and office party will be tomorrow night at 8 at HuHot.
e. Problems with the Coca-Cola contract have been discussed.
f. There will be a housing forum tomorrow night from 6-8. Plans for the new housing project will be unveiled.
g. Nominations for the Charter Day student are due Friday.
h. Donations are being accepted by Kelly Chadwick for an adoptive family.
Senate Minutes  
December 11, 2002  
Page two

Vice President’s Report
a. The following slate of committee appointments passed on a motion by Schilke-Rosenleaf:  Board on Membership - Rob Welsh; ASUMOT - Kyle Engelson, Genger; University Affairs - Kyle Engelson; DAC - Loren Racine, Hanna Golata; Radio Board - Noah Genger; Pantzer Award - Monica Hagestad.

b. A sheet was circulated to obtain contact information during the break.

c. Senators needing to get in the office for meetings may pick up the key at the Information Desk.

d. Nomination applications are available for the good neighbor award.

e. Schilke explained the process for suspending House Rules later tonight.

f. See Schilke about unexcused absences.

Business Manager’s Report
STIP - $99,928.52
Zero-Based Carryover - $73,542.55
Travel Spec. Allocation - $11,271.60
Special Allocation - $5,501
(Change in order with no objection.)

a. Student Escort Services Special Allocation Request $20,591/$0 was withdrawn.

b. SB8-02/03 Resolution to amend Fiscal Policy 14.0 was withdrawn.

c. SB14-02/03 Resolution to Amend Fiscal Policy 5.0 was withdrawn.

d. SB23-02/03 Resolution to amend Fiscal Policy 23.3 was withdrawn.

e. Office of Transportation Zero-based request for $5,000 and recommended by Budget and Finance for same passed 18-2 on a roll call vote (see Tally Sheet) after a previous question call by Swan.

f. Women's Center request was withdrawn.

g. ASUM Administration STIP request for $5,225 and recommended by Budget and Finance for same passed.

h. AIBL's STIP request for $846 and recommended by Budget and Finance for $418.15 passed as recommended.

i. Buttered Toast Society's STIP request for $859.95 and recommended by Budget and Finance for $405 passed as recommended.

j. A budgeting schedule was distributed. Meeting times are mandatory.

k. A committee is discussing transferability of in-state courses/credits.

Committee Reports
a. ASUM Relations & Affairs (Zhou) - They discussed bookmarks and amended SB28 from March 12 and 19 to March 5 and 12.

b. ASUM IT (Frost) - They met with Ray Ford on policy issues and are setting goals for Spring semester.

c. Board on Membership (Lee) - The following slate of groups were recognized on a motion by Lee-Rosenleaf:  Students for a Sensible Drug Policy, ADSUM, All Greek Council, Volunteers in Action, Kyi-Yo, Freestyle Ski Club, Pi Sigma Alpha, Campus Crusade for Christ, Telemark Club, Philosophy Club, SPURS, Beta Phi Alpha, Model United Nations, Alpine Ski Club, Taekwando Club, Students Tutoring Students, Betterson Rugby, Men's Lacrosse, Corps of Cadets, ACLU, Environmental Law, Women's Crew, Native American Law Students Assoc., UM Cycling, Triathalon Club, Environmental Action Community, Northern Rockies Model Arab League, Graduate Student Association and Camas.

d. COT (Tabibnejad) - A student leadership team is being formed at COT to help COT students - maybe could work with this committee.

e. Off-Campus Housing (Schilke) - Senators were thanked for seminar participation. Shovels are being handed out to off-campus renters. At the
meeting the shovel idea was approved, TV spots were discussed plus the possibility of rating landlords.

f. Interview (Wolff) - No meeting.
g. Publications Board - No meeting.
h. SPA (Price) - They gave the SB32 a "do pass" recommendation.
i. Transportation (Mendrey) - Senators were thanked for approving the night bus allocation. Look for another bike rack by UC soon. Green Griz Week volunteers are needed.
j. UC Board (Naasz) - A strategic plan is being discussed for the future which may include tying the UC fee to inflation increase and higher education price index. A $2 fee increase/semester will be requested for four years plus an operating fee of $1/semester increase.
k. University Affairs (Tabibnejad) - Endorsement recommendations were given to SB26 and 27. SB30 was withdrawn.
l. Suggestion box (Mendrey) - No messages.
m. A Public Safety survey will be inserted in the tuition bill mailings.

Five-minute break

A motion by Schilke-Rosenleaf to suspend House Rules to consider SB2, 27, 31 and 32 located under New Business passed.

New Business
a. SB26-02/03 Resolution to endorse an increase in the Curry Health Center Fee (Exhibit A) passed 14Y, 5N, 1A on a roll call vote (see Tally Sheet) on a motion by O'Loughlin-Rosenleaf after a previous question call by Rosenleaf.
b. SB27-02/03 Resolution of Support of the Office of Public Safety Fine Increase Proposal (Exhibit B) passed 13Y, 7N on a roll call vote (see Tally Sheet) on a motion by O'Loughlin-Rosenleaf after previous question calls by Welsh and O'Loughlin passed.
c. SB31-02/03 Resolution opposing Exclusive Coca-Cola Contract (Exhibit C) passed 13Y, 1N, 6A on a roll call vote (see Tally Sheet) on a motion by O'Loughlin-Rosenleaf after previous question calls by Mendrey and O'Loughlin passed.

Rosenleaf reinstated House Rules.

Unfinished Business
To see a list of resolutions with the action taken on them noted and the resolutions currently being considered in their entirety, please go to: http://www.umt.edu/asum/government/resolution.htm
a. SB10-02/03 Resolution on Free Speech Area - in committee.
b. SB28-02/03 Resolution to hold Senate meetings at the COT (Exhibit D) was passed as amended in committee to change dates from March 12 and 19 to March 5 and 12 on a motion by O'Loughlin-Mendrey after a previous question call by Swan.
c. SB29-02/03 Resolution reaffirming Support for Same-Sex Partner Health Insurance (Exhibit E) passed after previous question calls by Price, Lee, Welsh and O'Loughlin passed after a previous question call by Welsh passed.
d. SB32-02/03 Resolution regarding MontPIRG Reaffirmation (Exhibit F) passed 17Y, 2N, 1A on a roll call vote (see Tally Sheet) after a previous question call by Swan.
New Business
a. Resolution regarding UC operating fee
b. Resolution on UC renovation fee
c. Resolution on removal of Senator Dustin Hankinson (3 unexcused absences)
d. Resolution on credit card legislative bill
e. Resolution to amend Bylaws (3)
f. Resolution on CS172
g. Resolution on disability access
h. Resolution on health benefits

Comments

The meeting adjourned at 12:17 a.m.

Carol Hayes
ASUM Office Manager
RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE AN INCREASE IN THE CURRY HEALTH CENTER FEE

Whereas, the Health Fee funds the operation and range of service offered by Curry Health Center, including medical, dental, counseling, wellness, health enhancement, substance abuse, and sexual assault recovery service;

Whereas, the state pay plan will increase personnel expenses 1.5% (approximately $66,900);

Whereas, Employee contract mandates an increase of $44 per month per eligible employee of the employee insurance benefit cost (approximately $35,000);

Whereas, inflation for operational expenses including utilities; supplies, maintenance and repairs has increased by 4% (approximately $20,000);

Whereas, a $4.00 increase is necessary to fund the contractual and inflationary increase;

Whereas, every year Curry Health Center comes before ASUM requesting a raise of the Clinical Health Fee due to inflationary costs and ASUM supports this increase.

Therefore let it be resolved, that The Associated Students of the University of Montana endorse an increase of the Clinical Health Fee from the current $138.00 a semester to $142.00 per fall/spring semesters.

Authored by: Kim Graff Christy Schilke
Student ASUM Vice-president

Sponsored by: Katrina Mendrey
ASUM Senator
November 26, 2002

Dear ASUM Senators,

Next year’s proposed Curry Health Center budget is based upon a 2.9% health fee increase, which is necessary to cover projected 1.5% employee wages increases, 12% employee insurance increases and a general operation inflation of approximately 4% (i.e., utilities, supplies, maintenance, etc.). With the increased enrollment at The University of Montana, CHC is able to propose for fiscal year 2004 an increase in the health fee at a percentage rate that is lower than our inflation rate. The CHC budget proposal would increase the health fee from $138.00 to $142.00.

CHC’s funding comes strictly from the mandatory health fee (84%) and from revenue generated from fees for services rendered (16%). Historically, ASUM has increased the health fee to reflect inflation-driven increases in wages and operations. Likewise, CHC has always committed to working within budget limitations set by ASUM to achieve the goals supported and defined by ASUM. Curry Health Center is your health center and will honor your priorities.

Student support allows CHC to be able to provide a wider range of services, including 24-hour care, in-patient care, dental services, specialists, sexual assault crisis services and others. CHC is dependent upon ASUM’s continued support to be able to provide these services.

We appreciate your support and commit to providing UM students with high quality, affordable health care services. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

David Bell, M.D.
Director
Curry Health Center
FY 2004 Budget Process

Estimated Expense Increases for FY 2004

- Employee Pay Plan at 1.5% increase: $66,852
- Employee Insurance at $44/mo increase: $35,530
- Increase in work comp rates: $14,208
- Computer support position: $49,918
- Increase student employee wages (inflation): $1,000

**Personnel Sub-total**: $167,508

- Inflation for Op. Exp. Estimated at 4%: $18,221
- Increase for bad debt charges: $5,361

**Operations Sub-total**: $23,582

**TOTAL EXPENSE INCREASES FOR FY04**: $191,090

Revenue Options

- Adjust Income for increased Student Enrollment: $89,432
- Option A: No increase of Health Fee: $0
- Option B: Increase Health Fee 1.99% ($2.75): $63,030
- Option C: Increase Health Fee 2.54% ($3.50): $80,220
- Option D: Increase Health Fee 2.9% (4.00): $91,680

Deficit Balance

- ($101,658)
- ($101,658)
- ($38,628)
- ($21,438)
- ($9,978)

Curry Health Center
Health Fee Increase Trends

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<td>($101,658)</td>
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<td>2.73%</td>
<td>0.91%</td>
<td>10.23%</td>
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Resolution of support of the Office of Public Safety fine increase proposal

Whereas, the current fine system is not a big enough deterrent to change offenders actions;

Whereas, the increase in fines will more closely fit the offense;

Whereas, fines need to be kept in line with the cost of parking and due to increases in the cost of parking decals, some feel it is cheaper to park illegally;

Whereas, students who park illegally are taking spaces away from the students who pay the $146 fee for the year long parking decal.

Whereas, service permits and two week permits need to follow more closely with the increase that the other users have had to pay;

Whereas, the University Transportation Task Force recommends and supports the increase of fines after careful discussion with students, staff and faculty.

Whereas, the ASUM Transportation Board supports the attached proposed fine and fee changes brought about by the Office of Public Safety.

Therefore let it be resolved, that the Associated Students of The University of Montana endorse and support the increase in fines proposed by the office of Public Safety.

Authored by: Jake Blaufuss Benjamin Courteau Christy Schilke 
Student Student ASUM Vice-President

Sponsored by: Kyle Engelson Noah Genger 
ASUM Senator ASUM Senator

Passed

12/11/02
13+7
FINE INCREASE PROPOSAL
FOR REVIEW WITH ASUM SENATE

BACKGROUND:

Since its inception, Montana Code Annotated 20-25-312 has maintained a maximum fine of $10.00. At the recommendation of the University Parking and Transportation Task Force and ASUM OT Advisory Board we are requesting the Montana Legislature to amend the section of MCA 20-25-312 to read "Establish a fine schedule not to exceed $50.00 per offense." This change would be implemented by utilizing a variable fine schedule. Example of proposed fine schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VIOLATION</th>
<th>CURRENT</th>
<th>NEW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meter Expiration</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overtime Parking</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>False Registration</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserved Parking</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expired Registration</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improper Parking</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Parking Zone</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Lane</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Decal</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Curb</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Permit</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The proposed fine increase should be considered as an enforcement tool rather than a new source of funding for parking projects. Past experience has shown us that the current rate is not accomplishing the intent of effective enforcement. The increased rate will initially bring in additional revenue, however, the long term effect will be a reduction of violations and therefore a reduction of revenue. A short term projection of revenue would likely produce the following:

IF revenue were to increase by an initial $78,000 it would be utilized in the following manner:

- Bus Shelter: $78,000 - $20,000 = $58,000
- Hourly Machine Addition: $58,000 - $10,000 = $48,000
- Vehicle Replacement: $48,000 - $22,000 = $26,000
- Misc. Improvements: $26,000 - $6,000 = $20,000
- Major Improvements: $20,000 - $20,000 = zero

FILE: FINEINC.PRK
Resolution Opposing Exclusive Coca-Cola Contract

Whereas, The University of Montana began fulfilling the terms of a 7 year contract with the Coca-Cola Company without the ability of students and concerned bodies to review a draft contract;

Whereas, the Coca-Cola contract has not been signed, yet The University of Montana began following through on contractual obligations in accordance with a letter of intent to sign a contract;

Whereas, the unsigned, final draft of the contract, received by the University on December 6th, 2002 has several causes for concern such as doubt over financial benefits, limiting special events if not sponsored by Coke, the rights of termination, using university teams and university logos to promote Coca-Cola, and corporate benefits like Sky Club memberships;

Whereas, this contract represents one more step on the path of university privatization, the negative result of which is the restriction on where money is spent and moving attention from overall academic achievement;

Whereas, private corporate contributions may hurt the chances of increased state spending on education, by misrepresenting the financial conditions of the university system;

Whereas, private corporate enterprises look out for their own profits and interests first and benefits to the university second, a position contrary to The University of Montana goals;

Whereas, the administration has continually denied students access to information contained in the draft contract;

Whereas, exclusive contracts limit consumer choice on campus thereby limiting the ability for consumers to make educated purchasing decisions based on individual and community benefits, the working conditions for workers, human rights issues, and price comparison;

Whereas, the Coca-Cola company has been implicated in human rights abuses and violence against workers in bottling plants in Columbia, and has been criticized by the United Steelworkers of America, the Teamsters, and International Labor Rights Fund.

Whereas, the contract threatens the ability for students to follow through with the goals of the University of Montana mission statement, which reads: “the university seeks to educate competent and humane professionals and informed, ethical, and engaged citizens of local and global communities;”

Whereas, Coca-Cola has reduced the amount of promised funds from $410,000 a year for 7 years (August draft) to $303,000 a year (December draft), a negligible amount of the University’s overall budget;

Whereas, on-campus residents are required to purchase a meal plan through the University and are now restricted to beverage choices owned by Coca-Cola, including juices, bottled milk and water, a restriction that may have health implications;

Therefore, be it resolved that the ASUM disapproves of the process leading to the exclusive agreement between Coca-Cola and the University of Montana, is concerned by the nature of exclusive corporate contracts in general, is troubled by the accusations against Coca-Cola in regard to human rights abuses in Columbia, and urges the University of Montana to cease its accordance to the Letter of Intent of August 18th, and furthermore to reject, by not signing, the final draft of Contract P0001084.

Authored: Matthew Jennings, ASUM Student Political Action Director
Resolution to Hold Senate Meetings at the COT

Whereas two senate meetings on the east campus of the College of Technology could increase the involvement of COT students in ASUM,

Whereas two senate meetings on the east campus of the College of Technology before the senate candidacy deadline could recruit COT students for the ASUM Senate race,

Therefore let it be resolved that the ASUM Senate holds its March 12 and March 19 meeting at the east campus of the College of Technology.

Authored by Ali Reza Tabibnejad, ASUM Senator
Resolution Reaffirming Support for Same-Sex Partner Health Insurance

Whereas, The Montana University System administrators, including the Commissioner of Higher Education, the Board of Regents, and Montana campus administrators have all pledged support to diversity;

Whereas, diversity encompasses a wide range of individual aspects, including race, religion, ethnicity, creed, gender, class/economic background, as well as sexual orientation;

Whereas, The University of Montana at Missoula, together with other university system campuses, currently has a policy that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation;

Whereas, married and un-married opposite-sex partners currently have the option to pay into the health insurance package;

Whereas, at present, same-sex partners of university employers do not have that option and as a result have a compensation package that is less than their opposite-sex counterparts;

Whereas, the status quo subordinates certain students, faculty and staff to second-class citizenry;

Whereas, hundreds of other higher education systems provide benefits to same-sex partners, including Universities of Colorado, North Dakota, Iowa, Oregon, and Alaska, as well as, companies in the private sector such as Ford, Disney, Kodak, GM, and Wells Fargo.

Whereas, Buck Consultants, the Regent’s own experts, have already determined that the cost of allowing same-sex partners to pay into the plan would be little or nothing;

Whereas, The University of Montana faculty and student senates have both previously endorsed extending health insurance to same-sex partners of Montana University System faculty, staff and students;

Whereas, the ASUM collected and sent over 4,000 postcards from UM students, faculty and staff, as well as Missoula community members, to the Board of Regents urging the Board to support same-sex health benefits.
Whereas, The University Teacher's Union and the Inter-Benefits committee also support this proposal;

Whereas, the Commissioner of Higher Education rejected the proposal in February, 2000 and the Board of Regents unanimously upheld the Commissioner's decision in May 2002;

Whereas, this decision goes against the basic tenets of the mission of the Montana University System;

Therefore Let It Be Resolved, the Associated Students of The University of Montana reissue its earlier affirmation in support of health coverage for same-sex partners of Montana University System faculty, staff, and students on the grounds that discrimination will not be tolerated within the state's institutions of higher education.

Authored By: Heather O'Loughlin, ASUM Business Manager
Jon Swan, ASUM President
Christy Schilke, ASUM Vice President
Alex Rosenleaf, ASUM Senator
Katrina Mendrey, ASUM Senator
Kyle Engelson, ASUM Senator
Averiel Wolff, ASUM Senator
Matt Jennings, ASUM Student Political Action Director
Ali Tabibnejad, ASUM Senator
Flora Lee, ASUM Senator
Berv Naasz, ASUM Senator
Mary Burwell, ASUM Senator

Passed 12/11/02 1A
Resolution Regarding MontPIRG reaffirmation

Whereas, MontPIRG has been a valuable addition to The University of Montana campus for over 20 years;

Whereas, MontPIRG offers educational opportunities through 20 internships a semester, as well as vast outlets for student volunteers;

Whereas, MontPIRG works on issues that concern students, such as the Montana Tenant/Landlord Hotline, energy conservation, recycling, voter information, get out the vote, higher education spending, and serves as a general consumer watchdog;

Whereas, MontPIRG is a democratically student run and funded non-profit organization;

Whereas, membership in MontPIRG is voluntary, currently including nearly 30% of the U of M student body;

Whereas, Board of Regents policy 940.24 puts stipulations on MontPIRG that makes it harder for the organization to do the work its membership demands of it;

Whereas, Board of Regents policy requires a reaffirmation of MontPIRG every two years, with a minimum of 25% student body turnout to validate the reaffirmation;

Whereas, the voluntary MontPIRG membership fee has a $3 cap, an amount that has not been raised since MontPIRG’s inception in the early 1980’s;

Whereas, these stipulations represent a double standard as rules that are not applied to any other organizations on campus;

Whereas, the ASUM is under a contractual obligation to administer the MontPIRG referendum, and the collection of the positive check off, refundable fee, a task requiring much work from ASUM;

Therefore, be it resolved that the ASUM supports MontPIRG in its efforts to change Board of Regent policy 940.24 to eliminate the 25% turnout requirement for MontPIRG reaffirmation.

Be it further resolved that ASUM, supports MontPIRG in its effort to change Board of Regent policy 940.24 to allow the organization to hold referendums to increase the voluntary MontPIRG fee following the rules and restrictions of ASUM and University of Montana policy, and subject to final Board or Regents approval.

Authored by the Montana Public Interest Research Group
Sponsored by Katrina Mendrey