SB41-15/16: Creating the ASUM Graduate and Professional Student Committee

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The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Resolution Creating the ASUM Graduate & Professional Student Committee
March 9th, 2016
SB41-15/16
Authored by: Cody Meixner, ASUM President; Betsy Story, ASUM Vice President;
Sarah Smith, ASUM Business Manager
Sponsored by:

Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) is bound by its bylaws;
Whereas, the ASUM Senate is the governing body of ASUM and is open to all students at the University of Montana (UM);
Whereas, graduate student representation is an important function of ASUM’s role in the shared governance system at UM;
Whereas, graduate student involvement in the administration of the Graduate School at UM is crucial;
Whereas, the ASUM Senate reserves one (1) seat on its body for a graduate student;
Whereas, the graduate student seat on ASUM often goes unfilled;
Whereas, a graduate student ASUM committee that is specifically focused on advocacy and solutions for the needs of graduate students is necessary;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that Section 29 be added to Article IV of the ASUM Bylaws:

Section 29. Graduate & Professional Student Committee

A. The Graduate & Professional Student Committee (GPSC) shall be composed of 8 voting members, of which two (2) will be members of the ASUM Senate, two (2) will be students-at-large selected by ASUM, and four (4) will be selected by the leadership of the Graduate & Professional Student Association within the UM Graduate School.

B. In addition to these eight (8) voting members, the committee shall be co-chaired by an ASUM Senator and a student selected by the leadership of the Graduate & Professional Student Association. The Co-Chairs shall preside at all meetings of the committee, and shall be non-voting members.

C. The GPSC shall meet and hold a quorum of at least six (6) voting members at least once monthly.
D. In the case of a tied vote, the matter of business automatically fails. The Co-Chairs may not vote under any circumstances.

E. The GPSC shall be responsible for coordinating advocacy regarding graduate student issues, reporting weekly to the ASUM Senate, and working within the Graduate School and Graduate Council to further graduate students' interests at UM as the official graduate and professional student advocate committee of the ASUM Senate.

F. The GPSC's work shall not supersede ASUM's role as the official representative body for all University of Montana students, and shall not supersede the ASUM President's role as the primary representative and spokesperson for ASUM and its student body members.

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Royce Engstrom, President of the University of Montana; Scott Whittenburg, Vice President for Research and Creative Scholarship and Dean of the Graduate School; Perry Brown, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Teresa Branch, Vice President for Student Affairs; Ashby Kinch, Chair of the Graduate Council; Bill Borrie, Chair of the Faculty Senate.

Passed by Committee: __________________________, 2016

Passed by ASUM Senate: __________________________, 2016

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Kaitlin Hopingardner         Betsy Story
Chair of Relations and Affairs  Chair of the Senate