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SB08-16/17: Amending The Research and Creative Scholarship Bylaws

Chase Greenfield

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The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Resolution Amending The Research and Creative Scholarship Bylaws

May 4th, 2016
SB08-16/17

Authored by: Chase Greenfield, ASUM Business Manager;
Sponsored by:

Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) is bound by its Bylaws;

Whereas, over the 2015-2016 academic year, ASUM has taken on a new responsibility with the Research and Creative Scholarship Fund (RCSF) that distributes funds to student applicants for the purpose of academic travel, creative works, and research projects;

Whereas, this new fund is controlled by an ASUM Committee, the Research and Scholarship Committee, and is therefore subject to ASUM Bylaws;

Whereas, there are several changes that have occurred in the first developing year to the committee that warrants changes to the ASUM Bylaws for this section to be accurate with current processes and policies;

Whereas, The Office of the Provost is not capable of distributing these funds to students, although this office is listed as the current distributing unit in the ASUM Bylaws;

Whereas, Business Services, Internal Audit, and The Financial Aid Office have all agreed with ASUM that the Director of Scholarships (from the Financial Aid Office) is the appropriate final distributor of the committee’s awards for most recipients. In some uncommon cases (determined by the Director of Scholarships in coordination with the committee chair), other recipients would likely need to have their funds distributed by Business Services;

Whereas, Section 27, Subsection A of ASUM Bylaws currently reads:
A. The Research & Scholarship Committee shall be composed of 12 voting members, of which two (2) will be members of the ASUM Senate, three (3) will be undergraduate students-at-large selected by ASUM, one (1) will be a graduate student-at-large selected by ASUM, three (3) will be graduate students-at large selected by the Office of Research and Creative Scholarship/The Graduate School, and three (3) will be either faculty or staff selected by the Office of the Provost.

Whereas, Section 27, Subsection C of ASUM Bylaws currently reads:
C. A quorum shall consist of at least eight (8) voting members;

Whereas, Section 27, Subsection F of ASUM Bylaws currently reads:
F. The student fee money available to be contributed by ASUM per award shall be assessed at the beginning of each academic semester to reflect the percentage total of the joint fund. The committee shall have spending authority to charge this percentage to ASUM’s Research & Scholarship Fee index;
Whereas, Section 27, Subsection G of ASUM Bylaws currently reads:

G. The committee shall convene at least once per academic semester to hear and review applications from undergraduate and graduate students. The committee shall determine what portion of each applicant’s request to fund, and provide documentation to the Office of the Provost and to ASUM for allocation of the approved funding;

Whereas, our current Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of the Provost, The Office for Research and Creative Scholarship, and the Financial Aid Office lists the following amended language;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that Section 27 Subsection A of ASUM Bylaws be amended to read as follows:

A. The Research & Scholarship Committee shall be composed of 12 voting members, of which two (2) will be members of the ASUM Senate, three (3) will be undergraduate students-at-large selected by ASUM, one (1) will be a graduate student-at-large selected by ASUM, three (3) will be graduate students-at-large selected by the Office of Research and Creative Scholarship/The Graduate School, and three (3) will be either faculty or staff selected by the Office of the Provost. The Director of Scholarships from the Financial Aid Office shall also sit as an ex-officio non-voting member of the committee, to assist in determining the appropriate distributing unit of each recipient.

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that Section 27, Subsection C of ASUM Bylaws be amended to read as follows:

C. A quorum for the Research and Scholarship Committee shall consist of at least fifty (50) percent plus one (1) of the committee’s current voting members, with a minimum of at least six (6) voting members.

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that Section 27, Subsection E of ASUM Bylaws be amended to read as follows:

E. The Research and Creative Scholarship Office and the Office of the Provost shall transfer their contributions to ASUM’s Research and Creative Scholarship Index at the start of each academic year. The Committee shall reserve at least 50% of the total joint fund for allocation during Spring semester.

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that Section 27, Subsection F of ASUM Bylaws be amended to read as follows:

F. The committee shall convene at least once per academic semester to hear and review applications from undergraduate and graduate students. The committee shall determine what portion of each applicant’s request to fund, and shall provide documentation to the Financial Aid Office (or the appropriate distributing unit) and to ASUM for distribution of the approved funding. This final distribution shall be done in coordination with the ASUM Business Manager, to ensure that the allocation of all funds match the committee’s approved awards.

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that these changes take effect immediately;
Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to: Beverly Edmond, Interim Provost; Scott Whittenburg, Vice President for Research and Creative Scholarship and Dean of the Graduate School; Dala Gant, Director of Scholarships from the Financial Aid Office; John McCormick, Director of Business Services; Kathy Burgmeier, Director of Internal Audit; and to the members of the ASUM Graduate and Professional School Committee.

Passed by Committee: ____________________________, 2016

Passed by ASUM Senate: ____________________________, 2016

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   Kaitlin Hopingardner                       Elizabeth Engebretson,
   Chair of Relations & Affairs             Chair of the Senate