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SB09-16/17: Resolution Rewriting House Rules

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The Associated Students of the University of Montana

Resolution Rewriting House Rules

July 6th, 2016

SB09-16/17

Authored by: Elizabeth Engebretson, ASUM Vice-President; Samuel Forstag, ASUM President; Chase Greenfield, ASUM Business Manager;

Sponsored by:

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

Whereas, voting members of ASUM are currently required to introduce new resolutions and motions during the “New Business” section of the previous meeting according to Article One (1), Section Two (2), Subsection C of ASUM House Rules;

Whereas, the current system of forwarding resolutions requires voting members to take out “blank checks” in the case that they would like to write a resolution and submit it for the following meeting.

Whereas, this system is inefficient and leads to confusion, as the resolutions that are proposed are rarely completed;

Whereas, large portions of the ASUM House Rules document, especially those regarding “New Business,” are no longer relevant or are no longer in practice, and the whole document is in need of revision and reorganization;

Whereas, committees other than Relations and Affairs (R&A) rarely see or debate resolutions, even if such documents should fall under their jurisdiction;

Whereas, Relations and Affairs (R&A) used to debate and examine specific issues within resolutions, but in more recent years, the committee has been transformed to examine the grammatical content and basic layout of all resolutions before they go to the Senate. Presently, (except in uncommon cases) only Relations and Affairs ever review a resolution for simple errors (with no content-based debate) before the document reaches the senate floor;

Whereas, currently there is not enough time for a resolution to be reviewed by a committee after it is submitted (Monday by noon) before it is debated on the floor (Wednesday starting at 6:00) and for nearly all resolutions, this means that all debate about matters of substance will take place exclusively on the Senate floor;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that Article One (1), Section Two (2), Subsection C of The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) House Rules be amended to reflect the following changes:

C. Authors may elect to bring a first-draft or incomplete resolution to an ASUM committee for collaborative, drafting, or review purposes with the consent of the committee.
chair. Resolutions, once complete, must be submitted under “New Business” and adhere to all following processes.

1. All formal motions and written resolutions shall be initially submitted during “New Business”. All completed resolutions shall be directed to the appropriate committee and its chair-person by the ASUM Vice President within 24 hours of its proposal.

2. These resolutions, if forwarded to the Senate by their appropriate committee, shall be placed under “Unfinished Business” for the following Senate Meeting for discussion and voting.

3. Non-voting members of ASUM do not need to bring up proposed resolutions and motions under “New Business”, but must adhere to all other procedures put in place by ASUM and must have a voting member sponsor their resolution.

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that Article One (1), Section Two (2) Subsection D of ASUM House Rules be amended to reflect the following changes:

D. Discussion and voting on resolutions or motions that were not submitted under “New Business” may only occur in one of the following ways:

1. The action is forwarded as a seconded motion from any ASUM committee
2. The action is posted on the publicly published meeting agenda (at least 24 hours before the meeting occurs).
   a. A seconded motion means that an approved action need not be submitted under “New Business” and may be debated under ”Unfinished Business”.
3. The Senate suspends these rules by a two-thirds (⅔) majority vote and discusses the action during “Unfinished Business”.

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that Article One (1), Section Two (2), Subsection E of ASUM House Rules be amended to reflect the following changes:

E. Upon receiving a written resolution forwarded from the ASUM Vice President, the appropriate committee or board shall debate and review each resolution at hand. Prior to debate before the full Senate, the reviewing committee shall give its recommendation either for or against its approval, or may elect not to forward a resolution to the Senate by tabling the resolution. The author(s) of a resolution may request to be present during the committee’s review of their resolution to give advice and clarification to the body, but may not vote on any formal motions unless he/she/they are already a member of the committee.

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that Article One (1), Section Two (2), Subsection F of ASUM House Rules be amended to reflect the following changes:

F. A resolution forwarded by the ASUM Vice President from “New Business” to its relevant committee(s) must then be returned to the ASUM Vice President and the ASUM Secretary in electronic form by an announced deadline selected by the ASUM Vice-President, which may be no less than 25 hours before they are to be debated under “Unfinished Business”.

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that Article One (1), Section Two (2), Subsection G of ASUM House Rules be amended to reflect the following changes:

G. The ASUM Secretary and the ASUM Vice President shall ensure that the text of all resolutions submitted for consideration at the next ASUM Senate meeting shall be posted on the ASUM website 24 hours preceding the meeting, or in the ASUM Office if they are unable to
update the website. The posted resolution shall also include: the ASUM committee to which it was referred, a signature from the committee chair, and the date when the resolution passed through the reviewing committee.

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that Article One (1), Section Two (2), Subsection H of ASUM House Rules be amended to reflect the following changes:

**H.** The ASUM Vice-President, in coordination with the ASUM Secretary shall post on the ASUM Website a list of all actions submitted for consideration (the meeting’s agenda) at the next ASUM Senate meeting at least 24 hours in advance. If the ASUM-President or the ASUM Secretary are unable to update the website, the agenda may instead be posted in the ASUM Office.

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that Article One (1), Section Two (2), Subsection I of ASUM House Rules be amended to reflect the following changes:

**I.** If the intent of a resolution is amended or altered in a significant way by the reviewing committee, the author of the resolution may make a motion to appeal a change of intent to The Chair of the Senate during unfinished business. This appeal requires a simple majority vote of the Senate to pass. If successful, the resolution shall be reverted back to the previous committee for review and debate, and shall be included under “New Business” at the following ASUM Senate meeting.

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that Article One (1), Section Two (2), Subsection M of ASUM House Rules be amended to reflect the following changes:

**M.** Constitutional Amendments or Referendums, as well as Resolutions or motions to support or oppose increases in University of Montana or ASUM Fees shall follow the same process for resolutions outlined in Subsection (C) of ASUM House Rules, but shall be held under "Unfinished Business" in the ASUM Senate for two (2) weeks after their introduction.

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that Article One (1), Section Two (2), Subsection O of ASUM House Rules be amended to reflect the following changes:

**O.** The ASUM Senate may adopt its own form for resolutions, which may be updated from time to time with a majority vote of the body, and a document of this template shall be attached to House Rules as an appendix.

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved that Article One (1), Section Two (2), Subsection Q of ASUM House Rules be amended to reflect the following changes:

**Q.** The presiding chair may keep a Speakers List, which shall be a list of members who have requested to be recognized with the floor. If the chair chooses to make such a list they shall observe the following: the member who made the motion that is immediately pending and has not spoken in debate shall have preference over all members; members who have not yet had the floor in debate on the immediately pending question are entitled to it before any member who has spoken; in cases where persons seeking the floor indicate they have opposite opinions on the question and the order has not been determined by the previous qualifications, the chair may alternate between those favoring and those opposing the measure.
Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved that Article One (1), Section Two (2), Subsection Q of ASUM House Rules be amended to reflect the following changes:

Q. Quorum shall be defined as two-thirds (2/3) of the total number of Executives and Senators currently holding office. No business may be conducted in the absence of a quorum. This rule may not be suspended.

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved that Article One (1), Section Two (2), Subsection R of ASUM House Rules be removed, as its content has been moved to a more appropriate section;

Passed by Committee: ______________________________, 2016

Passed by ASUM Senate: ___________________________, 2016

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Elizabeth Engebretson,
Chair of Relations & Affairs

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Chair of the Senate