

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

ASUM Governing Documents

ASUM Student Government

Summer 6-9-2021

Code of Ethics of the Associated Students of the University of Montana

University of Montana–Missoula. Associated Students

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/asum_governance

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Code of Ethics

Section 1: Definitions

- A. ASUM: ASUM shall be the representative body of the members of the Association, organized exclusively for educational and non-profit purposes. The primary responsibility of the Association is to serve as an advocate for the general welfare of the students.
- B. Ethical: A standard of principles guided by social and moral responsibility through which Senators are expected to behave.
- C. Ethical Conduct: Behavior on and off of the Senate floor, pertaining to both physical and online presences, that is becoming of inclusivity, responsibility, credibility in decision making, and behavior that is considered morally sound.
- D. Conflict of Interest: A conflict of interest occurs when a Senator or Executive becomes unreliable because of a clash between personal (or self-serving) interests and professional duties or responsibilities.¹
- E. Gift: A voluntary transfer of property or of a property interest from one individual to another, made gratuitously to the recipient, which includes (but is not limited to) preferential treatment and/or work done for another person or entity.²
- F. Hazing: Any action taken or situation created, whether on or off university premises, that is harmful or potentially harmful to an individual's physical, emotional, or psychological well-being, regardless of an individual's willingness to participate or its bearing on their membership status.³

Section 2: Duties and Expectations

The following expectations apply to all active members of the ASUM Student Government. Senators and Executives shall:

- Faithfully execute the duties of their position as outlined in the ASUM Constitution and Bylaws
- Always act in the best interests of all students attending the University of Montana, Missoula College and/or Bitterroot College.
- Retain the self-awareness to separate themselves from potential bias in order to represent all students regardless of race, sex, religion, political affiliation, group affiliation, or portion of the student population.
- Maintain a zero-tolerance policy towards hazing to commit to the wellbeing of all UM students.
- Uphold their Oath of Office, the Governing Documents of ASUM, and this Code in conjunction with the Student Conduct Code, as well as State and Federal Law.
- Not represent the procedures of ASUM in a misleading or ignorant way to constituents or the press. The exercise of free speech in relation to ASUM is recognized; in exercising free speech,

¹ <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/c/conflict-of-interest.asp>

² <https://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/gift>

³ <https://studentaffairs.duke.edu/dos/hazing>

those procedures by which policy is enacted or created must be understood and capably illustrated by Senators.

- Be good stewards of their time through punctuality in committees, senate, and their assigned office hours. They must expect that ASUM activities will likely take up time outside of their University activities. Senators must also recognize when they are overwhelmed so that they can request a workload fitting for their situation.

- Not seek out special benefits as a result of their position, nor should they accept Gifts that may be related to their Senatorship or seen as influencing their decisions as a Senator. Examples of Gifts include but are not limited to: Monetary awards, performances or entertainment that is not reimbursed, and material items or food costing any amount.

-Conduct themselves in a professional manner when interacting as a representative of ASUM.

Section 3: Non-Discrimination

The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) is charged with representing and respecting all students, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, creed, service in the uniformed services, veteran status, sex, age, political ideals, marital or family status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation in compliance with federal, state, and local non-discrimination ordinances and the University of Montana Student Code of Conduct. As such, neither membership nor participation in ASUM sanctioned affairs shall be barred to any student on the basis of protected class.

Section 4: Conflicts of Interest

All Senators and Executives are expected to maintain and uphold ethical values as laid out in the code with regards to all funding and financial votes. The elected officials of ASUM are expected to abstain from all votes when a conflict of interest arises. Instances when an elected official is required to abstain from voting due to a conflict of interest may include but are not limited to:

- A member must abstain on all votes regarding funding and recognition of student groups of which they are currently a member.
- If a member is employed by an agency, they are expected to remove themselves from the respective agency's oversight board unless they are in an ex-officio position.
- If a member is employed by an agency, they must abstain from all financial votes on that agency which are in conflict with the member's job.
- A member cannot vote on their pay or hours for a position they are seeking during the next academic year.