Fall 2012

SB13-12/13: Higher One

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The Associated Students of The University of Montana

Resolution Regarding Higher One

September 12, 2012

SB13-12/13

Authored by: Micah Nielsen, ASUM Business Manager and Mike Hopkins, ASUM Senator

Sponsored by: Zachary Brown, ASUM President; Bryn Hagfors, ASUM Vice President;
Ryan Hazen, ASUM Senator; Gwendolyn Coon, ASUM Senator; Cody Gordon, ASUM
Senator; Jacob Brown, ASUM Senator; Eamon Ormseth, ASUM Senator; Brandon
Simpson, ASUM Senator; and Rebecca Boslough, ASUM Senator

Whereas, the financial aid refund process should facilitate student access to funding for

textbooks, school supplies, and basic living expenses;

Whereas, the lack of clarity regarding the use of the Higher One Debit Card results in

unnecessary payments out of needed student refund money to Higher One Inc.;

Whereas, a student from California has filed a class action lawsuit against Higher One Inc. for

violating consumer protection laws;

Whereas, the lawsuit asserts that Higher One failed to provide a judicious means to avoid

excessive fees;

Whereas, this violation resulted in a $110,000 FDIC penalty to Higher One Inc. and a $172,000

penalty to their former card issuer, The Bancorp Bank;

Whereas, upon the acquisition of Evision by Higher One Inc., the original choice by Business

Services for a refund card issuer, a second Request for Proposal was not issued;

Whereas, the contract between The University of Montana and Higher One Inc. was entered into

as the result of a failed search for a debit card issuer;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that The Associated Students of The University of Montana

implores The University of Montana administration to sever the current contract with Higher

One;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that The Associated Students of The University of

Montana commit to actively educating students on all variables of the refund options and

process, including the fee structure of the Higher One Debit Card, and encourages Business

Services to do the same until that point in which the Higher One contract is severed;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that The Associated Students of The University of

Montana, in an effort to continue saving on printing costs associated with paper refunds, will

take an active roll in researching and seeking out other refund debit card options alongside of

Business Services;
Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be signed and sent to
President Royce Engstrom; Vice President of Student Affairs, Teresa Branch; Vice President of
Administration and Finance, Robert Duringer; and the Director of Business Services, Mark
Pullium.

Passed by Committee: _________________________, 2012
Passed by Senate: _________________________, 2012

____________________________  __________________________
Damara Simpson,  Bryn Hagfors,
Relations and Affairs Chair  Chair of the Senate