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SB27-12/13: Energy Efficiency and the Smart Buildings Initiative

Zach Brown

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The Associated Students of The University of Montana

Resolution Regarding Energy Efficiency and the Smart Buildings Initiative

October 24, 2012

SB27-12/13

Authored by: Zachary Brown, ASUM President

Sponsored by: Cherie Peacock, UM Sustainability Coordinator; UM Sustainable Campus Committee; ASUM Sustainability Committee

Whereas, President George M. Dennison signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment in 2007, committing The University of Montana to develop an institutional climate action plan to become carbon neutral;

Whereas, The University of Montana’s 2010 Climate Action Plan sets forth the ambitious goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2020;

Whereas, the Climate Action Plan estimates an energy efficient campus could save $800,000 annually and 12,000 MTeCO₂ (metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) per year, or 20% of UM’s total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions;

Whereas, energy efficiency and conservation in existing buildings is identified in the Climate Action Plan as among the most financially feasible GHG emissions reduction strategies, with projected cost savings in the long-term;

Whereas, energy efficiency and lighting upgrades over the last two years resulted in an estimated annual energy cost savings of $350,000 and 2,500 MTeCO₂;

Whereas, there are over fifty (50) large buildings on campus, most of which have not had recent energy efficiency upgrades;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that The Associated Students of The University of Montana (ASUM) endorses and supports further implementation of energy efficiency and conservation improvements to all fifty (50) large buildings on campus to increase energy cost savings, reduce GHG emissions, and move UM’s campus closer to carbon neutrality;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that The Associated Students of The University of Montana strongly supports the Sustainable Campus Committee in their advocacy on behalf of the university’s Climate Action Plan.

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that the 2012-2013 ASUM Senate formally endorses the Smart Buildings Initiative.

Passed by Committee: ____________________________, 2012

Passed by ASUM Senate: ____________________________, 2012
Damara Simpson, Relations and Affairs Chair

Bryn Hagfors, Chair of the Senate