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Spring 2013

### SB82-12/13: University of Montana Funding Shortfall

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1                   **The Associated Students of The University of Montana**  
2                   **Resolution Regarding University of Montana Funding Shortfall**  
3                   **April 24, 2013**  
4                   **SB82-12/13**

5                   **Authored by: Ryan Hazen, ASUM Senator; Eamon Ormseth, ASUM Senator**  
6                   **Sponsored by: Brandon Simpson, ASUM Senator; Cody Gordon, ASUM Senator;**  
7                   **Jan Roddy, ASUM Senator; Shelby Dolezal, ASUM Senator**

8  
9                   Whereas, The Associated Students of The University of Montana (ASUM) has a duty to  
10                  represent students;

11  
12                  Whereas, ASUM has a duty to articulate these interests to the Administration of The  
13                  University of Montana (UM Admin), which has a concurrent duty to take feedback from  
14                  students, faculty, and staff.

15  
16                  Whereas, The University of Montana (UM) faces a funding shortfall of \$8 million  
17                  dollars, primarily due to a decline in enrollment for the 2013-2014 academic year,  
18                  resulting in widespread cuts to the classes being offered.

19  
20                  Whereas, the Mission Statement of UM reads: The University of Montana--Missoula  
21                  pursues academic excellence as demonstrated by the **quality of curriculum and**  
22                  **instruction, student performance, and faculty professional accomplishment.** The  
23                  University accomplishes this mission, in part, by providing unique educational  
24                  experiences through the integration of the liberal arts, graduate study, and professional  
25                  training with international and interdisciplinary emphases. The University also educates  
26                  competent and humane professionals and informed, ethical, and engaged citizens of local  
27                  and global communities; and provides basic and applied research, technology transfer,  
28                  cultural outreach, and service benefiting the local community, region, state, nation and  
29                  the world.

30  
31                  Whereas, a substantial number of students have expressed concerns about class cuts in  
32                  regard to said budget cuts;

33  
34                  Whereas, a substantial amount of faculty have recently brought forward a list of  
35                  grievances that they have with the UM Admin, including the cuts in classes;

36  
37                  Whereas, the welfare of students at UM is directly related to the welfare of its faculty;

38  
39                  Whereas, the UM 2020 report stresses the necessity of preparing students for “The Global  
40                  Century;”

41  
42                  Whereas, cuts to language classes, integral for student success in “The Global Century”  
43                  were not implemented in a way consistent with the mission of the University and student  
44                  demand for these classes;

45

46 Whereas, implementing budget cuts without taking into account factors like student  
47 demand on a class-by-class basis and the University’s mission reduces future student  
48 enrollment, faculty morale, and exacerbates already existing problems;

49  
50 Whereas, the zeroing out classes now and listing some classes as taught by “Staff, Staff”  
51 reduces the ability of professors to brand their classes and, concurrently, recruit for them;

52  
53 Whereas, the effects of the funding shortfall were not made widely known to faculty and  
54 students until well into the registration process for next year, harming said parties ability  
55 to effectively plan for the future;

56  
57 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that ASUM implores UM Admin to implement the cuts in  
58 a manner holistic and reflective of the actual mission of the University;

59  
60 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that ASUM desires a constructive public forum  
61 and committee structure involving faculty, students, staff and UM Admin concerning the  
62 implementation of the \$8 million decrease in funding;

63  
64 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to President  
65 Engstrom; Provost Brown; Jeff Renz, Chair of Faculty Senate; David Shively, Chair of  
66 Faculty Union; and Teresa Branch, Vice President of Student Affairs.

67  
68 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that 2012-2013 ASUM Senate urges the 2013-  
69 2014 ASUM executives appoint two (2) to five (5) new student members to the  
70 University Budget Committee in addition to the current positions to be active upon  
71 appointment.

72  
73 Passed by Committee: \_\_\_\_\_, 2013

74  
75  
76 Passed by ASUM Senate: \_\_\_\_\_, 2013

77  
78  
79 \_\_\_\_\_  
80 Damara Simpson, Bryn Hagfors,  
81 Relations and Affairs Chair Chair of the Senate