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Zach Brown

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1 **The Associated Students of The University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Regarding Student Instructional Equipment Fee Funds (SIEF)**

3 **May 1, 2013**

4 **SB89-12/13**

5 **Authored by: Zach Brown, ASUM President**

6 **Sponsored by: Bryn Hagfors, ASUM Vice President; Andy Mikkola, ASUM**
7 **Senator; Peregrine Frissell, ASUM Senator; Claire Chandler, ASUM Senator;**
8 **Gwendolyn Coon, ASUM Senator; Stevie Freund, ASUM Senator; Colton Blomker,**
9 **ASUM Senator**

10
11 Whereas, students pay \$2 per credit, up to a maximum of \$24 per semester, in
12 Student Instructional Equipment Fee Funds (SIEF), which equates to approximately
13 \$300,000 per semester;

14
15 Whereas, these funds are currently used to purchase or repair instructional
16 equipment;

17
18 Whereas, Board of Regents Policy 940.26 identifies the following description of
19 allowable expenditures for the Instructional Equipment Fee: “Expenditures shall be made
20 for the purchase or lease of equipment which will provide a primary benefit to the
21 educational program including library and other related capital acquisitions.
22 Expenditures may be made for the purchase, lease, or maintenance of equipment”;

23
24 Whereas, the University of Montana is experiencing significant budget cuts due to
25 decreased enrollment;

26
27 Whereas, it is estimated that this funding proposal could protect 10-20 adjunct faculty
28 positions from being terminated or reduced in the College of Arts and Sciences alone;

29
30 Whereas, budget cuts to academic programs have the potential to reduce the quality of
31 education offered to students;

32
33 Whereas, faculty members are central to the quality of education offered at any institution
34 of higher education;

35
36 Whereas, that the original intent of the SIEF fund, which helps maintain the quality
37 of instruction at UM, will be well-served by keeping quality instructors in the
38 classroom while we adjust to reduced budgets.

39
40 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that ASUM supports altering the application of Board of
41 Regents Policy 940.26, relating to the application of SIEF money in the following
42 way: “Expenditures shall be made for the purchase or lease of equipment, which
43 will provide a primary benefit to the educational program including library and
44 other related capital acquisitions. Expenditures may be made for the purchase,
45 lease, or maintenance of equipment. During the academic year of 2014 and 2015,
46 expenditures may be used to support adjuncts and instructors who would have

47 otherwise been laid off due to budget reductions. The Administration will provide
48 an annual summary of how these funds are used and will demonstrate that students
49 benefitted from the use of these funds.”

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52 Passed by Committee: _____, 2013

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55 Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2013

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60 _____
61 Damara Simpson,
Relations and Affairs Chair

Bryn Hagfors,
Chair of the Senate