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SB89-12/13: Student Instructional Equipment Fee Funds (SIEF)

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The Associated Students of The University of Montana
Resolution Regarding Student Instructional Equipment Fee Funds (SIEF)
May 1, 2013
SB89-12/13
Authored by: Zach Brown, ASUM President
Sponsored by: Bryn Hagfors, ASUM Vice President; Andy Mikkola, ASUM Senator; Peregrine Frissell, ASUM Senator; Claire Chandler, ASUM Senator; Gwendolyn Coon, ASUM Senator; Stevie Freund, ASUM Senator; Colton Blomker, ASUM Senator

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that ASUM supports altering the application of Board of Regents Policy 940.26, relating to the application of SIEF money in the following way: “Expenditures shall be made for the purchase or lease of equipment, which will provide a primary benefit to the educational program including library and other related capital acquisitions. Expenditures may be made for the purchase, lease, or maintenance of equipment. During the academic year of 2014 and 2015, expenditures may be used to support adjuncts and instructors who would have
otherwise been laid off due to budget reductions. The Administration will provide an annual summary of how these funds are used and will demonstrate that students benefitted from the use of these funds.”

Passed by Committee: ______________________, 2013

Passed by ASUM Senate: _____________________, 2013

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