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SB11-11/12: University Committees

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The Associated Students of The University of Montana
Resolution Regarding University Committees
October 17, 2011
Senate Bill SB11-11/12

Authored by: Jeff Edmunds ASUM Vice President
Sponsored by: Travis Suzuki, Gwendolyn Coon, Topher Williams, Becca Boslough, Asa Hohman, Christopher Selph, Dan Molgaard, Damara Simpson, Matt Haefner, Micah Nielsen, Emerald LaFortune and Neil Bennett, Clay Springmeyer, and Mariah Williams, ASUM Senators, Luke Sims, ASUM Business Manager, and Jenifer Gursky, ASUM President

Whereas, the stated purpose of University Committees, according to the University Committee’s website, is to “serve a wide variety of functions at The University of Montana, and vary in terms of their mission, membership, and representative term length”;

Whereas, the information about the various University Committees is not concisely compiled, or easily accessible, and non-confidential information is not posted in its entirety;

Whereas, students are included in the institutional makeup of the various committees, in order to provide a student perspective and voice in University decisions and planning;

Whereas, over 150 students have expressed interest in participating in committees the 2011-2012 academic year;

Whereas, the vast majority of students who have been appointed to University Committees have not been contacted by their assigned committee chairs or any other member of the committee body;

Whereas, students who have been contacted by their committee chair, have not received the full information needed to understand the current, or previous actions of the committee, including the governing documents and charges that apply to it;

Whereas, the Montana Kaimin reported on September 21, 2011, that a University official referring to student participation in University Committees stated, “They very seldom show up,” and that the official “doesn’t think that UM’s . . . process is relevant to students.”;

Whereas, the current University Committee system is neither transparent nor conducive to student involvement, and currently functions, in many cases, without sufficient attempts to allow for student involvement or any form of public dissemination of information;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that The Associated Students of The University of
Montana (ASUM) seeks immediate systematic changes to the current University Committee structure, by November 15, 2011.

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that The Associated Students of The University of Montana petitions The University of Montana Administration for an immediate solution that creates an effective, public, transparent and student-accessible oriented University Committee system.

Passed by Committee: ____________________________, 2011

Passed by ASUM Senate: ____________________________, 2011

Travis Suzuki, Jeffrey Edmunds,
Relations and Affairs Chair Chair of the Senate