

Fall 2011

SB11-11/12: University Committees

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1 **The Associated Students of The University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Regarding University Committees**
3 **October 17, 2011**

4 **Senate Bill SB11-11/12**

5 **Authored by: Jeff Edmunds ASUM Vice President**

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

11

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

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

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

21 Whereas, over 150 students have expressed interest in participating in committees the
22 2011-2012 academic year;

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

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

29
30 Whereas, the Montana Kaimin reported on September 21, 2011, that a University official
31 referring to student participation in University Committees stated, “They very seldom
32 show up,” and that the official “doesn’t think that UM’s . . . process is relevant to
33 students.”;

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

38

39 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that The Associated Students of The University of

40 Montana (ASUM) seeks ~~immediate~~ systematic changes to the current University
41 Committee structure, *by November 15, 2011*.

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

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49 Passed by Committee: _____, 2011

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52 Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2011

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59 _____
60 Travis Suzuki,
Relations and Affairs Chair

Jeffrey Edmunds,
Chair of the Senate