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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Regarding the Montana Kaimin Fee**
3 **March 23, 2011**

4 **Senate Bill SB29-10/11**

5 **Authored by: Patrick Rhea, ASUM Senator,**
6 **and Roman Stubbs, Montana Kaimin Editor**

7 **Sponsored by: Miranda Carson, ASUM Senator,**
8 **Ashleen Williams, ASUM President, Julie Desoto, ASUM Senator,**
9 **Jeff Edmunds, ASUM Senator**

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11 Whereas the Montana Kaimin has been publishing since 1898 and has worked to serve,
12 entertain and inform the UM Community during its 113-year history;

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14 Whereas the Montana Kaimin provides a venue to students, protected under the
15 Constitution of the United States of America, to read about and address issues that are
16 important to them in a manner that is not influenced by the politics and censorship of
17 biased funding sources;

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19 Whereas the Montana Kaimin has incurred increased expenses due to the sharply raising
20 cost of newsprint and printing costs;

21
22 Whereas the Montana Kaimin employs *as many as 48* ~~about forty five~~ students to
23 produce the publication;

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25 Whereas the Montana Kaimin has experienced a significant increase in wages paid due to
26 the minimum wage increases that have occurred regularly since the last fee increase in
27 2003;

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29 Whereas an increase of \$1.00 to the Kaimin Fee would help cover the rising minimum
30 wage;

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32 Whereas the Montana Kaimin has made crucial strides in developing a stronger web
33 presence during the 2010-2011 academic year;

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35 Whereas the <http://www.montanakaimin.com> website receives an average of 11,000
36 unique page views per week;

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38 Whereas an increase of \$1.00 to the Kaimin Fee would allow the newspaper to develop a
39 staff position in the business office that solely concentrates on selling, designing, and
40 producing web advertisements;

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42 Whereas the Montana Kaimin will be losing access to the University of Montana School
43 of Journalism's digital camera inventory;

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45 Whereas this fee increase would allow the Kaimin to purchase and maintain its own
46 camera inventory;

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Whereas the Montana Kaimin generates significant income through its sales of advertisements, reaching \$79,706 so far during the 2010/2011 academic year;

Whereas the newspaper’s budget has shrunk from \$261,000 in 2008/2009 to \$250,000 this academic year, and that number is expected to be even lower next year;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) supports submitting the referendum language increasing the Kaimin Fee by \$1.00;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that ASUM submits the following referendum language for the 2011 elections:

Montana Kaimin

The Montana Kaimin is proposing a *\$1.00* ~~\$2.00~~ increase to the Montana Kaimin fee. The Montana Kaimin is the only student run newspaper for the University of Montana and *employs as many as* ~~and more than~~ 48 students to prepare and design the publication. This fee would be used to offset the increasing costs of printing, support the Kaimin’s online advertising office, purchase camera equipment, and pay for the increases in minimum wage since 2003. The Montana Kaimin has not had their fee increased for eight years.

Yes, I support increasing the Montana Kaimin fee from \$4.00 to \$5.00 per semester.

No, I do not support increasing the Montana Kaimin fee from \$4.00 to \$5.00 per semester

Passed by Committee: _____, 2011

Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2011

Travis Suzuki,
Relations and Affairs Chair

Amanda Stovall,
Chair of the Senate