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1 **The Associated Students of The University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Amending House Rules: Conflicts of Interest in Voting**
 September 16, 2009
 Senate Bill SB3-09/10

Authored by: Matt Fennell, ASUM President
 Sponsored by: Emily May, ASUM Vice President
 Jake Armstrong, ASUM Business Manager

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5 Whereas, the ASUM Senate screens all resolutions and budgetary requests made to ASUM;

6
7 Whereas, a conflict of interest arises when voting members of the ASUM Senate are involved in
8 groups that lobby the Senate for funding;

9
10 Whereas, Parliamentary Procedure requires voting members to abstain from voting on issues in
11 which they hold a conflict of interest;

12
13 Whereas, to address conflicts of interest in funding agencies, members of the ASUM
14 Administration, Senators and Executive Officers, are not allowed to hold the directorship of any
15 agency while part of the Administration;

16
17 Whereas, in no ASUM governing document is there a stipulation that ASUM Senators and
18 Executives cannot vote on budgetary requests and/or resolutions that would directly benefit
19 themselves as a member of a student group;

20
21 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that the ASUM Senate amends ASUM House Rules Section 2 to
22 include section L:

23 **Section 2. Senate Meetings:**

24 A. Unless the ASUM Constitution or Bylaws dictate otherwise, Senate meetings shall be
25 conducted according to the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order. The Senate may
26 amend its own rules of parliamentary law by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, and those rules
27 shall become part of the House Rules.

28 B. In the absence of both the President and the Vice President, the Business Manager shall
29 chair Senate meetings. In the absence of all officers, the Senate shall select a temporary
30 chair from its membership, approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate.

31 C. All proposed resolutions and motions introduced during "New Business" shall be placed
32 under "Unfinished Business" for the following Senate meeting. Discussion and voting may
33 take place only under "Unfinished Business" unless the Senate suspends the rules by a two-
34 thirds (2/3) majority vote.

35 D. Resolutions or motions to support or oppose increases in University of Montana or
36 ASUM student fees shall be held under "Unfinished Business" until the Senate meeting two
37 weeks after its introduction.

38 E. All approved actions of University Center Board, Relations and Affairs, SPA, and Board
39 on Budget and Finance may be forwarded to the next ASUM Senate meeting as a seconded

40 motion, a seconded motion meaning that a resolution need not be submitted under New
41 Business and after one week be debated under "Unfinished Business."

42 F. All Senate resolutions introduced as "New Business" must be given to the Vice
43 President and the Office Manager in electronic form before 12 p.m. on the Monday
44 preceding the meeting at which they are to be debated under "Unfinished Business."
45 Resolutions not in compliance with this rule shall be accepted at the discretion of the
46 committee chair.

47 G. All resolutions introduced under "New Business" shall be referred by the Vice President,
48 acting as committee whip, to the appropriate committee or board. Prior to debate before the
49 full Senate, the committee or board shall give its recommendation either for or against
50 approval, or may elect not to forward a resolution to the Senate.

51 H. The Vice President shall post, in the ASUM office, a list of all resolutions submitted for
52 consideration at the next ASUM Senate meeting 24 hours preceding the meeting. The list
53 shall state the ASUM standing committee to which each resolution has been referred.

54 I. Quorum shall be defined as two-thirds (2/3) of the total number of Executives and
55 Senators currently holding office. No business may be conducted in the absence of a
56 quorum. This rule may not be suspended.

57 J. No Executive or Senator may do homework, use a personal phone or leave the Senate
58 meeting prior to adjournment without returning or the consent of the Chair. Violations that
59 occur after one warning will result in an unexcused absence.

60 K. The final vote on all resolutions voted on by the ASUM Senate requires a roll call vote
61 unless approved by unanimous consent.

62 *L. Voting members of the ASUM Senate are required to abstain from any vote pertaining to*
63 *a club or outside organization in which they are personally involved that stands to benefit*
64 *financially from the outcome of the vote. In the event that a quorum cannot be reached due*
65 *to abstentions, this rule may be waived by privilege of the Chair.*

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Passed by Committee: _____, 2009

Passed by Senate: _____, 2009

70 _____,
71 Andrew Dusek,
Relations and Affairs Chair

_____,
Emily May,
Chair of the Senate