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1 **The Associated Students of The University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Regarding ASCRC’s Repeat Fee Proposal**
3 **October 1st, 2008**
4 **Senate Bill SB14-08/09**
5 **Authored by: Trevor Hunter, ASUM President**
6

7 Whereas. in 1995 the University implemented a mandatory fee of \$100.00 for any student who wanted to
8 replace an existing grade with their new grade, and have their GPA recalculated as a result;

9 Whereas, the justification for this policy was that there were too many students for too little classroom space,
10 faculty, etc – it was never meant to be a revenue stream for the University, but that has become the current
11 argument for it;

12 Whereas, ASUM, the Academic Standards and Curriculum Review Committee (ASCRC), and the Faculty
13 Senate have been working on revising The University of Montana’s repeat fee policy for almost two years;

14 Whereas, current UM policy states that “all courses repeated remain on the permanent record, but only the last
15 grade received is used to determine credits earned...all grades are used to calculate the GPA unless the \$100.00
16 per course repeat fee is paid...if the repeat fee is paid, only the last grade received is used in calculating the
17 GPA”;

18 Whereas, current policy requires students to pay for a course twice – first with tuition and again with the repeat
19 fee –discriminating against financially-limited students;

20 Whereas. a recent study of 42 universities conducted by ASCRC student members showed that 38.1% (16) of
21 Universities have “free repeats”, 45.2% (19) have “limited repeats” but with no cost, and only 7.1% (3) have a
22 fee associated with grade recalculation;

23 Whereas, ASUM, ASCRC, and the Faculty Senate all reached agreement in Spring 2007 that the repeat fee
24 should be eliminated, but President Dennison refused to remove the fee;

25 Whereas, the Academic Standards and Curriculum Review Committee’s (ASCRC) most recent repeat fee
26 proposal was passed on Tuesday, September 30, 2008;

27
28 Whereas, the current proposal by ASCRC seeks to mandate a requirement for students, on the front end of
29 registration, to choose either to recalculate their GPA for \$50.00 or never be able to recalculate their GPA;
30 ~~leaving the student with a GPA that is essentially averaged at no cost;~~
31

32 Whereas, if a student unknowingly does not opt into the plan on the front end, that student will be at a
33 disadvantage compared to an informed student who did not make that mistake, thus making it impossible to
34 recalculate their GPA;

35
36 Whereas, this proposal may reach “revenue neutrality” with the University, but it is still inadequate at
37 addressing the financial burden on students and changes the status quo in a negative way;

38
39 Whereas, this proposal adds the fee on the front end of registration, where there is no guarantee to the student
40 that their new grade will be desirable, as opposed to the current policy which is upon completion of the course;

41
42 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that ASUM strongly disagrees with ASCRC’s latest repeat fee proposal.
43

44 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that ASUM encourages ASCRC, the Faculty Senate, and President
45 Dennison to reach an agreeable compromise that does not disadvantage students who were not previously
46 disadvantaged, and which also does not discriminate against financially-limited students.
47

48 Passed by Committee: _____, 2008

49 Passed by Senate: October 1, 2008

50 _____

51 Andrew Dusek,
52 Relations and Affairs Chair
53

Siri Smillie,
Chair of the Senate