SB29-08/09: Classified Staff Wages

Svein Newman
Whereas, classified staff are an integral part of campus life. They cook, clean, and keep buildings, services, and departments running. Without their hard work, the university would cease to function;

Whereas, entry wage for a full-time UM janitor is $8.25 per hour (approximately $17,000 per year), with minor longevity increases every five years;

Whereas, this is significantly less than a living wage;

Whereas, the discrepancy between these two figures places an undue burden upon university staff, often forcing individuals to work multiple jobs, sell plasma, and shop at the Food Bank;

Whereas, this is unacceptable at an institution whose mission statement emphasizes "community building", humanity, and ethics;

Whereas, the discrepancy also makes staff hiring and retention difficult;

Whereas, this problem is not confined to Missoula, but exists throughout the Montana University System. MSU-Bozeman janitors, for instance, start at an hourly wage of $8.87;

Therefore, Let it Be Resolved that ASUM supports the Montana Public Employees Association in their call for higher university staff wages.

Therefore, Let it Be Further Resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Board of Regents.

Therefore, Let it Be Further Resolved that this resolution be forwarded to the Montana Associated Students with the hope that it will take action of the issue.