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SB78-13/14: Constitutional Referenda

Asa Hohman

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Hohman, Asa, "SB78-13/14: Constitutional Referenda" (2014). *Senate Resolutions, 2007-Present*. 358.
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1 **The Associated Students of The University of Montana**
2 **Constitutional Referenda**
3 **March 26, 2014**
4 **SB78-13/14**

5 **Authored by: Asa Hohman, ASUM President**

6
7 Whereas, the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) are the elected body of
8 student governance at the University of Montana;

9
10 Whereas, a healthy and deep pool of candidates promotes both the vitality of ASUM and better
11 represents the students at the University of Montana;

12
13 Whereas, ASUM currently requires anyone wishing to run for ASUM office to complete a
14 petition of fifty, and one hundred signatures, for Senate, and executive candidates respectively;

15
16 Whereas, requiring candidates to obtain petition signatures is an unnecessary barrier to entry;

17
18 Whereas, barriers to the democratic process hinder involvement and degrade the democratic
19 process;

20
21 Whereas, requiring petition signatures extends the already lengthy elections process;

22
23 Whereas, Article 7, Section 4, Subsection A of the ASUM constitution currently states:

24
25 Members of the Association may file for candidacy by petitions signed by at least fifty
26 (50) registered students and may file for candidacy for the office of Executive or
27 Business Manager by petitions signed by at least one hundred (100) registered students.
28

29 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that referenda language be placed on the April 2014, ballot,
30 reading as follows:

31
32 ASUM is requesting to strike the petition-gathering requirement for the ASUM elections
33 process. Currently Senate, and executive candidates must gather fifty (50) and one hundred (100)
34 signatures respectively to run for office. ASUM would like to eliminate this process, which
35 would allow anyone to run for any position by simply filing with ASUM:

36
37 Yes, I support striking the petition-gathering requirement of the ASUM constitution regarding
38 elections.

39
40 No, I do not support striking the petition-gathering requirement of the ASUM constitution
41 regarding elections.

42
43 Passed by Committee: March 24, 2014

44
45 Passed by ASUM Senate: March 26, 2014

46 Final Vote: 15Y-5N-3A
47

48
49 _____
50 Sean McQuillan,
 Relations and Affairs Chair

48
49 _____
50 Mariah Williams,
 Chair of the Senate