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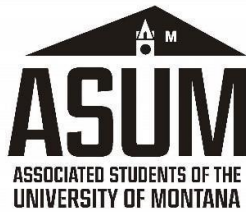
Fall 11-17-2021

Documents from the November 17, 2021 Meeting of the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM)

University of Montana–Missoula. Associated Students

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**ASUM SENATE AGENDA
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2021
University Center (UC) – 6:00 P.M.**

Public Comment Zoom Meeting ID: 941 9891 2038

Public Comment Zoom Meeting Link: <https://umontana.zoom.us/j/94198912038>

- 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 5. PRESIDENT’S REPORT**
 - a. COVID-19 Update
 - a. County Trends
 - b. Survey Results
 - b. MAS Update
 - c. Sustainability Coordinator Updates
 - d. KYIYO Donation
 - e. Other
- 6. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT**
 - a. Moment of Silence Honoring Chief Earl Old Person
 - b. Spring Retreat Information
 - c. Other
- 7. BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT**

Zero Base Carryover: \$279,611.56
S.T.I.P.: \$250,067.78
Special Allocation: \$19,359.04
Travel Allocation: \$51,338.68
Research & Creative Scholarship: \$17,360.20

Contingency Fund: \$67,197.55
Union Emergency: \$6,000.00

- a. Non-Compliance and Recognition Update
- b. Committee Reports
- c. Birthdays
- d. Other

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. SB46-21/22: Resolution Amending Article IV, Section 21 of the ASUM Bylaws in Regard to the Basic Needs Oversight Board
- b. SB47-21/22: Resolution Encouraging Faculty to Include Mental Health, Wellness, and Basic Needs Resources in Syllabi
- c. SB48-21/22: Resolution Endorsing Montana 10 Initiatives
- d. SB49-21/22: Resolution Expanding ASUM's Stance Regarding COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement Based on UM Student and Faculty/Staff Survey(s)
- e. SB50-21/22: Resolution Encouraging Campus Dining to Implement a Round-Up Donation System to Mitigate Basic Needs Insecurity

10. NEW BUSINESS

11. ADJOURNMENT

**ASUM SENATE MINUTES
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2021
University Center (UC) 225 – 6:00 P.M.**

To view a Zoom recording of this meeting, please click [here](#).

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting Called to Order at 6:01 pm

2. ROLL CALL

Present: President Durnell, Vice President Lock, BM Rinck; Senators Bell, Berget, Birdinground, Bowles, Glueckert, Gudmundsson, Hawes, Hawthorne, Heaton, Jolly, Kayne, Keller, Kiefer, Kuney, La'a, McKenzie, O'Neill, Shaver, Ververis, Williams

See the roll call [here](#).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to Approve the November 10, 2021 Minutes by **Kuney-Birdinground**; UC Called

See the November 10, 2021 minutes [here](#).

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Kamilla Tanaka (*Statement on behalf of Kennedy-Anne Marx*): I believe that each person on campus has their own important reasons for gathering and brings value to this campus. I think that it is more important to take care of each other and our community. A very simple way to take care of our community is wearing a mask. I am a student and have a job and am involved in a student group, and I do everything I need to do while wearing a mask. Though it can be irritating and sometimes tiring, I do it because I believe in taking care of my community and my campus. Multiple times I have seen Resonate Church [members] not wearing a mask while gathering for their events. If they are going to be recognized by ASUM, they need to create a plan to enforce mask wearing among their members so they can gather safely. It is a simple rule and I think it is important for all clubs to uphold.
- b. Kapono Mossman (*Statement on behalf of Jessica Ponce*): The COVID-19 pandemic has been going on since March 2020. We are coming up to that two year anniversary. Our cities and hospitals are at capacity, our healthcare workers are burnt out. As someone whose family is heavily employed in the medical field across different regions, I can tell you that things do not seem to be getting better. The University heavily encourages that individuals get the vaccine because it is the best way of protecting ourselves and others around us. While there is heavy opposition to this, the next best thing is to mask up. The masking requirement here is something I do not take lightly. I have gotten vaccinated and utilized the booster resources at Curry Health and I still make it a habit to wear my mask in required areas. The lack of care and consideration for others is astounding and is a clear representation of privilege. As a BIPOC member, it has been seen in our different histories the pandemics that have been spread, resulting in mass death. We have this history right here in Missoula- in the 18th century, an epidemic of diseases wiped out nearly 80% of Salish speaking tribes due to the lack of health considerations by non-indigenous people. My point is, no group or individual is above policy that is meant to look after the health and wellbeing of the community. I am sick and tired of hearing about individuals being at a health risk because someone is prioritizing their own comfort over other's health. I would like to highlight that no religion is mentioned as a reason to blame. I myself have grown up under religion and understand how important that can be to someone's identity, but there can be no excuses when it comes to the health and safety of the world community.

- c. Kapono Mossman: I am speaking as an RA. When I hear about these things, it does make me upset because we have to remind residents about masking and can result in writeups. We do not want to be the police of masks, though it is our duty to. I would like there to be a bigger notion for groups and individuals to follow these policies. It is hard as a student to remind people and keep them on track.

Online Public Comment

Lyssa Schei

Lyssa.schei@umontana.edu

I wish the vaccine survey had been done differently. As a fully vaccinated student, I wish that I could've provided input on why I got the vaccine, so students with vaccine hesitancy could also express their reasoning behind not getting it. The vaccine has become so politically polarized, and ASUM should be using this vaccine survey as a mechanism to start a conversation, rather than making students feel as though their education is at risk due to their vaccination status. Additionally, I have multiple concerns about the transparency of this survey: what is it being used for? Who is going to be privy to this information? Just doing a multiple-choice vaccine survey so we can tell OCHE to mandate it without getting the full scope of why people continue to have vaccine hesitancies just comes across as tactless. Some people are hesitant due to medical conditions, some are worried about the historical precedent, and some just don't want to get it -- and their reasoning deserves to be emphasized and should have been through a "comments" section at the end of the survey.

UM Food Pantry

umpantry@mso.umt.edu

Please consider signing up to volunteer with the UM Food Pantry for Can the Cats this week. We need all hands on deck collecting the donation bins from around campus and weighing the donations. The link to our volunteer slots on SignUp Genius is below!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050a4aacad2da1fe3-canthe2>

Emily Kopania

Emily.kopania@umconnect.umt.edu

I am strongly in favor of a vaccine mandate for students, faculty, and staff.

Nikea Ulrich

Nikea.ulrich@umontana.edu

As a graduate student teaching assistant at UMT, I am in favor of a vaccine mandate. It is the right thing to do. I would feel both more comfortable and safer knowing that all students have taken the important step of being vaccinated against COVID-19. Many other large universities (e.g. Indiana University and many others) have already implemented a vaccine mandate. University of Montana should do so as well.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- a. COVID-19 Update
 - a. County Trends: 64 new cases as of yesterday and a 44 case seven day average, showing a linear decline. We want this to fall below a substantial category.
 - b. Committees: Related committees postponed meetings this week, but they will be discussing the mask requirement soon.
 - c. Survey Results: Yield due to later resolution discussion.
- b. MAS Update: Met today at 4:00 pm. VP Lock and I proposed a resolution regarding OER, which passed unanimously with minimal discussion. I asked MAS President Kunze to speak on behalf of the OER initiative tomorrow. The body suspended the Bylaws to consider executive positions being filled with a motion to reconsider at a later date. The MAS due section of the Bylaws was also suspended, which was likely due to a miscommunication. Christine Miller spoke about the importance of whatever led the large amount of MAS numbers to be present today, and they will be present during BOR.
 - a. VP Lock: I think it is worth stating my concerns with MAS. MAS represents all of you, the way you represent UM students. You will have the chance to interact with MAS members, so it may be worth speaking with them about a lack of participation and attendance in MAS and other matters that are of your interest. It is an ongoing issue that has been exacerbated by the pandemic. Although it is beyond the scope of ASUM, I think it is something that we need to be aware of and holding those who are impeding that improvement responsible.
 - b. BM Rinck: MAS is especially important statewide and maintaining their strength is very important. Thank you to VP Lock and President Durnell for holding MAS together. We should all share frustrations and communicate that in terms of holding their executives to the same standard we hold our own executives to.
- c. Sustainability Coordinator Updates: Maddy Jones has accepted a position at the Trevor Project and will step down for ASUM. It is a bittersweet moment, so if you get the opportunity to see her, make sure to thank her for her service and congratulate her on her new position.
 - a. Kuney: What is the logistics of hiring the new coordinator?

- b. President Durnell: It goes through the University HR process because it is a classified staff position. There will be a committee and there will be questions approved by HR, and the job position being approved by HR. It is a fairly standard hiring process that you might see for other similar positions at the university.
- d. KYIYO Donation: President Bodnar announced a \$300,000 endowment to KYIYO to help fund their powwows and it is named in honor of the late Chief Earl Old Person. They hope to grow that endowment in the future and make sure it permanently funds the powwow in full. What is unique about that endowment is that it was directly under President Bodnar's discretion, so we should thank him for that initiative.
- e. Other
 - a. None.

6. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- a. Moment of Silence Honoring Chief Earl Old Person
 - a. Birdinground: The longest serving indigenous leader passed away. He was the chairman of the Blackfoot tribe for over 50 years. He was an outspoken leader and spoke for students to attend higher education because in his view education is above all. He was a role model to many people and touched everyone's hearts. He has a lot of funny stories that were told at the KYIYO donation on Monday. All in all, he was a great leader.
 - b. *Moment of silence observed.*
- b. Spring Retreat Information: January 15th. I would like for us to have as much participation as possible. We will be covering budgeting and elections, both of which will command most of our attention in the Spring. It will be a single day commitment. We will have a bias training in the morning and informational sessions, and we will do something fun following that. I will provide more information soon so you can plan.
- c. Other
 - a. None.

7. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Zero Base Carryover: \$279,611.56
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- a. Non-Compliance and Recognition Update
 - a. Regarding the conversation about Resonate and their noncompliance with masking. I want to move through this delicately and fairly, but this will be a decision made by BOMO, who will choose to send the recognition request back to Senate. I reached out to club leadership and let them know they can attend public comment during BOMO, and the complainants can do the same. I, the other executives, and individuals in our office have been trying to gather as much information as possible with regard to Resonate's events, the historical context of the group, and otherwise. You are all afforded opportunities to come to BOMO and give comment tomorrow at 1:30 pm in the ASUM Conference Room.
 - b. President Durnell: With this particular conversation, there is a section in the Bylaws, Article 4 Section 4 to pay attention to. Section 4 stipulates some requirements for recognition, including the student conduct code in which face coverings are explicitly mentioned. Other parts of the governing documents are important regarding the information as well, so I welcome you to inform yourself about this matter.
 - c. Glueckert: I am wondering the process moving forward. From my understanding, you are collecting more information, but when should we expect to see this on the floor to make a decision?
 - d. BM Rinck: Ideally the decision will be made tomorrow to forward or not, but that is up to the discretion at the Board.
 - e. Ververis: If BOMO decided to derecognize, would BOMO have the opportunity to forward that to the Senate if they so chose?
 - f. BM Rinck: This would not necessarily be a motion to derecognize, because they have not been recognized yet. We typically try to address issues before forwarding to Senate.
 - g. Glueckert: When this does come back to Senate I am trying to figure out our options as a Senate. We can choose not to recognize, to recognize them with provisions, but is that our decision to make?
 - h. Gudmundsson: (*Yielded to by BM Rinck*) We have talked about BOMO being able to provisionally recognize a group. I think a lot of the reason groups have not been seen by Senate is because their risk management form is not complete or adequate for student safety. In some cases that is as simple as being a bit more thorough, but in some cases, it may be a failure to upload student policies. I would be surprised if we end up on that fringe case side of it, but we can provisionally send it forward as a Board.
 - i. Glueckert: When you provisionally recognize, how might that look?

- j. Gudmundsson: If we end up in that position, it will be a discussion in which we decide what is reasonable while keeping safety in mind. If we do end up there, it will likely be a broader discussion in Senate.
 - k. BM Rinck: In my view, provisionally recognizing is under BOMO's discretion, such as not reducing rates for renting meeting spaces.
 - l. Bell: To BM Rinck- Why is this not something that university has upheld more in terms of holding these students accountable?
 - m. BM Rinck: The universities purview may hold them to that policy, but it is essentially an ASUM sanctioned event, even a group seeking recognition. That is a broader question in terms of compliance across campus that should be considered in terms of university enforcement.
- b. Committee Reports
- a. University Budget Committee: Mary Kreta talked about student enrollment planning and how that connects with revenue created by new students. She presented about how UM is changing their approach to strategic enrollment planning with a more active and encompassing approach. That led to a discussion and there was a conversation about Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) students and their impact on generated revenue. As good as WUE students are, they graduate at higher rates, their retention rates are higher, they graduate quicker, but we get less revenue from them due to the program. We have seen a 35% increase in WUE students. Mary Kreta thinks that is a great think from an enrollment perspective, but Paul Lasiter was concerned with the revenue. Tuition for WUE students has recently increased the most.
- c. Birthdays
- a. Secretary Berna ☺
- d. Other
- a. None.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. VP Lock: I will not be calling the Senate to order next week because we will be on Thanksgiving break.
- b. Ververis (Gen Ed Ad Hoc Working Group): Kelly Webster, Greg Peters and I met to talk about what we want to present to the larger committee. We talked about DEI being the core and we were largely in agreement. We discussed the requirement of language in the current model, which is something I am opposed to, though they seemed to be for it. We had a greater conversation about how the three of us thought that our core courses should be what UM should represent in terms of ideals, so I am very happy with the result of that conversation.

- c. Gudmundsson (BMAC): SAL Graves, Senator Heaton and I tabled at Missoula College, and it went well. We tried to bring ASUM materials and other group materials, and our hope is that by the time we table their next, we will have accrued some materials from student groups. Feel free to provide these from student groups.
 - a. Kuney: To Gudmundsson- Do Missoula College students pay the ASUM student fee?
 - b. Gudmundsson: Yes, they do.
- d. McKenzie (SPA): Met on Friday to discuss the resolution regarding the COVID-19 survey and we voted unanimously to forward that to RA. Moving on from the survey, we are going to start focusing our attention on the housing crisis. Senator Bowles and I met with the mayor to discuss his vision for the future of Missoula, and we discussed ways in which UM can express to city council what we are struggling with. We would like to continue discussing that with you all, and we may have the mayor attend one of our meetings to discuss his plans.
 - a. President Durnell: I reached out to Mayor Engen today regarding his interest in speaking to the Senate, so I will update you all on that.
 - b. Bowles: As much as the mayor is excited to possibly speak with us, he also expressed that when we do put forth our housing plan as SPA, that he was very excited to see our opinions. If you want to look at that and provide comment, please let us know.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. SB46-21/22: Resolution Amending Article IV, Section 21 of the ASUM Bylaws in Regard to the Basic Needs Oversight Board
 - a. Authorship (Glueckert): We discussed the Basic Needs Oversight Board, which is fairly new. When you implement new committees, it is not common to have updates. From hearings, it seemed that a couple of changes needed to be made, including changing the Chair to a Senator or SAL. The person who chairs now is the BNA Director, who brings great expertise, but they sit as an ex-officio with no voting power. If a tie comes forward, they could not break it. It is also uncommon to have an agency director oversee their oversight board. I had prior discussion with Director Cowley, and she seemed very in favor of this, particularly because of the caseload happening with the agency being so new.
 - b. Authorship (Ververis): This makes the committee run more efficiently.
 - c. Authorship (Bowles): This is something that we probably did not notice until their first meeting, so we want to amend this before the second meeting so it can run effectively. The BNA Director is aware of this and in favor of this.

- d. Motion by **Ververis** for a slate: L6- remove the comma after ASUM Senator and replace with semicolon; L24- comma after “ex-officio member”; L37- capitalize resolution; Ruled Friendly by Authors
- e. President Durnell: In creating this oversight board, I am largely in support of this. It was not working as efficiently as it should have, so I thank the authors for making this change.
- f. **SB46-21/22 Approved Unanimously** [*Senators Kiefer, Williams Unavailable for Vote*]
- g. See the approved resolution [here](#).
- b. SB47-21/22: Resolution Encouraging Faculty to Include Mental Health, Wellness, and Basic Needs Resources in Syllabi
 - a. Authorship (Glueckert): I am a mental health and wellness worker at the Business School, and I work closely with those at the Wellness Center, and I have been in close contact with Director Cowley, and one thing brought up continuously is the knowledge about these resources by students. When you think about attending UM, every student receives a syllabus when attending a class, which is a very good resource to provide information. This takes a very simple things and implements a way for students to know where these resources are, because we have so many great resources. There is a lot of data surrounding UM students and the stress regarding basic needs, food insecurity, housing, and otherwise despite these resources being available. We are not asking a lot out of faculty with this, and we provide language that can be included.
 - b. VP Lock: My name is on the authorship line, but Senator Glueckert did the majority of the work on this.
 - c. Kuney: I would like to voice my support for this. In personal experience, mental health is something staff are willing to acknowledge but not always accommodate for. With the BNA implementation, we are on the right track. Not a lot of people utilize or know of the student resources we have, so I think it important to vote yes.
 - d. Motion by **Ververis** as a slate: L12- “is the governing body of the students and advocate,” and strike “advocating” and strike “’s”; L15- read “students with a syllabi”; L24- “syllabi would be an efficient means” and strike “good way for students to obtain”; L100- capitalize resolution; Ruled Friendly by Authors
 - e. Hawthorne: I am in full support of this. Students who are not as connected can feel uncomfortable and not know where to start with accessing these resources, so having this on syllabi is something accessible for all students.

- f. Berget: I voice my support for this as well and it is a good point that it is simple for professors to add to their syllabi. This may also give them incentive to update their syllabi generally.
- g. Motion by **Bowles-Heaton** to amend L95 to include “Student Advocacy Resource Center (SARC) supports students and their right to an academic setting free from discrimination, unwelcome physical, sexual, emotional, or social coercion, and provides services to listen, believe, assist, and support students who may be facing these issues. SARC’s can be contacted by calling (406) 243-4429 The twenty-four (24) hour crisis line number is (406) 243-6559”; UC Called
- h. Motion by **McKenzie** to amend L18 to add a period after “etc”; Ruled Friendly by Authors
- i. Motion by **Williams** to amend L83 to read “ASUM Bear Necessities Agency” and strike “(Bear Necessities); Ruled Friendly by Authors
- j. Motion by **President Durnell** to delete “s” after “SARC” and include a space after “calling”; Ruled Friendly by Authors
- k. Motion by **Glueckert-Gudmundsson** to amend L101 to include “The SARC office is located at Curry Health Center, Room 108, or”, delete period after first phone number and amend to read “and the”; UC Called
- l. Motion by **Williams** for a slate: L87- remove “AS” in front of “UM”, L88- capitalize “food pantry”, L92- replace “office” with “Center”; Ruled Friendly by Authors
- m. **SB47-21/22 Approved Unanimously [Senator Kiefer Unavailable for Vote]**
- n. *See the approved resolution [here](#).*
- c. SB48-21/22: Resolution Endorsing Montana 10 Initiatives
 - a. Authorship (President Durnell): This initiative was piloted at UM and Helena and Missoula Colleges, but is a great priority for the MUS. The initiative supports students who are at high risk of not being able to afford or continue college, those of which are largely Pell Grant eligible and indigenous students. It crafts multiple (10) initiatives such as financial and advising support. When you look at retention rates for Montana 10 students, it shows a 16% increase for MT 10 students, with a higher credit accumulation as well. This was implemented for the freshman student body, and these were incredible numbers. I see a lot of reasons to support this at an institutional and statewide level.
 - b. Authorship (Shaver): I am a Montana 10 scholar, and this is why I am at UM. It is so nice to have this support and it provides such a close community. I wish this could be implemented on the broadest level possible. Without this group of advisors looking out for me, I think my performance would be much

- less. I feel like this is an amazing program and I will be talking about it at BOR.
- c. Bowles: I support this resolution. If you are not familiar with Montana 10, I suggest you read their website. I wish this is something we could provide on a larger scale. It offers many great services.
 - d. Motion by **Heaton-Kuney** to amend L44 to read “Accessibility” after “Equity”; UC Called; Discussion Called by President Durnell
 - i. Heaton: I would like to add the word accessibility to complete DEAI and this speaks to low-income students having accessibility to education.
 - ii. President Durnell: This specific clause cites our core values, and though we do greatly value accessibility, it would have to be in a separate whereas clause.
 - iii. *Motion withdrawn.*
 - e. Motion by **President Durnell-Gudmundsson** to make a slate of amendments as presented; UC Called
 - f. **SB48-21/22 Approved Unanimously** [Senator Kiefer Unavailable for Vote]
 - g. *See the approved resolution [here](#).*
- d. SB49-21/22: Resolution Expanding ASUM’s Stance Regarding COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement Based on UM Student and Faculty/Staff Survey(s)
- a. Authorship (McKenzie): Today I am excited to speak to you about the results of the surveys that were sent out to UM students, faculty and staff on behalf of ASUM to ask for their opinions on whether or not they would support a COVID-19 vaccine requirement for in-person attendance here at UM. Both of these surveys received IRB approval from this institution and not only asked if students, faculty, and staff if they would support it, but also asked them questions on their opinions if they did not support it with regard to whether or not they would leave UM if a requirement was implemented, in addition to other questions that asked for their COVID-19 vaccine status, and a series of demographic questions for generalizability. The idea to conduct this survey came out of conversations with the university administration and Board of Regents following ASUM passing the “Resolution Establishing ASUM’s Demands Regarding COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement” at the beginning of September. The demands set forth within the resolution to implement a vaccine requirement were met with statements of fear that if implemented, Montana Universities would see a drastic drop in enrollment and faculty and staff employment. While these concerns may be true for some public universities in the state, I felt an obligation to fulfill my promise as an ASUM senator and that is to advocate for the general welfare of all students at the University of Montana. In doing so, I believe that advocating for the students

with regard to the health and safety risks associated with COVID-19, this duty not only meant asking for the students views on this topic (not assuming them), but also asking for and advocating for the views of the faculty and staff. After all, advocating for students also means advocating for the very faculty and staff that are required for the existence of the University. The purpose of this expanded resolution is to report on the results of each survey and to ask for the administration to consider the results as a plausible reason to implement a vaccine requirement for in person attendance at the University of Montana, and/or to consider the results and allow for greater autonomy for the faculty in making decisions in the method they use to conduct classes that meets the standards of health and safety during a pandemic. This resolution is not meant to impose demands, it is simply to inform and call on the university to consider taking action. That being said, let me dive right into the basic level results. Starting with the students, the results are as follows: An estimated 26% of students responded with 58.04% of UM students supporting a COVID-19 vaccination requirement for in-person attendance and 41.96% of UM students not supporting one; of the 41.96% of students who indicated they do not support it, 19.11% of them indicated that they would get the COVID-19 vaccine if they were required to and 80.89% indicated that they would not; of the 80.89% of students who said they would not get the COVID-19 vaccine, 83.35% indicated that they would leave UM, and 16.65% indicated that they would not; Meaning, if you break it down, about 25% of the student respondents said they would leave, and 75% said they support a COVID-19 vaccine requirement and/or would stay. Next, the results of the faculty/staff survey are as follows: An estimated 11.5% of Faculty or staff responded with 82.84% of UM faculty/staff supporting a COVID-19 vaccination requirement for in-person attendance and 17.16% of UM faculty/staff not supporting one; of the 17.16% of faculty/staff who indicated they do not support it, 24.14% of them indicated that they would get the COVID-19 vaccine if they were required to and 75.86% indicated that they would not; of the 75.86% of faculty/staff who said they would not get the COVID-19 vaccine, 72.73% indicated that they would leave UM and 27.27% indicated that they would not leave UM; Meaning that around 91% of faculty or staff would support and/or stay, and around 8% would leave. While the number of individuals who responded to both surveys that indicated they would not get the COVID-19 vaccine and would leave should be considered, the significance in the response rate for both of the surveys in addition to the majority of students who indicated support and the overwhelming number of faculty and staff support, these results should help to inform and send a message to UM that the majority of faculty, staff, and students at this

university would support this action. While I recognize the administration's concerns over students potentially leaving, it should be considered that if the university requires the students, faculty, and staff to attend in-person, and in order to do so safely during a pandemic, the university is not only responsible for taking all possible measures to ensure that not only the students are safe, but that all faculty and staff are ensured a safe and healthy working environment. That is not to say that the risk of students is not a valid concern, I don't want those students to leave, but I also would like UM to consider the amount of potential students who are not considering UM or Montana due to the health and safety risks that may make them more vulnerable. Alternatively, and/or in addition to a vaccine requirement, this resolution calls on the university to consider allowing the faculty to have greater autonomy in the ways in which class is conducted, for instance, allowing for them to create and conduct online classes if they are at an increased health risk, or for the purpose of transitioning online if or when the health and safety risks associated with the pandemic begin or continue to rise. I also recognize that even with the results presented, the administration and regents face many difficult challenges that will likely result in the decision to not implement a COVID-19 vaccine requirement, especially due to the concerns associated with the money that may be lost, or that the university will crumble due to the individuals who threaten to leave. To these concerns, and with all due respect, I stand by my statement made back in September before the rise in cases, you may be worried about a decline in numbers, I am worried about a decline in lives. I am saddened to say that my previous concerns became a reality and during the month of October 35 people were reported to have died of COVID-19 in Missoula County alone, and reported deaths continue into this month. I commend this university for taking precautions during this time by expanding the mask requirements to indoor spaces on campus. But I believe that the university (as well as other leaders in Missoula and Montana) understood and could see the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths continuing to rise and break records, but chose to continue, business as usual, but wear a mask indoors on campus, pack the Grizzly Washington stadium to capacity, mask optional, all while the hospitals faced capacity, and the national guard was brought in to assist with overflow. Our society seems to have forgotten the once regarded as prestigious and brave health care heroes at this university and throughout this community. These heroes continue to this day to show up, attempt to keep this community functioning, safe, and save lives despite what appears to be misinformed hesitancy and a lack of trust in their expertise and compassion for us. I call on this body to consider the significance of the results of the survey and vote yes on this resolution in an effort to inform the

university and the Board of Regents. I will do my best to answer any questions. With that I will yield my time to the other authors of the resolution. Thank you.

- b. Authorship (Bowles): I am sure Senator McKenzie will be modest, but she put in a lot of time and thought into this. It is amazing to see how successful this survey was. The data shows a lot of what our student body believes and what has been asked by multiple organizations on this campus. This is us furthering what we have been saying for months, is which that we would like this vaccine mandate. Overall, in other universities, it is not uncommon for a university to mandate a vaccination for students and/or faculty. I hope that the BOR looks at this seriously and processes the data. This is a well-researched and important resolution.
- c. Authorship (President Durnell): I am very moved by Senator McKenzie's authorship. In my capacity as President, the majority of my responsibilities regard COVID-19, which weighs heavy on me. Seeing the negative effects of the pandemic is heartbreaking. In previous discussions with faculty and students, some have said they thought it was unprecedented to take a stance on COVID-19 without knowing what students and faculty believe, but I disagree. Now, we do not have to disagree because we do have this data, as students and faculty are asking for it, as shown through this data. I feel like this brings us closer to the conclusion of some of these conversations and I look forward to seeing the direction it will take.
- d. Authorship (O'Neill): I deeply appreciate Senator McKenzie for her work, time, and thought on this. I appreciate her allowing me to be included as an author. This is a call for UM to take action because it underscores the importance of communicating for the Regents and UM Administration. I know both have critical pressures on them, but that should not take precedent over the lives of students, faculty, and staff they represent in their official capacity. I point your attention to the quotes at L204 and L209. These are inherently what this comes down to, the common good. I found it very interesting in the data results that of those who voted no, many of them were fully vaccinated. Your right to choose in this case is an issue because there is a strong community impact. I thank the authors and this body for your work
- e. Kuney: If this passes, would this be the first vaccine mandate that UM has passed?
- f. VP Lock: No, there is a slate of vaccinations required to attend UM.
- g. Ververis: Thank you to all of the authors.
- h. Bowles: In regard to seeing the RA version of this document, we are seeing many line level edits is because of how convoluted the meeting was and

because we began to run out of time. I do not think there would be an issue to showing the updated version of the document.

- i. VP Lock: Logistically, it has complicated things more than once, so I suggest everyone keep this in mind.
- j. POI (President Durnell): Does this include RA and the author's track changes?
 - i. Bowles: It does include the RA amendments.
- k. Meeting recessed at 7:32 pm; Meeting reconvened at 7:46 pm
- l. VP Lock: I apologize for the confusion with the documents, and I appreciate your patience.
- m. Motion by **McKenzie-Gudmundsson** to accept presented track changes; UC Called
- n. Motion by **Ververis-President Durnell** to correct line spacing to single and font to TNR 12 and insert spaces where necessary; UC Called
- o. Motion by **O'Neill-Birdinground** for a slate: amend citation note 9; L168- comma after "purposes"; amend footnotes to correct font; UC Called
- p. Motion by **Glueckert-Hawes** to amend footnote 5; UC Called
- q. Motion by **Williams-Kuney** for a slate: L43- comma after "faculty supervisor"; L48- comma after "2021"; L52- space after "2021"; L53- hyphenate "UM related" in this and every circumstance in the document; UC Called
- r. Bell: I fully support this resolution, and I appreciate all of the work that went into survey and this resolution. As devil's advocate, I think it comes across that most of the students support this, and it is not even a 2/3 majority supporting a vaccine mandate. A large amount of faculty would leave if this mandate was in place, which is about 45 people. The numbers lean toward a vaccine mandate, but there is a lot of hesitation in them. As representatives of these constituents, when more than half do not agree, that makes me weary.
- s. Keller: Thank you all for your hard work on this, it is nice to see actual data. We only reached 26% of the students on campus, which is something worth putting out there because as we are representatives of the study body, we are not representing half of them through this survey or resolution. With the Missoula County Health Department, COVID-19 cases hit a peak in mid-October and has declined ever since, which is important to add. I urge you to voice your opinion to represent not only the 26% of students, but to all students. I will be voting no.
- t. Gudmundsson: I want to highlight that 26% of the representative group is larger than those who voted in the ASUM election, meaning more students supported a vaccine mandate than they did our elections.

- u. Hawes: I will yield to Senator McKenzie for any clarifications on the nuances of survey data because I commend her knowledge. I do know a bit about survey data. Getting 26% of a population to respond is phenomenal, so this is massive survey for a survey. Surveys are usually not based on the responses of an entire population but are used as a tool to estimate what is likely of a whole population. This 26% of respondents is likely to be an accurate representation of the student body here. As to the concerns about those who may leave if this vaccine was mandated; it is not sure that these individuals would leave, because though it is a legitimate concern, we should leave this possibility open. This resolution is also not just pushing for the BOR to support a vaccine mandate but also pushes for support of faculty to be more flexible in how they choose to conduct their courses. Not having that modality in conducting courses is extremely hard for faculty, especially those who are more vulnerable. I strongly encourage everyone to vote yes.
- v. Jolly: I understand that 26% is a large percentage for a turnout for a survey, but it does not change that it is not 100% of the student body that we are meant to represent. In the written online public comment from earlier; I do applaud the efforts of the survey, but parts of this resolution and earlier comments put words in the mouths of students who are not vaccinated and/or does not want a mandate, and their comments were not included in the survey as an option to be presented. I will be voting no on this bill because I do not feel it is the most ethical way to go about this.
- w. Kayne: I will be voting no. Not to say anything against the bill itself, but the mandate. All of the work put into this is amazing and I am proud to serve with you. My “no” is to the mandate itself. I have been a scientist for a long time and though it is flattering that science is being trusted as much, the vaccine is not ready. Synthetic mRNA technology is very new, though we are getting closer. I would love to have conversations about the science away from here, but we are not ready. It is not the same vaccine that we have had traditionally that we require people to take when they attend this university. I have spoken with some of my collaborators about getting some studies together so we can find out more about the effects of these vaccines. We are getting more data about how the spike protein is breaking and are starting to see some of the negative side effects. Politics wrecked the good data and broke trust, which is very unfortunate. This kind of science is not ready for everyone to be forced to take something. I promise that we will see bad side effects in a lot of people, but I can understand both sides of the argument. It is not ready, and I am sorry that science is not fast enough, because mRNA technology is not ready. If we pretend that it is okay for us to decide what mRNA technology is, we are giving the companies and Dr. Fauci everything they want. I think we

should demand an actual vaccine and actual science for us to do more research. A quarter of the student body taking your survey was great, but this is not making it about our health, it is making it a political situation.

- x. Hawthorne: Going back to the survey numbers; 26% is very high. There were sentiments about the rest of the student body who did not participate in the survey, but we gave them a chance to make their survey heard. It is impossible to track down every student, and if they did not take it, they do not get to be mad.
- y. Birdinground: Thank you to Senator McKenzie for your outstanding effort on this initiative. Speaking from a Native American standpoint; on the reservation, more than a majority of natives have diabetes and suffer from other health issues. In our long history, Native Americans are more prone to death due to diseases that have been brought here. COVID-19 has done more to the Native American population than probably any other disease. I will be voting yes on this resolution to protect the health of my people and the health of their families.
- z. Kuney: Thank you to Senator McKenzie for putting together an excellent survey, because it is hard work. We are doing an awesome job and I am glad we are having this discourse because this a morally and emotionally taxing initiative. Good points have been brought up on both sides regarding personal liberties and our place as a body to encourage a mandate, and I feel some hesitancy.
- aa. McKenzie: Thank you to all of you who are on the fence, saying no or saying yes. It is important to consider all perspectives. The online public comment brought up in regard to the ethics of the survey; you essentially say you are not in support of the mandate by saying “no” during the survey questions. I feel like there was an opportunity to say you do not support the mandate and if you will leave and otherwise. In creating a survey of that magnitude, we can always add a comment section in the future, but that was not the intent of this survey. With regard to the hesitancy about the other 74% of those who did not take the survey; I have a chart about population size versus the amount of people you need to get in order to give a confidence interval about the results in relation to the rest of the population. With a population for students of about 10,000 who were given an opportunity to take the survey, to get a plus-minus 3% confidence interval that this result holds true for all students, you would need to get approximately 965 responses. We have 2,688 responses to this survey. With faculty and staff, I can say plus-minus 5% that this result holds true for that population with 232 responses, of which we got 338. I understand your concerns, and survey research is very difficult. I would like to point out that my statement in the beginning called on UM to consider the

results of the survey. I want this information to be shared publicly and for UM to consider the impact of doing the bare minimum, and what that looks like in the community, especially with holidays coming up.

- bb. O'Neill: I agree with previous sentiments that this is as clear of a voice we will receive from our constituents. I appreciate the knowledge about how important that 26% is. We are here to represent students, especially those who did make their opinion on this matter very clear. We are demanding the use of an actual vaccine which we have readily available to distribute. I have said all I can on this matter and I hope and encourage that folks vote yes for UM administration and the BOR to seriously consider this. I will end by saying that the devil already has enough advocates, and we are not here to represent him.
- cc. Bowles: The normal response rate for surveys is anywhere between 5-30%, which makes in this case, the data generalizable. We cannot tell where we are in this pandemic, so while we see a decrease in cases, that can be because we had such a high number of cases. Masks are not going to fully protect us, and only around 65% of the Missoula population is vaccinated. Pushing forward to make sure we can be safe because antibodies from getting COVID-19 only last about three months, so they can get infected again and spread the virus. It is best for us to consider options to keep the population safe and avoid 30 deaths each month.
- dd. Williams: There are different approaches to implementing a vaccine mandate and some of those approaches getting the vaccine or being subjected to regular COVID-19 testing, which is a huge undertaking logistically. I think that is worth considering when we are talking about a vaccine mandate. We are not forcing people to get this vaccine because they chose to come to this school. It is concerning that an amount of people would leave, but we do not have statistics about those who may be attracted to attending here if we had a mandate.
- ee. Glueckert: I want to go back to the fact that wonderful Senator McKenzie went out of her way to also getting IRB approval, so we did go about this in an ethical way. To refer to the online public comment, we did not have a comment box for those who do not want the mandate, but there was not a comment box for those who do. Adding a comment box adds much more work to a long process, especially when we are two years into this pandemic. To note the resolution passed earlier this year on this topic; we are obligated to get certain vaccines to attend this university, and I do not think we should deter the COVID-19 vaccine because they are approved, and we have not seen a lot of backlash on any of this. I argue that it is a real vaccine that has proven to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Speaking to students leaving if this

mandate was placed; in my opinion, that does not sadden me, it makes me more comfortable for myself and my peers. I am interested in seeing the attractiveness of UM go up if we had this mandate. I will be voting an overwhelming yes. This is so imperative to our student body, our community, and the world.

- ff. Bell: If we are saying that these numbers are almost exactly representative of the study body, then we are willing to accept a 30% of students with a mandate. I am having a hard time discerning my feelings on this, so I think I will abstain. I wonder if this would be stronger if the approval of other vaccinations is included.
- gg. Gudmundsson: I want to note how overwhelmingly one-sided student opinion is on this. We have had student group leaders, faculty and staff, show up and explain why they think we are on track with these conversations, but we have not had students express their honest concerns about a mandate. We have not had a public comment section of students saying they will leave if a mandate is made, but we have had students say they are for a mandate. The practical display supports the data here. We have provided ample opportunity for comment, so I will understate that the actual student engagement has been by students who support this idea largely.
- hh. Keller: Being from Washington, I have seen the negative effects of vaccine mandates. According to this, 45 faculty would leave UM if this was mandated. Washington has implemented a mandate for the majority of workers, and 25% of the transportation workforce in Washington has resigned or been fired. That will affect winter road conditions and many other effects nobody is considering. Those 45 professors might be our best professors. I personally have expressed my belief against the vaccine, but when you do that, you get attacked. That is most likely why those students have not shown up here to speak against the possibility of a mandate, and they should not have to go through that. As stated prior, the vaccine is not ready. Qualified individuals have not gotten the vaccine, so why would we recommend or mandate this publicly for students when highly rated officials in healthcare are not getting the vaccine.
- ii. Kuney: My hesitancy is not in any way related to the validity of the survey or the vaccine. I will be voting in abstention.
- jj. Jolly: I echo previous sentiments that my reason for voting no is not a problem with the survey, but with the vaccine mandate specifically. I am pleased to see the work put into this survey. To the argument that students have not voiced their opinion, I echo previous sentiments. I am one of two students who have done that to an overwhelming majority, and before we say that is the case, it is easier said than done. My mother is a high ranking healthcare administrator,

and I know that healthcare professionals here do not have a vaccine mandate in place. While I understand that students have to get other vaccines to attend this university, those vaccines have been around much longer and are more researched. I have gotten those vaccines willingly. It does sadden me the idea that you would not be alarmed to see students leave UM as a result of a mandate, because that would lead to a study body who all thought the same way, but if our goal is to be progressive, we will never do that.

- kk. Bowles: I do think it is healthy for us to discuss this on the floor and I appreciate those who are expressing their concerns right now, because they are valid and we respect your time here. I want to reiterate Senator McKenzie's points that we are giving this to the BOR to consider the data. The last time we were at BOR we asked why they were hesitant to a vaccine mandate, and the BOR wanted the information we are now providing. If you do look at data, there are starting to be reports about how many people have resigned, quit, or otherwise because of a vaccine mandate in their place of work, and out of those who state that they would leave if there was a mandate, the data shows that there is an uptick in vaccinated people occurring from that, and a very small amount of that initial amount who actually leave that institution. Even if we do state this, it does not put a vaccine mandate into place, and exemptions would be available as determined by the BOR and the state of Montana.
- ll. Birdinground: To touch on sentiments about science and how the vaccine is "undeveloped". We have been in the pandemic for two years and I would much rather receive a vaccine approved by the FDA than to go unvaccinated and prolong death. I would rather get vaccinated and trust the science than to be unvaccinated and prolong the pandemic.
- mm. McKenzie: To touch on the individuals who may not feel comfortable coming to voice their opinion about why they are against a mandate because they fear backlash or judgement, and I respect that. I commend the Senators who are speaking up for those individuals who took the survey and said they do not support this, because you are representing them. It is also very brave to come forward, and please stop thanking me, because I did this for other people. Within the survey, and this will come out later, in other categories, certain people very much voiced their opinions against someone like me who created a survey like this. People like me who are trying to advocate for further precautions are also met with a lot of negativity and statements expressing that I should not be doing this. It is not always one side attacking one side, but a combination of both, and I hope we can come to a neutral respect.

- nn. Motion by **McKenzie-President Durnell** to amend L209 to add “(with exemptions or alternatives i.e., weekly COVID-19 testing)” after “vaccination requirement”; UC Called; Discussion Called by O’Neill
- i. McKenzie: I want to consider the fact that some points were brought up about alternatives to how the mandate would work.
 - ii. O’Neill: I would like to include MT code annotated that outlines these exemptions to provide context.
 - iii. President Durnell: This is a fantastic amendment. The goal of this study was to be informative to the regents and our institution because they asked for this information. If we were asking them to implement a COVID-19 vaccine mandate, they already are thinking about how exemptions would work. This is a way to help keep campus safe pursuant to the intent of a vaccine mandate. This language is a compelling reason for those who were considering abstaining in their vote to reconsider because this language may address your hesitation.
 - iv. Kuney: I echo what President Durnell has said. I am more likely to vote yes if this amendment passes. Something I have heard very little of is a raffle incentivization for getting vaccinated, and that can be another alternative rather than just the requirement.
 - v. POI (President Durnell): That exact conversation is happening as we speak with the state, so it would not be lost if it was not included here.
 - vi. Motion by **O’Neill-Gudmundsson** to amend the amendment with “i.e.,” to “e.g.,” and include after “testing” “other similar measures that align with University policy and decision making and MCA §20-5-405; UC Called
 - vii. Keller: I have not read the Montana exemptions, but in my experience with exemptions for the COVID-19, they are not adapted to people’s personal beliefs. I think that is something to recognize, and I am going to read more about the exemptions, but they are different than a lot of other exemptions. This is something to take into consideration.
 - viii. Motion by **Williams** to amend the amendment to replace “or” after “exemptions” with a comma and include “and/or” after “testing”; Ruled Friendly by Original Motioner
 - ix. O’Neill: To briefly run through Montana Code Annotated (MCA); “There is a religious exemption to immunization under the code 20-5-403. A person enrolled or seeking to enroll in school may attend the school without obtaining the immunizations if the person files with the governing authority a notarized affidavit on a form prescribed by the department stating that immunization is contrary to the religious tenets and practices of the signer.” There is also a medical exemption

under section (2)(a); “A person enrolled or seeking to enroll in school may attend the school without obtaining the immunizations if a written medical exemption statement signed by a health care provider specified in subsection (2)(c) is filed with the governing authority. The medical exemption statement must: (i) attest that the physical condition of the person enrolled or seeking to enroll in school or the medical circumstances relating to the person indicate that some or all of the required immunizations are not considered safe; and (ii) indicate the specific nature and probable duration of the medical condition or circumstances that contraindicate immunization. (b) The person is exempt from the requirements of this part to the extent indicated by the medical exemption statement.” I encourage you to read more, but for your peace of mind, these are provided.

- x. Hawthorne: I think we forget that religious and medical exemptions occur with any vaccination, but personal exemptions do not always occur, which is the point of the alternatives here.
 - xi. Motion by **Glueckert** to delete “and” after “policy” and add a comma before policy and a comma after “decision making”; Ruled Friendly by Original Motioner
 - xii. Motion by **Kuney-Shaver** to add “vaccine incentives” after “testing” in L210; UC Called
 - xiii. Berget: I withheld from speaking on this because I wanted to hear everyone’s thoughts. I fully support this amendment because this topic has been rather hard on me because I have always been an advocate for “my body, my choice”. The whole reason I am behind “my body, my choice” is so individuals can speak with their healthcare advisors and figure out what is in their best physical and mental health interests. There is a lot of unknown with this vaccine, and if a doctor feels like an individual should not receive it, they should get an exemption. If the doctor feels the individual should receive the vaccine, they should be mandated to get it so they do not pose a bigger risk to society.
 - xiv. Motion by **Kuney-Heaton** to change on L210 “vaccination” instead of “vaccine”; UC Called
 - xv. *Motion approved.*
 - oo. Previous Question Called by **Ververis-Gudmundsson**; Motion Passed
pp. **SB49-21/22 Approved 18Y-3N-1A**
 - qq. *See the approved resolution [here](#).*
- e. SB50-21/22: Resolution Encouraging Campus Dining to Implement a Round-Up Donation System to Mitigate Basic Needs Insecurity

- a. Authorship (Williams): I am proposing this resolution is because I came up with the idea to specifically benefit the UM Food Pantry, and this would be a way to engage our campus community in support of food security on campus. I decided to broaden this because there are additional important basic needs concerns in addition to food security. Campus Dining does a similar thing during Can the Cats where they prompt donations, and this would be a cool way to expand that.
- b. Glueckert: I had a discussion earlier as to why we are seeing this and how it went through the Basic Needs Oversight Board, but can someone speak to how this went?
- c. POI (Bowles): This was tabled in the BNA committee because they felt as though the resolution needed some work, and Senator Williams made those amendments. It was sent back to the committee, and it was voted on yesterday via email to forward it to the floor.
- d. Motion by **President Durnell** to amend L62 to add “to voluntarily” at the beginning of the line; Ruled Friendly by Author
- e. President Durnell: We want to make sure Campus Dining understand this nuance about this being voluntary. Thank you to the author, this is incredible. This is something I have talked about and has been part of campaigns. Witnessing this resolution, I feel this hits the intent on the mark. This will help build the basic needs program, and what better partner than UM Dining who holds a similar mission to ASUM.
- f. Williams: To speak to the reasons the resolution was initially tabled. On the oversight committee, there is representation from campus dining, and I got feedback that they could potentially feel targeted as though they are not doing enough. They wanted to recognize the hard work of campus dining, so to do that I added in whereas clauses to recognize their efforts in food security to be made as a point of collaboration between our bodies.
- g. Motion by **Glueckert-Gudmundsson** to amend L80 to include “That this Resolution be sent to”; UC Called
- h. ***SB50-21/22 Approved Unanimously***
- i. *See the approved resolution [here](#).*

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Bowles: Resolution Amending the Student Group Risk Mitigation Plans to be in Accordance with the Bylaws; to RA and BOMO
 - a. Description: This resolution was authored by our Student Group Coordinator.

11. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Motion to Adjourn by **Gudmundsson-Bowles**; UC Called
- b. Meeting Adjourned at 9:07 pm