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1 **The Associated Students of The University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Kaimin Fee Increase**
3 **November 12, 2014**
4 **SB049-14/15**

5 **Authored by: Ryan Hazen, ASUM Business Manager; Nick McKinney, Kaimin**
6 **Business Manager; Ric Sanchez, Kaimin Editor**

7 **Sponsored by:**

8
9 Whereas, Kaimin is a University of Montana (UM) student run newspaper;

10
11 Whereas, the Kaimin is a highly valued and instrumental component of UM life and
12 culture;

13
14 Whereas, the Montana Kaimin has incurred increased expenses due to the sharply raising
15 cost of newsprint and printing costs;

16
17 Whereas, newspaper advertisement has declined over the last decade across the nation;

18
19 Whereas, the Montana Kaimin has experienced a significant increase in wages paid due
20 to the minimum wage increases and increases approved by ASUM;

21
22 Whereas, the Kaimin had occurred a negative balance at the end of Fiscal Year 2014;

23
24 Whereas, the Kaimin is scheduled to repay ASUM \$25,000 over the course of the next
25 three years;

26
27 Whereas, this decline can be partially attributed to a drop in advertising sales and a drop
28 in student enrollment;

29
30 Whereas, the Montana Kaimin along with other news agencies are under constant
31 pressure to report the news earlier, more concisely and by electronic media;

32
33 Whereas, online advertising has not generated a sufficient amount of revenue to cover the
34 costs of lost print advertising;

35
36 Whereas, a fee increase can help the Kaimin mitigate the increased labor costs, the
37 decline in ad sales, and assist in paying off their current to ASUM;

38
39 Whereas, students have a right to vote on proposed fee increases during the ASUM
40 elections;

41
42 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the following question be placed before the student
43 body of the University of Montana for vote during the 2015 ASUM General Election:

44
45 “The Montana Kaimin is proposing a \$1 fee increase to the Montana Kaimin fee. The
46 Montana Kaimin is a student run newspaper for the University of Montana and employs

47 around 50 students to prepare and design the daily publication. They ask for this increase
48 for the purposes of modernizing the technology of the organization, maintaining
49 necessary reserves, meeting increases in student wages, and continuing to provide
50 students a free newspaper dedicated to covering issues important to the University of
51 Montana.”

52
53 _____ Yes, I support increasing the Montana Kaimin fee by \$1, from \$5 to \$6 per
54 semester.

55
56 _____ No, I do not support increasing the Montana Kaimin fee by \$1, from \$5 to \$6 per
57 semester.

58
59
60 Passed by Committee: _____, 2014

61
62 Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2014

63
64
65
66
67 _____

68
69 Ryan Hazen, Sean McQuillan,
70 Business Manager Chair of the Senate