Fall 2014

SB049-14/15: Kaimin Fee Increase

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“The Montana Kaimin is proposing a $1 fee increase to the Montana Kaimin fee. The Montana Kaimin is a student run newspaper for the University of Montana and employs
around 50 students to prepare and design the daily publication. They ask for this increase for the purposes of modernizing the technology of the organization, maintaining necessary reserves, meeting increases in student wages, and continuing to provide students a free newspaper dedicated to covering issues important to the University of Montana.”

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

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

Passed by Committee: _____________________________, 2014
Passed by ASUM Senate: ___________________________, 2014

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___________________________________
Ryan Hazen, Sean McQuillan,
Business Manager Chair of the Senate