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Fall 2014

### SB058-14/15: Adjusting the Campus Sustainability Fee

Sam Forstag

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1                                   **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**  
2                                   **Resolution Adjusting the Campus Sustainability Fee**

3                                   **December 3, 2014**

4                                   **SB058-14/15**

5                                   **Authored by: Sam Forstag, ASUM Senator**

6                                   **Sponsored by:**

7  
8   Whereas, Efforts to implement sustainable practices have repeatedly received strong  
9   support from the student body;

10  
11   Whereas, The University of Montana has publicly committed to achieving a 10%  
12   reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2015 and complete carbon neutrality by 2020 as part of  
13   the University of Montana Climate Action Plan;

14  
15   Whereas, The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s *5<sup>th</sup> Assessment*  
16   *Report*, authored by 84 experts from over 80 countries, concluded with 90-100%  
17   certainty that human activity is actively contributing to an increase in global  
18   temperatures;

19  
20   Whereas, The IPCC's *5<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report* projected that global sea levels would rise  
21   98cm (approximately 3ft. 2.5in.) by the year 2100 if ongoing increases in human CO<sub>2</sub>  
22   emissions continue to rise unmitigated, though it would only rise 28cm (11in.) in the best  
23   case scenario;

24  
25   Whereas, The University of Montana and its student body share in a collective economic  
26   and moral interest in global sea levels not rising 98cm (over 3 feet) insofar as they are  
27   members of a globalizing economy and of the human race;

28  
29   Whereas, The administration's funding of efficiency projects is currently determined on  
30   an ad hoc basis;

31  
32   Whereas, The Sustainability fee is a major source of funding in the University of  
33   Montana's effort to reduce its carbon emissions in pursuit of this interest that is shared by  
34   the University, its students, the human race, and posterity;

35  
36   Whereas, Through the Kless Renewable Energy Fund (KRELF), the Sustainability fee  
37   has reinvested over \$200,000 of funds it has generated into the University of Montana  
38   through projects that currently generate \$30,000 of annual savings and account for a  
39   reduction of 0.66% in the University's carbon equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) emissions;

40  
41   Whereas, The Sustainability fee is currently \$6 per student, and exists as an 'opt-out' fee;

42  
43   Whereas, Over the past two years the Sustainability fee's op-out rate has been 35.4% and  
44   34%;

45

46 Whereas, A campus-wide reduction of the Sustainability fee to \$5 and changing its 'opt-  
47 out' status would generate an additional \$31,157 (28% increase) in 2015 and an  
48 additional \$128,545 (33.6% increase) by 2021 according to the University's current  
49 enrollment projections and the Sustainability fee's projected 'opt-out' rate (35-39%);  
50

51 Whereas, Reducing the fee and changing its 'opt-out' status would reduce the price paid  
52 by approximately 65% of the student body and lead to an additional \$5 paid by the  
53 remaining 35%;  
54

55 Whereas, An increase of \$5 for the 35% of students that would otherwise 'opt-out' would  
56 constitute an increase in the cost of attendance by 0.08% for In State students and 0.02%  
57 for Out of State students;  
58

59 Whereas, Reducing the Sustainability fee while spreading it across the entire student  
60 body would greatly help the University of Montana to achieve its carbon reduction goals;  
61

62 Therefore, Let it Be Resolved, In accordance with the ASUM Constitution, Article 10,  
63 Section 2, that the following question be placed before the student body of the University  
64 of Montana for vote during the 2015 ASUM General Election:  
65

66 "The campus Sustainability fee has thus far generated over \$200,000 that has been spent  
67 on improving sustainability and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions on the University of Montana  
68 campus. ASUM is proposing that the Sustainability fee be reduced from \$6 to \$5 each  
69 semester and changed from an 'opt-out' fee to a campus-wide fee. Making this change to  
70 the Sustainability fee could generate \$31,147 more this coming year and \$128,545 by  
71 2021, according to the University's projections for enrollment and the future opt-out rate.  
72 Additionally, this change would reduce the sum being paid by 66% of the student body  
73 while leveeing an additional \$5 fee on those 34% of students that currently opt out of the  
74 Sustainability fee."  
75

76 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I support reducing the sustainability fee from \$6 to \$5 per semester and  
77 changing it from an opt-out fee to a mandatory fee.  
78

79 \_\_\_\_\_ No, I do not support reducing the sustainability fee from \$6 to \$5 per semester and  
80 changing it from an opt-out to a mandatory fee.  
81

82  
83 Passed by Committee: \_\_\_\_\_, 2014  
84

85 Passed by ASUM Senate: \_\_\_\_\_, 2014  
86  
87  
88

89 \_\_\_\_\_  
90 Ryan Hazen,  
91 Business Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sean McQuillan,  
Chair of the Senate