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SB83-14/15: Constitutional Referendum Concerning Senate Candidate Petitions

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The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Constitutional Referendum Concerning Senate Candidate Petitions
April 15, 2015
SB83-14/15
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Sponsored by:

Whereas, Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) elections rules as enumerated in the ASUM Constitution and ASUM Bylaws are binding for potential candidates who wish to run for Senator, Business Manager, President and Vice President positions;

Whereas, it is imperative that ASUM elections are competitive to ensure the student body has a voice in choosing its government;

Whereas, the petition verification process for Senator candidates is both time consuming and cumbersome for ASUM;

Whereas, it has become routine practice to extend the deadline for petitions for students wishing to contest the ASUM elections for Senator positions;

Whereas, it is the desire of the ASUM Elections Committee to have competitive elections for Senator in each election cycle;

Whereas, there exists the possibility that eliminating the petition requirement to run for ASUM Senate seats will encourage more students to run for Senate, thereby increasing student representation and the competitive of ASUM elections;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, the following language be submitted for a student vote in the April 2015 ASUM elections:

“The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) aims to represent all of the students at the University of Montana (UM) by having a diverse and all-encompassing student senate. Currently, ASUM requires a petition with fifty (50) student signatures for students to run for the ASUM Senator position. ASUM hopes to increase the number and diversity of students running for Senator by eliminating the petition gathering requirement for Senator candidates as defined in Article 7, Section 4, Subsection 1.

Do you support eliminating the petition gathering requirement for the position of ASUM Senator?

___ Yes, I support eliminating the petition gathering requirement to run for ASUM Senator.

___ No, I do not support eliminating the petition gathering requirement to run for ASUM Senator.”
Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, that the ASUM Constitution and Bylaws be amended
upon the successful passage of this student ballot referendum item to reflect the appropriate and
necessary changes;

Passed by Committee:

Passed by ASUM Senate: __________________________, 2015

________________________          __________________________
Sarah Smith,          Sean McQuillan,
Chair of Relations & Affairs  Chair of the Senate