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

Chase Ellinger

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1                                   **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**  
2                                   **Constitutional Referendum Concerning Senate Candidate Petitions**  
3   **April 15, 2015**  
4   **SB83-14/15**

5                                   **Authored by: Chase Ellinger, ASUM Senator**  
6   **Sponsored by:**  
7

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

11  
12     Whereas, it is imperative that ASUM elections are competitive to ensure the student body has a  
13     voice in choosing its government;

14  
15     Whereas, the petition verification process for Senator candidates is both time consuming and  
16     cumbersome for ASUM;

17  
18     Whereas, it has become routine practice to extend the deadline for petitions for students wishing  
19     to contest the ASUM elections for Senator positions;

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

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

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

27  
28     “The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) aims to represent all of the  
29     students at the University of Montana (UM) by having a diverse and all-encompassing student  
30     senate. Currently, ASUM requires a petition with fifty (50) student signatures for students to run  
31     for the ASUM Senator position. ASUM hopes to increase the number and diversity of students  
32     running for Senator by eliminating the petition gathering requirement for Senator candidates as  
33     defined in Article 7, Section 4, Subsection 1.

34  
35     Do you support eliminating the petition gathering requirement for the position of ASUM  
36     Senator?

37  
38     \_\_\_ Yes, I support eliminating the petition gathering requirement to run for ASUM Senator.

39  
40     \_\_\_ No, I do not support eliminating the petition gathering requirement to run for ASUM  
41     Senator.”  
42

43 Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, that the ASUM Constitution and Bylaws be amended  
44 upon the successful passage of this student ballot referendum item to reflect the appropriate and  
45 necessary changes;

46

47 Passed by Committee:

48

49 Passed by ASUM Senate: \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

50

51

52 \_\_\_\_\_  
53 Sarah Smith,  
54 Chair of Relations & Affairs

52 \_\_\_\_\_  
53 Sean McQuillan,  
54 Chair of the Senate