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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Constitutional Referendum Regarding Senate Seats**

3 **April 15, 2015**

4 **SB84-14/15**

5 **Authored by: Chase Ellinger, ASUM Senator**

6 **Sponsored by:**

7
8 Whereas, it is imperative that Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM)
9 elections are competitive to ensure the student body has a voice in choosing its government;

10
11 Whereas, ASUM Resolution SB43-11/12 was passed in 2012 in order to bring the question of
12 increasing the student senate delegation to the student body;

13
14 Whereas, the number of senate positions was increased by six in April 2012 to the current
15 number of 26 after the successful passage of SB43-11/12's referendum language;

16
17 Whereas, ASUM senate elections have been uncompetitive or nearly so since 2013;

18 Whereas, ASUM has had to regularly fill empty Senate seats through appointment since
19 increasing the size of the senate delegation;

20 Whereas, drops in enrollment have somewhat reduced the demands on individual ASUM
21 Senators;

22 Whereas, the continued presence of unfilled Senate seats creates inefficiencies in the ASUM
23 governing structure and decreases the legitimacy of the body as a whole;

24 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the following language be submitted to the April 2015
25 ASUM elections:

26
27 “The Associated Students of The University of Montana (ASUM) currently has a student senate
28 consisting of twenty-six (26) members and three (3) executives. Student enrollment has been
29 decreasing at the University of Montana, reducing the demands put upon student senators. There
30 has also been an increasing number of senate seats left vacant due to resignations or
31 uncompetitive elections. ASUM proposes an amendment to Article 4, Section 1, Subsection 1
32 and Article 7, Section 4, Subsection b. of the constitution that allows for a 20 member Senate to
33 meet the needs of student government at UM.

34
35 Do you support a change to the ASUM constitution to allow for a 20 member Senate?

36
37 ___ Yes, I support reducing the ASUM Senate to a 20 member body.

38
39 ___ No, I do not support reducing the ASUM Senate to a 20 member body.

40

41 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that the appropriate language in the ASUM Constitution
42 and Bylaws be updated to reflect this change if passed by the student body.

43

44 Passed by Committee:

45

46 Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2015

47

48

49 _____
50 Sarah Smith,
51 Chair of Relations & Affairs

Sean McQuillan,
Chair of the Senate