5-1-2015

SB92-14/15: Resolution Regarding Election Bylaws

Caleb Chestnut

Chase Ellinger

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.
Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/asum_resolutions

Recommended Citation

This Institutional Document is brought to you for free and open access by the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Resolutions, 2007-Present by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.
The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Resolution Regarding Election Bylaws
May 6, 2015
SB92-14/15
Authored by: Caleb Chestnut, ASUM Senator; Chase Ellinger, ASUM Senator
Sponsored by:

Whereas, the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) supports and advocates for students;

Whereas, ASUM’s spring elections feature contested races;

Whereas, in the midst of such races, ASUM seeks to maintain the integrity of its elections process;

Whereas, Article V, Section 3, Subsection N of the ASUM Bylaws reads:

“Any candidate who accepts a contribution in kind, or solicits such a contribution shall be subject to sanctions up to and including disqualification. Any campaign undertaken on behalf of a candidate or group of candidates by any third party shall be considered a contribution in kind, and is prohibited. Such campaign activity includes, but is not limited to, flyers, posters, banners or paid web material bearing a candidate’s name or image; newspaper advertisements and editorials; or speeches made on behalf of a candidate or group of candidates.”

Whereas, the solicitation and/or receiving of endorsements is intended to give candidates an edge in these competitive races;

Whereas, during the 2015 ASUM elections, candidates were endorsed by a range of non-ASUM-recognized groups, such as academic departments, fraternities, and private companies;

Whereas, off-campus organizations who endorse candidates are typically most conscious of their own interests, not those of students;

Whereas, department endorsements represent the interests of faculty and staff, not necessarily students, and their endorsements may give the impression of conflicts of interest;

Whereas, fraternities and sororities have immense influence on the UM campus but do not operate under the auspices of ASUM;

Whereas, endorsements by fraternities and sororities may give candidates an unfair advantage to candidates contesting ASUM elections;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the ASUM Bylaws, Article V, Section 3, Subsection N be amended to read:
“Any candidate who accepts a contribution in kind, or solicits such a contribution shall be subject to sanctions up to and including disqualification. Candidates may only receive endorsements for their campaigns from individual ASUM activity fee-paying UM students. Candidates are prohibited from accepting or soliciting endorsements from third-party organizations, including but not limited to, ASUM student groups, fraternities and sororities, academic departments, UM sports teams, non-profit organizations, and private companies. Any campaign undertaken on behalf of a candidate or group of candidates by any party shall be considered a contribution in kind, and is prohibited. Such campaign activity includes, but is not limited to, flyers, posters, banners or paid web material bearing a candidate's name or image; newspaper advertisements and editorials; or speeches made on behalf of a candidate or group of candidates.”

Passed by Committee:

Passed by ASUM Senate: ____________________________, 2015

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