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## SB92-14/15: Resolution Regarding Election Bylaws

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1                                   **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**  
2                                   **Resolution Regarding Election Bylaws**

3                                   **May 6, 2015**

4                                   **SB92-14/15**

5                   **Authored by: Caleb Chestnut, ASUM Senator; Chase Ellinger, ASUM Senator**

6                                   **Sponsored by:**

7  
8   Whereas, the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) supports and advocates  
9   for students;

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11   Whereas, ASUM’s spring elections feature contested races;

12  
13   Whereas, in the midst of such races, ASUM seeks to maintain the integrity of its elections  
14   process;

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

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18                   *“Any candidate who accepts a contribution in kind, or solicits such a contribution shall*  
19   *be subject to sanctions up to and including disqualification. Any campaign undertaken on behalf*  
20   *of a candidate or group of candidates by any third party shall be considered a contribution in*  
21   *kind, and is prohibited. Such campaign activity includes, but is not limited to, flyers, posters,*  
22   *banners or paid web material bearing a candidate's name or image; newspaper advertisements*  
23   *and editorials; or speeches made on behalf of a candidate or group of candidates.”*  
24

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

27  
28   Whereas, during the 2015 ASUM elections, candidates were endorsed by a range of non-ASUM-  
29   recognized groups, , such as academic departments, fraternities, and private companies;

30  
31   Whereas, off-campus organizations who endorse candidates are typically most conscious of their  
32   own interests, not those of students;

33  
34   Whereas, department endorsements represent the interests of faculty and staff, not necessarily  
35   students, and their endorsements may give the impression of conflicts of interest;

36  
37   Whereas, fraternities and sororities have immense influence on the UM campus but do not  
38   operate under the auspices of ASUM;

39  
40   Whereas, endorsements by fraternities and sororities may give candidates an unfair advantage to  
41   candidates contesting ASUM elections;

42  
43   Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the ASUM Bylaws, Article V, Section 3, Subsection N be  
44   amended to read:  
45

46           *“Any candidate who accepts a contribution in kind, or solicits such a contribution shall*  
47 *be subject to sanctions up to and including disqualification. Candidates may only receive*  
48 *endorsements for their campaigns from individual ASUM activity fee-paying UM students.*  
49 *Candidates are prohibited from accepting or soliciting endorsements from third-party*  
50 *organizations, including but not limited to, ASUM student groups, fraternities and sororities,*  
51 *academic departments, UM sports teams, non-profit organizations, and private companies. Any*  
52 *campaign undertaken on behalf of a candidate or group of candidates by any party shall be*  
53 *considered a contribution in kind, and is prohibited. Such campaign activity includes, but is not*  
54 *limited to, flyers, posters, banners or paid web material bearing a candidate's name or image;*  
55 *newspaper advertisements and editorials; or speeches made on behalf of a candidate or group of*  
56 *candidates.”*  
57  
58

59 Passed by Committee:

60  
61 Passed by ASUM Senate: \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

62  
63 \_\_\_\_\_  
64 Sarah Smith,  
65 Chair of Relations & Affairs

\_\_\_\_\_

Sean McQuillan,  
Chair of the Senate