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SB08-15/16: Sustainability

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The Associated Students of The University of Montana
Resolution Regarding Sustainability
September 9, 2015
SB08-15/16

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Sponsored by: ASUM Sustainability Committee, Jared Halvorson, Samuel K. Forstag

Whereas, President George M. Dennison signed the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment in 2007, committing the University of Montana to develop an institutional climate action plan to become climate neutral;

Whereas, the University of Montana’s 2010 Climate Action Plan sets forth the ambitious goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2020;

Whereas, the Climate Commitment includes recommendations to explore a large-scale renewable energy project to offset purchased electricity on the University of Montana mountain campus;

Whereas, the solar panel covered parking project is a large-scale renewable energy project, providing about 10% of the University of Montana’s annual electrical needs for the next 40 years;

Whereas, the solar panel covered parking project has received strong support from students and the Sustainable Campus Committee;

Whereas, the University of Montana will be reimbursed the entirety of its initial investment by Western Renewable Energy if the project is brought to fruition;

Whereas, in addition to this reimbursement, this project would provide the University with $8 million worth of savings over the next 40 years;

Whereas, the Solar Investment Tax Credit (Solar ITC) tax incentive that would allow the University to reap the financial and environmental rewards of this project will expire at the end of 2016;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) endorses the solar panel covered parking project and requests that said project be brought to the Board of Regents for September meeting as an information item;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that ASUM encourages the University of Montana administration to pursue a feasibility study to bring the solar panel covered parking project to the next phase;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that this resolution be sent to Royce Engstrom, President of UM; Clayton Christians, Commissioner of Higher Education; Bill Borrie, Chair of Faculty Senate; John Deboer, Chair-Elect of Faculty Senate; Jennifer Zellmer-
Cuaresma, President of Staff Senate; Maria Mangold, Vice President of Staff Senate; and, Eva Rocke, UM Sustainability Director.

Passed by Committee: _________________________, 2015

Passed by ASUM Senate: _________________________, 2015

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Chair, ASUM Sustainability Board

Chair of the Senate