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### SB46-15/16: Restructure the Student Political Action Committee

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1                                   **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**  
2                                   **Resolution to Restructure the Student Political Action Committee**  
3                                   **March 3, 2016**  
4                                   **SB46-15/16**

5                   **Authored by: Taylor McDermott, ASUM Senator, Braden Fitzgerald, ASUM Senator,**  
6                                   **Aaron Folsom, ASUM Senator**

7                                   **Sponsored by: Cody Meixner, ASUM President**  
8

9   Whereas, the three (3) currently mandated events to be held by Student Political Action  
10   Committee (SPA) were originally intended to legitimize the existence of SPA during non-  
11   legislative years;

12  
13   Whereas, in recent history, SPA has not fulfilled its requirements during non-legislative years to  
14   an extent that would warrant its guaranteed existence;

15  
16   Whereas, effort and the time of senators could be better utilized elsewhere during non-legislative  
17   years;

18  
19   Whereas, a restructuring of the Committee would allow the time and effort of Senators to be  
20   spent elsewhere by decreasing the mandated workload and manpower during non-legislative  
21   years;

22  
23   Whereas, Article IV, Section 9 currently reads:  
24

25   *Student Political Action Committee (SPA):*  
26

27       A. *The Student Political Action Committee shall consist of twelve (12) members, of whom*  
28       *five (5) shall be members of the ASUM Senate, and six (6) shall be students-at-large.*  
29       *During academic years in which the Montana Legislature convenes, the other position*  
30       *shall be occupied by the SPA Director. The Committee shall be chaired by an ASUM*  
31       *Senator.*

32  
33       B. *The ASUM Office of Student Political Action shall be composed of one (1) SPA Director,*  
34       *hired only during academic years in which the Montana Legislature convenes, with the*  
35       *option of hiring volunteer interns as deemed necessary by the SPA Director.*

36  
37       C. *The SPA Director and the ASUM lobbyist shall be appointed by the President and*  
38       *approved by the Senate by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.*

39  
40       D. *The SPA Committee shall serve as an advisory board to the SPA Director, providing*  
41       *guidance and supervision.*

42  
43       E. *The Chair of Student Political Action committee, in coordination with the Student*  
44       *Political Action Director, shall present a plan of identified political issues and*  
45       *campaigns to be conducted during their term. This shall include, but is not limited to,*  
46       *conducting two town hall meetings and one political debate.*

47  
48 F. *The SPA Committee, by simple majority vote, and confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the*  
49 *Senate, shall appoint a member of ASUM to act as a liaison to the Missoula City Council.*  
50 *The ASUM Liaison to City Council will be reappointed at the beginning of every month.*  
51 *The duties of the City Council Liaison shall include, but are not limited to, attending City*  
52 *Council meetings at least once a month and reporting to ASUM Senate monthly.*  
53

54 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that Article IV, Section 9 be amended to read:

55  
56 *Student Political Action Committee (SPA)*

- 57  
58 A. *The Committee shall be chaired by an ASUM Senator, who shall be a non-voting*  
59 *member.*  
60  
61 B. *The Student Political Action Committee shall be structured and operate differently during*  
62 *legislative and non-legislative years.*  
63 a. *A legislative year is defined as an academic year during which the Montana*  
64 *Legislature assembles for a 90-day session.*  
65  
66 C. *During non-legislative years, the committee may be convened at the discretion of the*  
67 *ASUM executives. The committee must be convened during academic years in which the*  
68 *Montana Legislature is assembled.*  
69 a. *The Committee shall produce an ASUM liaison to the Missoula City Council at*  
70 *the discretion of the Executives and the Senate. The liaison will attend at least one*  
71 *City Council meeting each month, and report to the City Council any ASUM*  
72 *business pertinent to the community at large.*  
73 b. *The Chair shall serve as the liaison to the Missoula City Council by default. In the*  
74 *event the Chair is unable to serve as liaison, the Senate may appoint a new liaison*  
75 *by simple majority vote.*  
76  
77 D. *During non-legislative years, if the Committee has been convened, the duties and*  
78 *functions of the Student Political Action Committee shall include:*  
79 a. *The Committee shall consist of at least five (5) and up to ten (10) members, of*  
80 *whom five (5) shall be members of the ASUM Senate and five (5) shall be*  
81 *students-at-large. The Committee shall hold a quorum of no less than five (5)*  
82 *voting members.*  
83 b. *The Chair of the Committee shall present a plan of identified political issues and*  
84 *at least one (1) campaign per semester, mandated to be conducted during their*  
85 *term.*  
86  
87 E. *During legislative years, the duties and functions of the Committee shall include:*  
88 a. *The Committee shall consist of eleven (11) members, of whom (5) shall be*  
89 *members of the ASUM Senate and five (5) shall be comprised of students-at-large*  
90 *and volunteer interns. An additional seat shall be reserved for the SPA Director.*  
91 *The Committee shall hold a quorum of no less than six (6) voting members.*

- 92 b. *The SPA Director and the ASUM Lobbyist shall be appointed by the President*
- 93 *and approved by the Senate by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.*
- 94 c. *The ASUM Office of Student Political Action shall be composed of one (1) SPA*
- 95 *Director, hired only during academic years in which the Montana Legislature*
- 96 *convenes, with the option of hiring volunteer interns as deemed necessary by the*
- 97 *SPA Director.*
- 98 d. *The SPA Committee shall serve as an advisory board to the SPA Director,*
- 99 *providing guidance and supervision.*
- 100 e. *The SPA Director and/or Committee Chair shall receive a weekly written report*
- 101 *from the lobbyist that shall include details such as bills and hearings currently in*
- 102 *progress and their statuses, relevant legislators to each, and voting dates and*
- 103 *times.*
- 104 f. *The Committee will hold a conference call with the lobbyist weekly for an update.*
- 105 g. *The SPA Director and/or Committee Chair will monitor potential bills two*
- 106 *months prior to the session, and throughout the session. During the session, the*
- 107 *SPA Director and/or Committee Chair will check regularly for new bills that may*
- 108 *fall within the legislative agenda.*
- 109 h. *The SPA Director and/or Committee Chair will inform the lobbyist of bills to*
- 110 *pursue as soon as they are approved by the Committee.*
- 111 i. *The SPA Committee will help organize one Lobby Day throughout the session.*
- 112 j. *The SPA Committee will be responsible for all grassroots organizing on campus*
- 113 *and within the community for bills within the legislative agenda.*
- 114 k. *The SPA Committee will be responsible for drafting a legislative agenda by the*
- 115 *last Senate meeting prior to the upcoming legislative session which shall be*
- 116 *approved by a 2/3 vote of the Senate.*

118 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that this resolution would be effective immediately, and  
 119 the current Student Political Action Committee would be mandated to hold only one (1) event for  
 120 the remainder of the 2015-2016 academic year, in the Spring of 2016.

123 Passed by Committee: \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

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

128 \_\_\_\_\_  
 129 Kaitlin Hopingardner,  
 130 Chair of Relations and Affairs

\_\_\_\_\_

Betsy Story,  
 Chair of the Senate