Fall 10-5-2016

SB21-16/17: Resolution Regarding ASUM Legislative Priorities

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Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) represents the interests of 12,000 students;

Whereas, ASUM advocates on behalf of the health, wellbeing, and success of the students of the University of Montana;

Whereas, The duties and assistance necessary for the success of the students of the University of Montana have broadened in recent years with the addition of mandates such as Equal Opportunity, Title IX, ADA requirements and further services in areas of mental health, veteran’s services, and increased academic support for students;

Whereas, Access to a quality education is important to the success, growth and future for students of the University of Montana;

Whereas, ASUM creates and establishes a set of legislative priorities every other year prior to the Montana legislative session;

Whereas, Lack of financial commitment to higher education makes universities more dependent on enrollment and does not aid the University of Montana in providing the greatest quality of education possible;

Whereas, an increased commitment to higher education from our state would enable the University of Montana to provide quality functions and services that a public university needs to properly serve its students;

Therefore, Let it Be Resolved, the students of the University of Montana call upon our representatives in the Montana Legislature to make a firm, definite commitment to the well-being of higher education in Montana by increasing state appropriations in the General Fund Appropriations act for the Montana University System (MUS);

Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, that the students of the University of Montana call upon the Montana Legislature to increase General Fund appropriations to the Montana University System (MUS) to at least half (50%) of the MUS Unrestricted Funds costs;

Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) calls upon Montana legislators to fully fund the MUS Long-Range Building Program so as to ensure that state buildings on university campuses are safe, accessible, and available for use;
Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, that in circumstances of extreme time constraint, the ASUM Lobbyist shall first contact the ASUM President to achieve clarity on any legislative questions that are not explicitly laid out in the Senate’s legislative priorities, moving down that list if the previous individual is not available.

Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, ASUM authorizes the ASUM President, ASUM Student Political Action Director, and ASUM Lobbyist to advocate on behalf of the students of the University of Montana;

Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, The priorities set forth herein shall serve as the Official legislative positions of ASUM;

Passed by Committee: ______________ October 4th __________, 2016

Passed by ASUM Senate: __________________________, 2016

Matt Quist, Chair, Student Political Action Committee
Elizabeth Engebretson, Chair, ASUM Senate