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Sam Forstag

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Regarding the Student Sustainability Fee Referendum**
3 **November 9th, 2016**

4 **SB40-16/17**

5 **Authored by: Sam Forstag, ASUM President;**
6 **Meredith Repke, ASUM Sustainability Coordinator;**

7 **Sponsored by:**

8
9 Whereas, Efforts to implement sustainable practices have repeatedly received strong
10 support from the student body through campus-wide referenda, campus surveys, and past
11 years' ASUM resolutions;

12
13 Whereas, The ASUM Sustainability Fee is the only ASUM fee that with an 'opt-out' option,
14 and currently sits at \$6;

15
16 Whereas, The ASUM Sustainability Fee's opt-out rate was approximately 29.4% in 2016
17 and 31.5% in 2015;

18
19 Whereas, The ASUM Sustainability Fee is the only dedicated funding source for
20 implementing sustainability efforts at the University of Montana;

21
22 Whereas, The ASUM Sustainability fee has invested over \$250,000 into the University of
23 Montana through projects that currently generate over \$30,000 in annual savings as of
24 2014 and account for a reduction of 0.66% of the University's carbon-equivalent (CO₂e)
25 emissions;

26
27 Whereas, Transitioning the fee from its current opt-out status to a campus-wide fee would
28 lead to an increase of over \$40,000 in additional funds being generated annually;

29
30 Whereas, An increase of \$6 for the ~30% of students that would otherwise 'opt-out' would
31 constitute an increase in the cost of attendance of 0.003% for in-state students and
32 0.0002% for out-of-state students;

33
34 Whereas, The Sustainability Fee is a major source of funding for UM's effort to reduce its
35 carbon emissions and to protect the interests of current UM students, the human race writ
36 large, and posterity;

37
38 Therefore, Let it Be Resolved, In accordance with the ASUM Constitution, Article 10, Section
39 2, that the following question be placed before the student body of the University of
40 Montana for vote during the 2017 ASUM General Election:

41
42 "The ASUM Sustainability Fee is used to carry out student-led sustainability projects such
43 as the installation of solar arrays across campus, improvements to campus infrastructure,
44 and the installation of water-bottle filling stations. ASUM is proposing that the current
45 Sustainability Fee be changed from an 'opt-out' fee to a mandatory campus-wide fee. This

46 change to the Sustainability Fee would generate around \$40,000 more for sustainability
47 efforts annually, or a 40% increase.

48
49 ___ Yes, I support changing the ASUM Sustainability Fee to a campus-wide fee
50 and removing its current opt-out status.

51
52 ___ No, I do not support changing the ASUM Sustainability Fee to a campus-wide fee
53 and removing its current opt-out status.”

54
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56
57

58 Passed by Committee: _____, 2016

59

60 Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2016

61
62
63
64

65 _____
66 Kaden Harrison,
Chair of Sustainability Board

Elizabeth Engebretson,
Chair of the Senate