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SB43-16/17: Resolution Regarding Program Prioritization Efforts

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Regarding Program Prioritization Efforts**
3 **December 7th, 2016**
4 **SB43-16/17**

5 **Authored by: Julian Adler, ASUM Senator; Elle Fetting, ASUM Senator; Chase Greenfield,**
6 **ASUM Business Manager; Stephen Pelletier, ASUM Senator; Anisa Ricci, ASUM Senator;**
7 **Sponsored by:**
8

9 Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) is the representative
10 voice for students of the University of Montana (UM);
11

12 Whereas, on December 1st, 2016 Montana Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian
13 sent out a message stating that Royce C. Engstrom would resign as President as of December
14 31st;
15

16 Whereas, the status of Program Prioritization efforts at UM has not been addressed since the
17 announcement of President Engstrom's resignation;
18

19 Whereas, there have been no announcements concerning the ongoing status of the present search
20 for the office of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs in context of Engstrom's
21 resignation;
22

23 Whereas, this leaves open the possibility that the position of Provost and Vice President for
24 Academic Affairs will be filled by an interim for the 2017-2018 Academic Year;
25

26 Whereas, the position of the Provost will closely oversee the process of Program Prioritization
27 and will indefinitely influence its decision making processes;
28

29 Whereas, the current timeline for program prioritization entails a 9-12 month listening period
30 beginning in November, 2016;
31

32 Whereas, multiple changes in leadership and ownership of the Program Prioritization process by
33 the Provost compromises the efficiency, consistency, and integrity of this process;
34

35 Whereas, it is imperative to the health of UM academics that any decisions about Program
36 Prioritization beyond listening and information gathering be conducted by the next permanent
37 Provost of the University of Montana;
38

39 Whereas, the search for a permanent Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs has been
40 suspended;
41

42 Whereas, there is a high risk of losing qualified candidates for the position of Provost and Vice
43 President for Academic Affairs if the search is discontinued or paused beyond the duration of
44 Winter Break;
45

46 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the Associated Students of the University of Montana
47 (ASUM) urges the University of Montana to limit the Program Prioritization process to fact-

48 finding and listening sessions until a permanent Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
49 has been selected;

50

51 Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved that ASUM urges the University of Montana to limit the
52 Program Prioritization Process to fact-finding and listening sessions until students return to
53 campus for Fall Semester 2017, should a permanent Provost and Vice President for Academic
54 Affairs be selected before this time;

55

56 Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved that ASUM urges the University of Montana to continue
57 the ongoing search for a permanent Provost in the most expeditious and timely fashion possible;

58

59 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to: Royce C.
60 Engstrom, President of the University of Montana; Sheila Stearns, Incoming-Interim President of
61 the University Montana; Clayton Christian, Commissioner of Higher Education; Beverly
62 Edmund, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Mike Reid, Vice President
63 for Administration and Finance; Tom Crady, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Affairs;
64 Paul Tuss, Chair of the Board of Regents of Higher Education; Fran Albrecht, Vice-Chair of the
65 Board of Regents of Higher Education; Levi Birky, Student Regent; William Johnstone, Regent
66 of Higher Education; Casey Lozar, Regent of Higher Education; Robert Nystuen, Regent of
67 Higher Education; Martha Sheehy, Regent of Higher Education; Paul Haber, President of the
68 University Faculty Association; John DeBoer, Chair of the Faculty Senate; and Jen Zellmer-
69 Cuaresma, Staff Senate President; Tom Gallagher, President of the Missoula College Faculty
70 Association;

71

72 Passed by Committee: _____, 2016

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74 Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2016

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78

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80 _____
81 Connor Fitzpatrick
Chair of Relations & Affairs

Elizabeth Engebretson
Chair of the Senate