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Anisa Ricci

Eamon Ormseth

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The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Resolution for a Revenue Enhancement Regarding Tax Bracket
January 31, 2017

SB52-16/17

Authored by: Braden Fitzgerald, ASUM Senator; Sam Forstag, ASUM President
Sponsored by:

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

Whereas, The Montana Legislature has proposed \$25 million in cuts to the Montana University System (MUS);

Whereas, UM is already facing budget shortfalls that are significant enough to possibly require cuts to personnel and the prospect of tuition hikes;

Whereas, Due to a significant drop in state revenues, the state of Montana is facing widespread cuts to numerous state agencies and struggling to find revenue sources with which to fund many state agencies and the MUS;

Whereas, The current balance of state funding and tuition already leaves Montana students graduating college with an average of over \$27,000 in student loan debt;

Whereas, Montana currently ranks 37th in the nation for state appropriations to public higher education¹;

Whereas, At a time when revenue levels are down, we have an opportunity to find new revenue through common sense tax fairness measures;

Whereas, These revenue enhancements make our tax system more just and ensure we have levels of revenue we need to continue to invest in our communities;

Therefore, Let it Be Resolved that the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) supports current legislative proposals for a new top tier tax bracket;

Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved that ASUM supports directing a maximal amount of this revenue toward restoring the deep cuts that have been proposed to Montana University System's budget for FY 2017-18;

Passed by Committee: _____

Passed by ASUM Senate: _____

1 FY 2015 State Higher Education. Rep. N.p.: n.p., 2016. Web.

Braden Fitzgerald
SPA Committee Chair

Elizabeth Engebretson,
Chair of the Senate

Passed by Committee: _____, 2017

Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2017