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SB54-16/17: Resolution for a Revenue Enhancement Regarding Beer and Wine

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Sam Forstag

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution for a Revenue Enhancement Regarding Beer and Wine**
3 **January 31, 2017**

4 **SB54-16/17**

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

7
8 Whereas, the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) represents the interests
9 of over 12,000 students at the University of Montana (UM);

10
11 Whereas, The Montana Legislature has proposed \$25 million in cuts to the Montana University
12 System (MUS);

13
14 Whereas, UM is already facing budget shortfalls that are significant enough to possibly require
15 cuts to personnel and the prospect of tuition hikes;

16
17 Whereas, Due to a significant drop in state revenues, the state of Montana is facing widespread
18 cuts to numerous state agencies and struggling to find revenue sources with which to fund many
19 state agencies and the MUS;

20
21 Whereas, The current balance of state funding and tuition already leaves Montana students
22 graduating college with an average of over \$27,000 in student loan debt;

23
24 Whereas, Montana currently ranks 37th in the nation for state appropriations to public higher
25 education¹;

26
27 Whereas, the inelastic nature of beer and wine products has incentivized legislative proposals
28 aimed at increasing the state tax on beer and wine in Montana.

29
30 Whereas, an increase in the state tax on beer and wine products would bring more revenue to the
31 State of Montana.

32
33 Whereas, the revenue generated by an increase in the state beer and wine tax could be partially
34 allocated to the MUS, thereby decreasing the proposed \$25 million cut that would fall on the
35 backs of students.

36
37 Therefore, Let it Be Resolved that the Associated Students of the University of Montana
38 (ASUM) supports current legislative proposals for an increase to the state tax on beer and wine
39 products;

40
41 Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved that ASUM supports directing a maximal amount of this
42 revenue toward restoring the deep cuts that have been proposed to Montana University System's
43 budget for FY 2017-18;

44
45 Passed by Committee: _____

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

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Passed by ASUM Senate: _____

Braden Fitzgerald
SPA Committee Chair

Elizabeth Engebretson,
Chair of the Senate

Passed by Committee: _____, 2017

Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2017