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SB61-16/17: Resolution Regarding UM Foundation Strategic Funding Priorities

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Regarding UM Foundation Strategic Funding Priorities**
3 **February 12th, 2017**

4 **SB61-16/17**

5 **Authored by: Elle Fettig, ASUM Senator; Julian Adler, ASUM Senator; Kaden Harrison,**
6 **ASUM Senator; Sam Forstag, ASUM President;**

7 **Sponsored by:**

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

11
12 Whereas, ASUM is bound by its bylaws and mission statement to support student efforts to
13 improve its campus, extending this to include all staff, faculty and the university community at
14 large;

15
16 Whereas, The University of Montana Foundation (UM Foundation) is a non-profit organization
17 pursuing a mission to “increase philanthropic support to ensure UM’s excellence, access and
18 affordability...”;

19
20 Whereas, the UM Foundation’s vision is to be a leader among like-sized university development
21 operations and foundations from across the country in their production practices, integrity of
22 operations, and customer service;

23
24 Whereas, the UM Foundation’s primary fundraising priorities are: Faculty, Students, Facilities,
25 and Unrestricted, and specific fundraising priorities are set by the University President in
26 conjunction with the UM Foundation President;

27
28 Whereas, in a 2016 survey of approximately 450 staff and 200 faculty members at UM had 94
29 percent of faculty and 80 percent of staff express some level of support for large-scale renewable
30 energy projects on campus, with a total of 62 percent of respondents in strong support of such
31 projects on campus;

32
33 Whereas, The Sustainable Campus Committee (SCC), UM’s shared governance body on
34 sustainability, has identified multiple sustainability-related campus projects in need of funding,
35 including infrastructure updates and academic enrichment opportunities, such as the
36 establishment of sustainability fellowships, sustainability oriented Residence Life positions, and
37 sustainability conferences that provide opportunities for educational and professional
38 development beyond the campus community;

39
40 Whereas, the long-running importance of environmental sustainability to UM students is
41 exemplified through a wide variety of on-campus sustainability efforts, including campus
42 improvement projects and infrastructure upgrades supported by the ASUM Sustainability Fee,
43 the numerous student-led projects supported since 2009 by the Kless Revolving Energy Loan
44 Fund Board (KRELF), and overwhelming student support in sustainability-focused campus-wide
45 referenda;

46

47 Whereas, UM has made sustainability an important part of their overall mission, actions, and
48 goals and sought to demonstrate its importance to campus and the community by supporting
49 sustainable practices in construction, campus improvements, and campus infrastructure;
50

51 Whereas, including sustainability as an explicit part of the UM Foundation’s strategic
52 fundraising goals would accurately reflect the emphasis the UM community places on the
53 importance of sustainable practices and could help provide funding to projects already being
54 pursued;
55

56 Whereas, the direct relationship between environmental sustainability and financial sustainability
57 has been made clear as the University begins to enjoy return on investment from electric buses,
58 solar and wind installations, and improved campus resource management in the form of diesel
59 savings, electricity savings, and utility savings;
60

61 Whereas, the addition of sustainability as a strategic fundraising priority of the UM Foundation
62 would not only help in furthering existing sustainability efforts at UM, but could also create
63 broader appeal to potential donors focused on sustainability while providing attractive
64 investment opportunities to such donors;
65

66 Therefore, Let it Be Resolved that the Associated Students of the University of Montana
67 (ASUM) urge the University of Montana Foundation President and the UM President to direct
68 the Board and staff of the UM Foundation to pursue environmental sustainability as a strategic
69 fundraising priority for the University of Montana campus;
70

71 Therefore, Let it Be Resolved that ASUM requests that fundraising efforts focused on
72 environmental sustainability be directed towards projects identified by the Sustainable Campus
73 Committee (SCC);
74

75 Therefore; Let it Be Resolved that this resolution be forwarded to Sheila Stearns, Interim
76 President, University of Montana; Shane Giese, President and CEO, UM Foundation; Mary
77 Olson, Chair, UM Foundation; Alison Fuller, Chair, UM Alumni Association; Mack Clapp,
78 Chair, UM Foundation Board Committee on Investment; John DeBoer, Chair, UM Faculty
79 Senate; Jennifer Zellmer-Cuaresma, Chair, UM Staff Senate.
80

81
82

83 Passed by Committee: _____, 2017

84
85 Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2017
86
87
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89 _____
90 Kaden Harrison
91 Chair of Sustainability Board

Elizabeth Engebretson,
Chair of the Senate