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SB64-16/17:Resolution Opposing the Creation of a Porcine Research Facility

Chase Greenfield

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Opposing the Creation of a Porcine Research Facility**
3 **February 15th, 2017**
4 **SB64-16/17**

5 **Authored by: Chase Greenfield, ASUM Business Manager;**
6 **Sponsored by:**
7

8 Whereas, the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) is the official
9 representative body of the students of the University of Montana (UM);

10
11 Whereas, the University of Montana is currently considering the creation of a porcine research
12 facility, which would be a part of UM’s Neural Injury Center;

13
14 Whereas, this facility would use live animals (specifically mice and pigs) to conduct research
15 concerning spinal injuries;

16
17 Whereas, this facility would cost approximately \$4,000,000 to create, and would be funded
18 through external grants and contracts;

19
20 Whereas, in over a decade of research in this area, not a single therapy for human beings has
21 been produced as a result of animal experimentation;

22
23 Whereas, pigs and rodents are quadrupedal, do not have fine motor skills, and cannot respond to
24 questions of sensory function. As such, these animals vary distinctly from humans in the
25 necessary areas for research on spinal injury;

26
27 Whereas, all experimentation on pigs and mice in the area of spinal injury have lead *only* to the
28 development of therapies for pigs and mice– without a single treatment that is applicable to
29 human beings;

30
31 Whereas, alternative, ethical methods for conducting spinal cord research– including cell culture,
32 digital imagery, and injured patient research– exist and would be more effective in analyzing
33 spinal cord injuries in humans;

34
35 Whereas, numerous UM faculty members have spoken in opposition to the development of a
36 UM porcine research facility, and have encouraged the exploration of alternatives to live-animal
37 testing;

38
39 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the Associated Students of the University of Montana
40 (ASUM) opposes the creation of a porcine (or other live-animal) research facility at the
41 University of Montana (UM)– both on and off campus;

42
43 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that ASUM encourages the UM Administration and the
44 College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences to explore alternatives to live-animal
45 research in the area of spinal and neural injuries;

46

47 Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, that ASUM encourages the UM Faculty and Staff Senates
48 to also oppose the creation of a porcine research facility;

49
50 Therefore Let it Further Be Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to:
51 Scott Whittenburg, Vice President for Research and Creative Scholarship; Soazig Le Bihan,
52 Professor of Philosophy; Deborah Slicer, Professor of Philosophy; Beverly Edmond, Provost and
53 Vice President of Academic Affairs; Sheila Stearns, President of the University of Montana;
54 Reed Humphrey, Dean of the College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences; John
55 DeBoer, Chair of the Faculty Senate; and Jen Zellmer-Cuaresma, Staff Senate President.

56
57 Passed by Committee: _____, 2017

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59 Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2017

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Connor Fitzpatrick
Chair of Relations & Affairs

Elizabeth Engebretson
Chair of the Senate