Fall 10-18-2017

SB14-17/8: Higher Education Cuts

Abbigail Belcher
The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Resolution Urging a Vast Reduction in Higher Education Budget Cuts
October 12, 2017
SB 14-17/18
Authored by: Abbigail Belcher, ASUM Senator;
Sponsored by: Mariah Welch, ASUM Senator;

Whereas, During the 2017 Montana State Legislative session, a total of 12.4 million dollars was cut from
the Montana University System;

Whereas, Senate Bill (SB) 261 has caused a decrease of 15 million dollars in funding;

Whereas, Due to the costs associated with wildfires, Governor Steve Bullock has requested a 10%
reduction across all state agencies, leading to another 45 million dollar reduction;

Whereas, Undergraduate students recently faced a tuition increase of 13% as a result of the 2017
legislative cuts;

Whereas, Enrollment at the University of Montana decreased 5% in the academic year 2016-2017;

Whereas, Decreasing funds hinder recruitment and retention students;

Whereas, The number of faculty at UM has decreased by 10% as a result of buyout programs;

Whereas, Increasing tuition and fees, as well as the loss of instructors, will discourage students from
attending college;

Whereas, An educated population enhances the economy and improves quality of life across Montana;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That Governor Steve Bullock and the Montana State Legislature cease all
efforts to decrease the MUS budget;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That Governor Steve Bullock and the Montana State Legislature
take measures to support and enhance higher education in Montana;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this resolution be sent to Steve Bullock, Governor of the State
of Montana; Senator Llew Jones, SD 9; Representative Nancy Ballance, HD 87; Representative Mike
Hopkins, HD 92; and Representative Nate McConnell, HD 89; Mike Cooney, Lieutenant Governor of
Montana; Dan Villa, Budget Director of Montana; Senator Scott Sales, President of the Montana State
Senate; Senator Fred Thomas, Majority Leader of the Montana Senate; Jon Sesso, Minority Leader of the
Montana Senate; Representative Austin Knudson, Speaker of the Montana House of Representatives;
Representative Ron Ehli, Majority Leader of the Montana House of Representatives; and Representative
Jenny Eck, Minority Leader of the Montana House of Representatives.

Passed by Committee: ___________________________ 2017
Passed by ASUM Senate: _________________________ 2017
Abbigail Belcher,  
SPA Chair  

Brenna Love,  
Chair of the Senate