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SB16-18/19: Resolution Regarding ASUM Legislative Priorities

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The University Of Montana

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1 **The Associated Students of The University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Regarding ASUM Legislative Priorities**
3 **December 3, 2018**
4 **SB16 – 18/19**

5 Authorred By: Alex Butler, ASUM President; Betsy Story, SPA Director;

6 Sponsored By: Brenna Love, ASUM Lobbyist; Brenna Mae Davis, ASUM Senator; Alexandra
7 Akmal, ASUM Senator; Sylvia Borstad, ASUM Senator; Dylan Haggart, ASUM Senator;

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9 Whereas, Nearly 11,000 students attend the University of Montana;

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11 Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) represents the interests
12 of those nearly 11,000 students;

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14 Whereas, ASUM advocates on behalf of the health, well-being, and success of the students of the
15 University of Montana;

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17 Whereas, The duties and assistance necessary for the success of the students of the University of
18 Montana have broadened in recent years with the addition of mandates such as Equal
19 Opportunity, Title IX, Americans with Disabilities Act requirements and further services in areas
20 of mental health, veterans' services, and increased academic support for students;

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22 Whereas, Access to a quality education is important to the success, growth, and future of
23 students of the University of Montana;

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25 Whereas, ASUM establishes a set of legislative priorities every other year prior to the Montana
26 legislative session;

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28 Whereas, An increased commitment to higher education from our state enables the University of
29 Montana to provide quality functions and services that a public university needs to properly
30 serve its students;

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32 Whereas, The Governor's budget infuses \$24M into Program 9 to support a resident
33 undergraduate tuition freeze over the biennium produces an adjustment to our campuses' state
34 funded budgets that has a long lasting effect on affordability;

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36 Whereas, Affordable healthcare and funding to higher education are not mutually exclusive;

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38 Therefore, Let it Be Resolved, The students of the University of Montana call upon our
39 representatives in the Montana Legislature to support for the rights of all UM students to a high-
40 quality and affordable higher education experience;

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Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, That the first legislative priority reads:

Protect and increase state funding of the Montana University System

- *Increase General Fund appropriations (HB 2) and through other avenues;*
- *Support the Governor’s proposed tuition freeze funded by state appropriation to The Montana University System to maintain student education affordability;*

Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, That the second legislative priority reads:

Student Tenant Issues

- *Keep housing in Montana affordable;*
- *Protect student renters in Landlord-Tenant Legislation;*

Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, That the third legislative priority reads:

Healthcare Access & Affordability

- *Minimize BlueCross BlueShield premiums through legislation with a substantial nexus to student Blue Cross Blue Shield coverage;*

Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, That the fourth legislative priority reads:

Student Identity Protection

- *Equal Protection under the laws of Montana for all students regardless of race, sex, gender expression, sexual orientation, culture, social origin or condition, or political or religious ideas;*

Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, That in circumstances of extreme time constraint, the ASUM Lobbyist shall first contact the ASUM President or ASUM Student Political Action Director to achieve clarity on any legislative questions that are not explicitly laid out in the Senate’s legislative priorities;


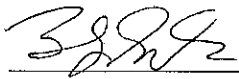
Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, ASUM authorizes the ASUM President, ASUM Student Political Action Director, and ASUM Lobbyist to advocate on behalf of the students of the University of Montana;

Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, The priorities set forth herein shall serve as the official legislative priorities of ASUM.

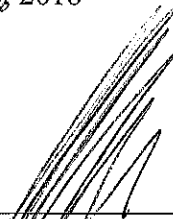
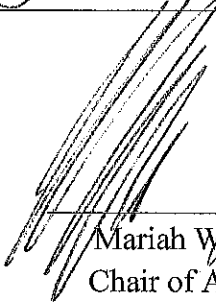
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Passed by Committee: December 3, 2018

Passed by ASUM Senate: December 5 2018



Betsy Story,
Chair, Student Political Action Committee



Mariah Welch
Chair of ASUM Senate