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SB26-19/20: Resolution Regarding Sustainability Fee Referendum

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Regarding Sustainability Fee Referendum**
3 **October 29, 2019**
4 **SB26-19/20**

5 **Authored by: Kyle Johnston, ASUM Senator; Zoe Nelson, ASUM Senator;**
6 **Sponsored by: Emma Kiefer, ASUM Senator;**
7

8 Whereas, Efforts to implement sustainable practices have repeatedly received strong support from the
9 student body through campus-wide referenda, student surveys, and past years' Associated Students of the
10 University of Montana (ASUM) resolutions;

11
12 Whereas, The Sustainability Fee is a major source of dedicated funding for the University of Montana's
13 (UM) sustainability efforts, including carbon emission reductions, developing green buildings and
14 grounds, supporting sustainable transportation, reducing or utilizing efficient means of energy
15 consumption, supporting locally sourced food options on campus, and diverting waste through recycling
16 and composting efforts;

17
18 Whereas, Supporting sustainability efforts are instrumental in campus-wide recruitment endeavors;

19
20 Whereas, The ASUM Sustainability Fee is the only dedicated funding source for implementing
21 sustainability efforts at UM;

22
23 Whereas, The ASUM Sustainability Fee is the only ASUM fee with an "opt-out" option, and currently
24 sits at \$6;

25
26 Whereas, The ASUM Sustainability Fee's opt-out rate was reported to be approximately 29% in Fall,
27 2019 but is, on average, about 33%;

28
29 Whereas, Making the fee mandatory versus "opt-out" would generate over \$38,000 of additional funding
30 annually;

31
32 Whereas, An increase of \$6 per semester for the students that would otherwise opt-out would constitute a
33 marginal increase to the cost of attendance for in-state and out-of-state students;

34
35 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That in accordance with Article 10, Sections 2 and 3 of the ASUM
36 Constitution, the following question be placed before the student body of UM for a vote during the 2020
37 ASUM General Election:

38
39 "The ASUM Sustainability Fee is \$6 per semester and is used to carry out student-led sustainability
40 projects such as the installation of covered-bike parking and water-bottle filling stations. In addition to
41 student-led projects, the Sustainability Fee funds efforts of the ASUM Sustainability Center to advocate
42 for students' sustainability concerns. ASUM is proposing that the current Sustainability Fee be changed
43 from an "opt-out" fee to a mandatory, campus-wide fee. This change to the Sustainability Fee would
44 generate around \$38,000 more for sustainability efforts annually, based on current enrollment.

45
46 ___ Yes, I support changing the ASUM Sustainability Fee to a mandatory fee and removing its current
47 opt-out status.

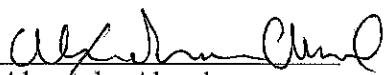
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49 ___ No, I do not support changing the ASUM Sustainability Fee to a mandatory fee and removing its
50 current opt-out status."

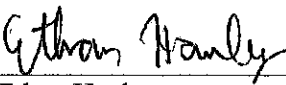
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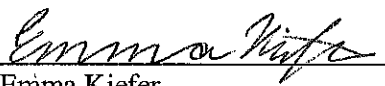
Therefore, Let it Be Further Resolved, That this resolution be sent to Grace Dunnehoff, Chair of Elections Committee; Madeleine Jones, ASUM Sustainability Coordinator; Paul Lasiter, Vice President for Operations and Finance; Eva Rocke, UM Sustainability Coordinator; Tyler Trevor, Deputy Commissioner for Budget and Planning.

Passed by Committee: November 3rd, 2019

Passed by ASUM Senate: November 6th, 2019


Alexandra Akmal,
Chair of the Relations and Affairs Committee


Ethan Hanley,
Chair of the Senate


Emma Kiefer,
Chair of the Sustainability Board

Resolution Passed: 17 Yes 3 No 0 Abstentions