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SB58-19/20: Resolution Regarding an Increase to the ASUM Student Activity Fee

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Regarding an Increase to the ASUM Student Activity Fee**
3 **January 15, 2020**
4 **SB58-19/20**

5 **Authored by: Abbigail Belcher, ASUM President; Ethan Hanley, ASUM Vice President;**
6 **Daniel Parsons, ASUM Business Manager;**

7
8 Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) provides a host of
9 agencies that assist in the recruitment, retention, and general welfare of students on campus, as
10 well as overseeing and funding all recognized student groups on campus;

11
12 Whereas, ASUM currently oversees the following agencies: ASUM Childcare, ASUM Legal
13 Services, ASUM Office of Transportation, ASUM Renter Center/UM Food Pantry, ASUM
14 Sustainability Center;

15
16 Whereas, ASUM currently oversees more than 150 student groups on campus and provides these
17 groups with the resources to fulfill their mission and provide students with the opportunity to
18 pursue their passions and find a community that speaks to them;

19
20 Whereas, With the exception of Transportation, ASUM primarily receives funding for the
21 operation of its agencies and student groups through a Student Activity fee that is designated by
22 the Montana Board of Regents;

23
24 Whereas, The revenue acquired from student fees over the past decade has decreased due to
25 declining enrollment at the University of Montana;

26
27 Whereas, ASUM has had to contribute more to student wages as a result of increases in the
28 minimum wage for employees over the past two years;

29
30 Whereas, ASUM recently had to use part of its financial reserves twice in the past five years to
31 account for increased costs associated with ASUM Childcare, which indicates that the agency
32 should be funded at a higher amount;

33
34 Whereas, ASUM recently incorporated the UM Food Pantry under the purview of the ASUM
35 Renter Center and the costs associated with supplying that program with the resources it needs to
36 service students;

37
38 Whereas, The legal needs of University of Montana students have increased, thus necessitating
39 the expansion into consumer protection advocacy, family law, and more;

40
41 Whereas, The ASUM Administration has made efforts to reduce expenses by transferring the
42 Student Resolution Officer position responsibilities to the ASUM President and ASUM Legal
43 Services' and reducing the cost of ASUM retreats and meeting expenses;

44
45 Whereas, The combination of decreasing enrollment and increased costs has financially
46 restricted ASUM from servicing the student body in an all encompassing and equitable manner;

47
48 Whereas, ASUM does not seek to properly fund ASUM agencies at the expense of student
49 groups;

50
51 Whereas, ASUM believes it would be appropriate to pursue a fee increase to maintain its current
52 level of services and funding to student groups, and to help supply its new initiatives with the
53 resources needed to succeed;

54
55 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That the following ballot language be added to an ASUM student
56 referenda during the spring election cycle:

57
58 “The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) are proposing a \$3 fee increase
59 to the ASUM Student Activity fee. ASUM, the student government at the University of
60 Montana, provides funding and oversight to six agencies and more than 150 student groups. Due
61 to a decrease in student enrollment and fee revenue, an increase to the minimum wage and
62 student wages, and increased costs with ASUM Agencies, ASUM asks for this fee increase.”

63
64 _____ Yes, I support increasing the ASUM Activity fee by \$3, from \$67 to \$70 per semester.

65
66 _____ No, I do not support increasing the ASUM Activity fee by \$3, from \$67 to \$70 per
67 semester.;

68
69 ~~Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this resolution be sent to: Shane St. Onge, Chair of~~
70 ~~the Elections Committee; Paul Lasiter, Vice President of Operations and Finance; Tyler Trevor,~~
71 ~~Deputy Commissioner for Budget and Planning, Chief of Staff.~~

72
73
74 Passed by Committee: _____, 2020

75
76 Passed by ASUM Senate: February 19, 2020

77
78
79
80 _____
81 Noah Durnell,
82 Chair of the Relations and Affairs Committee

80 _____
81 Ethan Hanley,
82 Chair of the Senate

83
84
85 _____
86 Shane St. Onge,
87 Chair of the Elections Committee

88
89 Passed by ASUM Senate: 15Y, 2N, 1A