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SB60-19/20: Resolution Approving Zero-Base Transfer for Final Budgeting

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Approving Zero-Base Transfer for Final Budgeting**
3 **February 5th, 2020**
4 **SB60-19/20**

5 **Authored by: Abbigail Belcher, ASUM President; Ethan Hanley, ASUM Vice President;**
6 **Daniel Parsons, ASUM Business Manager;**
7

8 Whereas, The University of Montana has been experiencing an enrollment decline for the past
9 eight years;

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11 Whereas, Declining enrollment leads to less funding for activities, agencies, and student groups;

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13 Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) received
14 approximately \$60,000 less in fee revenue from FY20 to FY21;

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16 Whereas, Revenue from the ASUM Activity Fee is the primary way in which the student
17 government funds its activities, agencies, and student groups;

18
19 Whereas, ASUM is experiencing operational budget shortfalls for Fiscal Year 2021 budgeting
20 due to a decrease in revenue generated from the ASUM Activity Fee;

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22 Whereas, ASUM is currently not meeting the threshold of funding for student groups after
23 providing budgets for its agencies, which include the ASUM Administration, Childcare, Legal
24 Services, Renter Center, Sustainability Center, and the UM Food Pantry;

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26 Whereas, Additional financial need from ASUM agencies have been requested for FY21;

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28 Whereas, In FY20, ASUM has incurred additional costs from the adoption of the UM Food
29 Pantry and would like to continue to support this agency in its mission;

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31 Whereas, ASUM would like to adequately fund its agencies and student groups for the upcoming
32 fiscal year and not impose significant financial limitations or hardships on its affiliates;

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34 Whereas, ASUM has sought to make additional cost-saving measures to account for less funding
35 from year to year;

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37 Whereas, Even after cost-saving measures were implemented, significant need from ASUM
38 agencies and groups remained;

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40 Whereas, The Zero-Base Carryover functions as a reserve account to pay for services, agencies,
41 and student groups when there is not enough revenue accumulated to adequately fund ASUM
42 entities;

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44 Whereas, ASUM is bound by its Fiscal Policy;

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46 Whereas, Section 23.0 of ASUM Fiscal Policy reads:

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23.0 ZERO BASE CARRYOVER

- 23.1 *At the end of each fiscal year, any unexpended amounts remaining in organizational accounts not specified in line 10.5 will revert to the Zero-Based Carryover Account*
- 23.2 *During Final Budgeting, the Senate may transfer money from the Zero-Based Carryover account to the General Fund with a 4/5 vote*
 - 23.2.1 *The Senate may only transfer funds if the Zero Base Carryover account exceeds \$100,000, and this account cannot be reduced below this base amount.*
 - 23.2.2 *The maximum amount that can be transferred from the Zero Base Carryover account to the General Fund during final budgeting is 10% of the total student group carryover from the preceding fiscal year.*
- 23.3 *Any use of Zero Base Carryover funds must be approved by a 2/3 majority vote of the Board on Budget and Finance and a 2/3 majority vote of Senate. The Senate may only utilize these funds if the Zero Base Carryover account exceeds \$100,000, and this account cannot be reduced below this base amount. If extenuating circumstances require that the Zero Base Carryover account be reduced below its base amount, then a 4/5 vote of the Senate is needed to overturn this restriction.*
- 23.4 *Zero Base Carryover funds shall not be used to increase or used in place of STIP, Special Allocation, or Travel Special Allocation funds unless the Senate elects to transfer funds during Final Budgeting as outlined in section 23.2.2.*
- 23.5 *In case the 8% reserve in the Special Allocations -Travel account is not sufficient to cover an unforeseen or emergency travel request after scheduled lobbying, the Board on Budget and Finance may approve, with a 4/5 majority of members, a new allocation withdrawn from Zero Base Carryover. Approval of such action by the Senate requires a 2/3 majority*
- 23.6 *General operating budgets for student groups that did not participate in the budgeting process the prior year shall be funded through the Zero base Account.*
 - 23.6.1 *A student group may apply for a general operating budget in the fall if they did not participate in Final Budgeting in the previous Academic Year.*
 - 23.6.2 *When the budget is submitted, it must be accompanied by a cover letter explaining the reasons for using this process. The student group's request to participate in this process will be sent to the Board on Budget and Finance for approval. If the request is not approved by the board, the request will be brought before ASUM Senate, and the Board's decision may be overturned by a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate.*
 - 23.6.3 *If approved, the ASUM Executives will make an executive recommendation and notify the group of their recommendation.*
 - 23.6.4 *In the subsequent ASUM Senate meeting the Student Group may lobby on behalf of their group during public comment, and will be notified of this opportunity at least 24 hours prior to the meeting in which their budget is on the ASUM Senate Meeting Agenda as an information item.*
 - 23.6.5 *In the following ASUM Senate meeting the Student Group Budget request will be presented in the Business Manager's Report and voted on with two-thirds (2/3) approval by the ASUM Senate.;*

92 Whereas, During FY2012, the ASUM Senate spent \$245,000 from Zero-Base Carryover in order
93 to remodel the ASUM office suite;

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95 Whereas, For FY2017 budgeting, the ASUM Senate transferred over \$80,000 from its Zero-Base
96 Carryover to supplement budgets for its agencies and student groups after significant declines in
97 enrollment and increases in cost to its ASUM Childcare facilities;

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99 Whereas, The Zero-Base Carryover currently holds \$212,203.12;

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101 Whereas, The Zero-Base Carryover grows at the end of each Fiscal Year as ASUM receives
102 unspent student group funds, assuming no additional transactions occur;

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104 Whereas, A transfer from the Zero-Base Carryover fund to Final Budgeting ensures that ASUM,
105 its agencies, and affiliated student groups can continue their mission of engaging the student
106 body and campus community in a dynamic manner;

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108 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That the ASUM Senate approves the transfer of \$30,000 from
109 Zero-Based Carryover (MST009) to the ASUM General Fund (MST001) for the purposes of
110 FY21 budgeting;

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112 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, That this resolution be sent to Gwendolyn Coon, ASUM
113 Office Manager; and Marlene Hendrickson, ASUM Accountant.

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117 Passed by Committee: _____, 2020

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119 Passed by ASUM Senate: February 19, 2020

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123 _____
124 Daniel Parsons,
125 Chair of the Board on Budget & Finance

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127 _____
128 Ethan Hanley,
129 Chair of the Senate

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132 _____
133 Noah Durnell,
134 Chair of the Relations & Affairs Committee

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137 Passed by ASUM Senate: 19Y, 0N, 1A