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**SB74-20/21: Resolution Supporting the Segregation of Funds for
the Student Advocacy Resource Center**

Danielle Pease

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Supporting the Segregation of Funds for the Student Advocacy Resource Center**
3 **March 16th, 2021**
4 **SB74-20/21**

5 **Authored by: Danielle Pease, Student-At-Large;**
6 **Sponsored by: Isaac La'a, ASUM Senator;**
7

8 Whereas, The Student Advocacy Resource Center (SARC) at the University of Montana (UMT)
9 enables students to receive and maintain access to an education “free from discrimination and
10 unwelcome physical, sexual, emotional or social coercion”;¹
11

12 Whereas, Students in the Montana University System have a right to receive an education that is
13 free from harm, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation;
14

15 Whereas, SARC’s mission and services further a student’s ability to obtain an education despite
16 harm, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation that a student may have faced on campus;
17

18 Whereas, SARC has and continues to fill gaps in resources on campus;²
19

20 Whereas, The proposed SARC fee would allow SARC to continue to function at their current
21 capacity;
22

23 Whereas, SARC provided free advocacy and counseling services on 1,364 occasions at the
24 University, in 2019;³
25

26 Whereas, Despite declining enrollment, SARC continues to serve the campus at the same
27 capacity;⁴
28

29 Whereas, The University relies on SARC to maintain federal compliance with Title IX and Title
30 VI;⁵
31

32 Whereas, SARC provides mandatory Bystander Intervention student trainings, counseling
33 services, academic advocacy services, provides a 24/7 support line, and is dispatched to First
34 Step to provide medical advocacy;⁶
35

¹ Student Advocacy Resource Center website, <https://www.umt.edu/student-advocacy-resource-center/About%20SARC/default.php>

² Justice Diane G. Barz, *University of Montana Investigation Report*, 4 (2012) (Recommendation No. 3); *University of Montana Resolution Letter*, DOJ Case No. DJ 169-44-9, OCR Case No. 10126001, 29 (2013).

³ *SARC provided data.*

⁴ *Compare, SARC provided data; University of Montana, Census Enrollment Numbers*, <https://www.umt.edu/institutional-research/metrics/enrollment/census-enrollment.php>

⁵ *Id.* (SARC employees chair, oversee, and fund the implementation of areas of the University’s “opportunities”).

⁶ Student Advocacy Resource Center website.

36 Whereas, Funding for SARC’s prevention efforts and advocacy services are critical to the
37 campus community;

38
39 Whereas, Research indicates universities who have above average responses to sexual violence
40 are spending \$9.35 per student (non-benefits and salaries) on prevention education measures;⁷

41
42 Whereas, Research also suggests a university can have an excellent response to sexual violence
43 on campus if they have one prevention staff member for every 1,298 students;⁸

44
45 Whereas, ASUM’s primary responsibility is to “serve as an advocate for the general welfare of
46 the students”;⁹

47
48 Whereas, In advocating for general welfare, ASUM plays a critical role in new fees proposals
49 and fee schedule changes;

50
51 Whereas, If ASUM seeks to endorse a new fee, it is required obtain student endorsement through
52 a ballot referendum;¹⁰

53
54 Whereas, According to a Constitutional Review Board, a fee is new, “provided the increase
55 expands on the original intent of the fee and is governed by Article 10 Section 2 of the ASUM
56 constitution,”;¹¹

57
58 Whereas, Creating a separate fee for SARC funding, from the Curry Health Center fee, does not
59 change the fee’s scope and does not qualify as a new fee, thus not requiring a student vote
60 endorsement;

61
62 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, This resolution stands as notice of student support of the SARC
63 fee segregation at the Board of Regents (“the Regents”) May 2021 Meeting;

64
65 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, UMT students express gratitude and respect for the work
66 SARC provides to the campus community;

67
68 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, ASUM and its elected officials will continue to advocate
69 for the SARC fee segregation at the Regents meeting;

70

⁷ Holly Rider-Malkovich, *Future Now: Laying the Groundwork for an Inclusive, Comprehensive, Transformative Campus Culture*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=phT0fQ5tAJ8&t=967s> (2021).

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Associated Students of the University of Montana Constitution Art. 2, §2.

¹⁰ *Id.* at 10 § 2. See generally Eric Fulton, *Const. Rev. Bd. Dec. on Student Referendums and Fees* (April 23rd, 2010).

¹¹ See generally *Const. Rev. Bd. Dec. on Student Referendums and Fees*.

71 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, This resolution be forwarded to Jen Eull, Director of
72 SARC; Ali Pepper, Associate Professor of Psychology; Jeff Adams, Director of Curry Health
73 Center, Sarah Swager, Vice Provost for Student Success; Paul Lasiter, Vice President of
74 Operations and Finance; Tyler Trevor, Deputy Commissioner of Budget, Audit, and Planning;
75 Governor Greg Gianforte, Ex Officio Board of Regent Member for Office of the Governor;
76 Clayton Christian, Ex Officio Board of Regent Member, Commissioner of Higher Education;
77 Amy Sexton, Student Regent; Brianne Rogers, Montana University System Board of Regent;
78 Robert A. Nystuen, Montana University System Board of Regent; Casey Lozar, Montana
79 University System Board of Regent Chair; Joyce Dombrowski, Montana University System
80 Board of Regent; Todd Buchanan, Montana University System Board of Regent; Loren Bough,
81 Montana University System Board of Regent.

82

83

84 Passed by Committee: _____, 2021

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86 Passed by ASUM Senate: April 7 _____, 2021

87

88

89

90 _____
91 Noah Durnell,
Chair of the Relations and Affairs Committee

Patrick James Flanagan,
Chair of the Senate