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SB22-21/22: Resolution Adopting and Forwarding the Committee on Equitable Education's Letter of Support, Notice of Frustration, and Interim Actionable Recommendations

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Adopting and Forwarding the Committee on Equitable Education’s Letter of**
3 **Support, Notice of Frustration, & Interim Actionable Recommendations**

4 **October 5, 2021**

5 **SB22-21/22**

6 **Authored by: Danielle Pease, Student-At-Large; Mary Melissa Glueckert, ASUM Senator;**
7 **Sponsored by: Noah Durnell, ASUM President;**

8
9 Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (“ASUM”) established the
10 Committee on Equitable Education (the “Committee”) for the purpose of providing “policy
11 recommendations directed at creating a learning environment emphasizing dignity and worth,
12 free from discrimination, harassment, and retaliation based on sex, gender, or sexual violence”¹;

13
14 Whereas, The University of Montana Alexander Blewett III School of Law (“ABIII”) holds a
15 monopoly of the education and production of legal professionals in the State of Montana;

16
17 Whereas, According to recent reports, access to legal education in the state of Montana has been
18 compromised due to the reported mishandling of policy and the opaque and misleading nature of
19 these policy procedures²;

20
21 Whereas, These policy failures have degraded access to a safe learning environment for students,
22 disregarded the dignity and worth of ABIII survivors, and has potentially allowed them to be
23 exposed to discrimination, harassment, and retaliation based on sexual violence;

24
25 Whereas, The Committee has produced a Letter of Support, Notice of Frustration, & Interim
26 Actionable Recommendations (the “Letter”) to address these policy failures;

27
28 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, The Committee Letter represent ASUM’s interim
29 recommendations to the University of Montana (the “University”) and ABIII;

30
31 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, The Committee Letter represent that ASUM stands for
32 and with our colleagues who have been exposed to harassment, discrimination, and retaliation as
33 a result of ABIII and University policy failures;

34
35 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this resolution and the Letter be sent to Clayton
36 Christian, Montana Commissioner of Higher Education; Seth Bodner, University of Montana
37 President; Helen Thigpen, Montana University System Deputy Legal Counsel; Lucy France,
38 University of Montana Legal Counsel; Alicia Arant, University of Montana Director of Equal

¹Associated Students of the University of Montana S. Bill 75, 2020-2021 S. (April 17, 2021) (Committee on Equitable Education Drafted by Danielle Pease)(the Committee was built as a continuation of the Associated Students of the University of Montana S. Bill 60, 2020-2021 S. (Feb. 24, 2021) (Title IX Ad Hoc Resolution Drafted by Christian Pfeifer, Cierra Anderson, Danielle Pease) and the work of graduate students Joy Barber, Alex Bascagili, Emma Kiefer, and Cameron Doran).

² Keila Szpaller, UM Law Students Dean, Associate Dean of Students Discourage Reports to Title IX (September 28, 2021) accessible at [Perma | UM law students: Dean, associate dean discouraged reports of sexual misconduct – Daily Montanan](https://perma.cc/UM-law-students:Dean,associate-dean-discouraged-reports-of-sexual-misconduct-Daily-Montanian)

39 Opportunity & Title IX Coordinator; Kelly Webster, President's Chief of Staff; Sarah Swager,
40 Vice Provost of Student Success; Paul Kirgis, Alexander Blewett III School of Law Dean; Lynda
41 Hoover, Student Services Associate; Jordan Gross, Law Professor; Kimber McKay, Faculty
42 Senate Chair; Jamie Pollard, Montana Student Bar Association President; Ashby Kinch,
43 Associate Dean of University of Montana Graduate School.

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46 Passed by ASUM Senate: October 8, 2021

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50 Canyon S. Lock,

51 Chair of the Senate

52

53 Passed on a 20Y-0N-1A vote.