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## **SB61-19/20: Resolution Endorsing the Sustainability Fee Adjustment**

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1                   **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**  
2                   **Resolution Endorsing the Sustainability Fee Adjustment**  
3                   **February 20, 2020**  
4                   **SB61-19/20**

5                   **Authored by: Zoe Nelson, ASUM Senator; Kyle Johnston, ASUM Senator;**  
6

7                   Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) passed SB26-19/20 on  
8                   November 6, 2019, which established the sustainability fee referendum for 2020;  
9

10                  Whereas, Efforts to implement and promote sustainable practices on campus have repeatedly  
11                  received strong support from the student body through campus-wide referenda, student surveys,  
12                  and past ASUM resolutions;  
13

14                  Whereas, The Sustainability Fee is one of only two student-driven fees at the University of  
15                  Montana with an “opt-out” option, the other being the MONTPIRG Student Fee, which is subject  
16                  to a biannual renewal by the ASUM Senate and the Association;  
17

18                  Whereas, Making the fee mandatory versus “opt-out” would generate over \$38,000 of additional  
19                  funding annually to go towards the KRELF Fund and ASUM Sustainability operations, based on  
20                  current enrollment;  
21

22                  Whereas, Article VI, Section 3, Subsection N of the ASUM Bylaws allows the ASUM Senate to  
23                  campaign for the passage or defeat of a referendum regarding a student-driven fee<sup>1</sup>;  
24

25                  Whereas, The ASUM Activity Fee increase and Rate Adjustment approved in SB58-19/20 and  
26                  SB59-19/20, respectively, will receive a substantial amount of support from the ASUM  
27                  Executives with or without an endorsement from the Senate;  
28

29                  Whereas, According to the ASUM Constitution, the ASUM President is “the official spokesperson  
30                  for the Association”<sup>2</sup>;  
31

32                  Whereas, The ASUM Vice President and ASUM Business Manager, in their capacity as elected  
33                  Executive Members, are expected to work diligently to advocate on behalf of the Association;  
34

35                  Whereas, This fee adjustment will be the third time the student body has voted on such a proposal;  
36

37                  Whereas, Passage of this Fee Adjustment at the University of Montana must  
38                  be by substantial margins to justify its passage at Board of Regents;  
39

40                  Whereas, Endorsing and advocating for the fee adjustment is akin to ASUM taking a greater stance  
41                  on sustainability issues rather than putting the adjustment before students during General  
42                  Elections;  
43

44                  Whereas, Endorsing and advocating for the fee adjustment as a Senate will provide stronger  
45                  mechanisms for marketing and promoting the change;  
46

47 Whereas, Endorsing the fee adjustment amid the outbreak of COVID-19 could enhance ASUM's  
48 ability to reach the 12.5% voter turnout requirement necessary for the implementation of  
49 Constitutional Amendments and Fee Referenda, both of which are on the ballot this year;  
50

51 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That ASUM endorse the Sustainability Fee Referendum proposed  
52 and accepted by the Senate in SB26-19/20;  
53

54 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That ASUM actively campaign for the passage of the  
55 Sustainability Fee Referendum as a unified body through the use of social media, tabling around  
56 campus, and all other appropriate and legitimate forms;  
57

58 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That the ASUM Senate strongly encourages the 2019-2020  
59 and 2020-2021 ASUM Executives to lobby on behalf of this fee adjustment prior to, during and  
60 after the 2020 ASUM General Election;  
61

62 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this resolution be sent to: Madeleine Jones, ASUM  
63 Sustainability Coordinator; Paul Lasiter, Vice President for Operations and Finance; Eva Roche,  
64 UM Sustainability Coordinator; Shane St. Onge, Chair of Elections Committee; and Tyler Trevor,  
65 Deputy Commissioner for Budget and Planning.  
66

67  
68 Passed by Committee: \_\_\_\_\_, 2020  
69

70 Passed by ASUM Senate: March 25, 2020  
71

72  
73  
74 \_\_\_\_\_  
75 Noah Durnell,  
76 Chair of the Relations and Affairs Committee  
77

74 \_\_\_\_\_  
75 Ethan Hanley,  
76 Chair of the Senate  
77

78 \_\_\_\_\_  
79 Emma Kiefer,  
80 Chair of the Sustainability Board  
81

82 Passed by ASUM Senate: 18Y, 0N, 1A  
83