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NEWS RELEASE

April 13, 2006

Contact: Andrea Helling, ASUM senator,

ASUM URGES STUDENTS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF UM'S 'FLAT SPOT'

MISSOULA –

The University of Montana student government has passed a resolution encouraging students to take more credits each semester to save money and finish earlier.

As students begin registering for fall semester this week, senators with the Associated Students of UM hope their resolution draws attention to the so-called “flat spot” – the fact that it costs the same amount of money to take 21 credits as it does to take 12. The measure acknowledges that high student loans are a problem for many UM graduates.

Introduced by Sen. Andrea Helling, the resolution also cites a UM study that shows students who take an average of 15 credits a semester have a 50 percent greater chance of graduating. The study also shows that students who take advantage of the flat spot graduate in less time with less debt and a higher grade-point average.

Helling sent a memo and to campus faculty, staff and administrators asking them to let students know that taking additional credits has many benefits. “As student leaders, we strongly encourage advisers across campus to advise student to take advantage of the flat spot,” Helling said.

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