Spring 2-12-2014

SB59-13/14: Emergency Closure Policy

Ryan Hazen
The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Resolution Regarding Emergency Closure Policy
February 14, 2014
SB59-13/14
Authored by: Ryan Hazen, ASUM Senator

Whereas, on February 6, 2014 the University of Montana’s (UM) emergency response text/email alert system notified students and faculty at 10:00 AM that two armed robberies had occurred at a nearby location;

Whereas, UM Policy: Emergency Closure states:

“In the event of emergency caused by severe weather conditions or a natural or an unnatural disaster, the President may close The University of Montana-Missoula to protect the health and safety of the students and employees. The President will determine when the emergency has ended and the University should be reopened.”

Whereas, at 10:22 AM, UM’s Emergency Response Alert System told students and faculty to remain inside and lock their doors;

Whereas, at 10:46 AM, UM’s Emergency Response Alert System notified students and faculty that classes were cancelled and that they needed to stay in place behind a locked door until further notifications;

Whereas, at 11:54 AM, UM’s Emergency Response Alert System notified students and faculty that the lockdown was still in place and that further updates were to come;

Whereas, at 12:24 PM, UM’s Emergency Response Alert System notified students and faculty that the lockdown was still in place and gave them a phone number to call in the event of a medical or other emergency;

Whereas, at 12:51 PM, UM’s Emergency Response Alert System notified students and faculty that the lockdown had ended;

Whereas, the same message stated that classes and activities would resume immediately, despite said suspect still being at large;

Whereas, some students did not have the ability to attend class because they had no means of reaching campus, or had other matters to attend to as a result of the lockdown;

Whereas, some students opted not to attend class due to safety concerns;

Whereas, it is unreasonable to expect students to immediately return to UM campus and/or attend class after lifting a lockdown;

Whereas, President Royce Engstrom later excused students that had missed classes that occurred after the lockdown had ended;

Whereas, classes being cancelled for the remainder of the day in the event of an emergency, still needs to be addressed in campus policy;
Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) commends President Royce Engstrom for excusing students that missed class after the lockdown had ended.

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that ASUM requests that UM Administration updates their campus policies, to require that classes be cancelled for the remainder of the day in the event of the University President invoking an emergency closure;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Royce Engstrom, President of UM.

Passed by Committee: February 10, 2014
Passed by ASUM Senate: February 12, 2014
Final Vote: 24Y-2N

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Sean McQuillan,    Mariah Williams,
Relations and Affairs Chair    Chair of the Senate