Spring 2012

SB53-11/12: Higher One

Jeff Edmunds
The Associated Students of The University of Montana  
Resolution Regarding Higher One  
April 25, 2012  
Senate Bill SB53-11/12  

Authored by: Jeffrey Edmunds, ASUM Vice President  
Sponsored by: Jen Gursky, ASUM President; Neil Bennet, ASUM Senator; Zach Brown, ASUM Senator; Gwendolyn Coon, ASUM Senator; Shelbi Dantic, ASUM Senator; Sarah Dickmeyer, ASUM Senator; Cody Gordon, ASUM Senator; Dylan Klapmeier, ASUM Senator; Emerald LaFortune, ASUM Senator; Dan Molgaard, ASUM Senator; Micah Nielsen, ASUM Senator; Janyssa Overturf, ASUM Senator; Zach Patten, ASUM Senator; Christopher Selph, ASUM Senator; Damara Simpson, ASUM Senator; Clay Springmeyer, ASUM Senator; Travis Suzuki, ASUM Senator; Topher Williams, ASUM Senator; and Mariah Williams, ASUM Senator.

Whereas, The University of Montana entered into a Services Agreement with Higher One Inc. on May 25, 2010;

Whereas, Higher One agreed to offer Demand Deposit Accounts (DDA) to all UM Students and to use these accounts for the disbursement of financial aid credit along with any other “Institutional Disbursements”;  

Whereas, UM students cannot opt to receive a paper check for the financial aid refund since June 1st, 2011;  

Whereas, students from The University of Montana can be adversely affected by a fee structure that they do not fully understand;  

Whereas, there are two methods of withdrawing funds from a Higher One account that do not charge students for a fee;  

Whereas, using the Higher One Card for debit transactions triggers a 50 cent fee and several methods available for withdrawing money from a Higher One account require paying fees as high as 25 dollars;  

Whereas, many students have publicly and privately expressed concerns regarding the availability of information regarding fees associated with the Higher One accounts;  

Whereas, ASUM recognizes the financial benefits to The University of Montana accompanying the Higher One contract, however, ASUM would have desired additional consultation with the student body;  

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that Associated Students of The University of Montana (ASUM) requests the Administration of the University of Montana and Higher One Inc., explore additional measures that will reduce the financial effect of the Services Agreement on UM students;
Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that ASUM requests that UM Business Services works with ASUM and the student body on any future decisions that may involve student refund distributions;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that the ASUM Senate directs the ASUM President to contact the involved parties to discuss the students’ concerns about the Services Agreement and discuss the rationale for not including ASUM on the discussions from the beginning to the signing of the contract with Higher One, Inc.

Passed by Committee: _________________________, 2012

Passed by ASUM Senate: _________________________, 2012

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Travis Suzuki, Jeffrey Edmunds,
Relations and Affairs Chair Chair of the Senate