Spring 2011

SB43-10/11: Amending Bylaws

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The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Resolution Amending Bylaws
April 27, 2011
SB43-10/11
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Sponsored by: Kayla Hoggatt, ASUM Senator, Meghan Baker, ASUM Senator, and Julie De Soto, ASUM Senator

Whereas ASUM bylaws Article 5, Section 2, Subsection 5 reads, “No ASUM-sponsored organization shall be allowed to finance the campaign of any candidate for ASUM office, nor may any individual finance the campaign of a candidate in the name of an ASUM-sponsored organization;”

Whereas Montana state law includes a code of fair election practices, which states that, “There are basic principles of decency, honesty and fair play that every candidate for public office in the United States has a moral obligation to observe and uphold in order that our citizens may exercise their constitutional right to a free and untrammeled choice, and the will of the people may be fully and clearly expressed…” (MCA 13-35-301);

Whereas the publication and distribution of flyers or any other campaign material portraying the name, image or endorsement of any candidate running for elected office violates the basic standards of fairness edified by Montana law, and inherent in ASUM’s own bylaws and constitution;

Whereas any campaign material bearing the name, image or endorsement of a candidate qualifies as an in-kind contributions and such contributions are prohibited by ASUM’s bylaws (Article 5, Section 2, Subsection J);

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that ASUM Bylaws shall be amended to include the following items and which will read as follows:

Article 5, Section 2, Subsection 5

M. Any candidate who accepts a contribution in kind, or solicits such a contribution shall be subject to sanctions up to and including disqualification. Any campaign undertaken on behalf of a candidate or group of candidates by any third party shall be considered a contribution in kind, and is prohibited by this policy. Such campaign activity includes, but is not limited to, flyers, posters, banners or paid web material bearing a candidate’s name or image; newspaper advertisements and editorials; or speeches made on behalf of a candidate or group of candidates.

Passed by Committee: _____________________________, 2011
Passed by ASUM Senate: __________________________, 2011

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Travis Suzuki, Amanda Stovall,
Relations and Affairs Chair Chair of the Senate