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SB03-09/10: Amending House Rules: Conflicts of Interest in Voting

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The Associated Students of The University of Montana
Resolution Amending House Rules: Conflicts of Interest in Voting
September 16, 2009
Senate Bill SB3-09/10
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Sponsored by: Emily May, ASUM Vice President
Jake Armstrong, ASUM Business Manager

Whereas, the ASUM Senate screens all resolutions and budgetary requests made to ASUM;

Whereas, a conflict of interest arises when voting members of the ASUM Senate are involved in groups that lobby the Senate for funding;

Whereas, Parliamentary Procedure requires voting members to abstain from voting on issues in which they hold a conflict of interest;

Whereas, to address conflicts of interest in funding agencies, members of the ASUM Administration, Senators and Executive Officers, are not allowed to hold the directorship of any agency while part of the Administration;

Whereas, in no ASUM governing document is there a stipulation that ASUM Senators and Executives cannot vote on budgetary requests and/or resolutions that would directly benefit themselves as a member of a student group;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that the ASUM Senate amends ASUM House Rules Section 2 to include section L:

**Section 2. Senate Meetings:**

A. Unless the ASUM Constitution or Bylaws dictate otherwise, Senate meetings shall be conducted according to the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order. The Senate may amend its own rules of parliamentary law by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, and those rules shall become part of the House Rules.

B. In the absence of both the President and the Vice President, the Business Manager shall chair Senate meetings. In the absence of all officers, the Senate shall select a temporary chair from its membership, approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate.

C. All proposed resolutions and motions introduced during "New Business" shall be placed under "Unfinished Business" for the following Senate meeting. Discussion and voting may take place only under "Unfinished Business" unless the Senate suspends the rules by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.

D. Resolutions or motions to support or oppose increases in University of Montana or ASUM student fees shall be held under "Unfinished Business" until the Senate meeting two weeks after its introduction.

E. All approved actions of University Center Board, Relations and Affairs, SPA, and Board on Budget and Finance may be forwarded to the next ASUM Senate meeting as a seconded
motion, a seconded motion meaning that a resolution need not be submitted under New Business and after one week be debated under "Unfinished Business."

F. All Senate resolutions introduced as "New Business" must be given to the Vice President and the Office Manager in electronic form before 12 p.m. on the Monday preceding the meeting at which they are to be debated under "Unfinished Business." Resolutions not in compliance with this rule shall be accepted at the discretion of the committee chair.

G. All resolutions introduced under "New Business" shall be referred by the Vice President, acting as committee whip, to the appropriate committee or board. Prior to debate before the full Senate, the committee or board shall give its recommendation either for or against approval, or may elect not to forward a resolution to the Senate.

H. The Vice President shall post, in the ASUM office, a list of all resolutions submitted for consideration at the next ASUM Senate meeting 24 hours preceding the meeting. The list shall state the ASUM standing committee to which each resolution has been referred.

I. Quorum shall be defined as two-thirds (2/3) of the total number of Executives and Senators currently holding office. No business may be conducted in the absence of a quorum. This rule may not be suspended.

J. No Executive or Senator may do homework, use a personal phone or leave the Senate meeting prior to adjournment without returning or the consent of the Chair. Violations that occur after one warning will result in an unexcused absence.

K. The final vote on all resolutions voted on by the ASUM Senate requires a roll call vote unless approved by unanimous consent.

L. Voting members of the ASUM Senate are required to abstain from any vote pertaining to a club or outside organization in which they are personally involved that stands to benefit financially from the outcome of the vote. In the event that a quorum cannot be reached due to abstentions, this rule may be waived by privilege of the Chair.

Passed by Committee: _________________________, 2009

Passed by Senate: ______________________________, 2009

______________________________                  ________________________________
Andrew Dusek,                                        Emily May,
Relations and Affairs Chair                           Chair of the Senate