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SB74-13/14: Abolishing New Business

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The Associated Students of the University of Montana

Resolution Abolishing New Business

March 26, 2014

SB74-13/14

Authored by: Ryan Hazen, ASUM Senator

Sponsored by: Erik Lillquist, ASUM Senator; Damara Simpson, Former ASUM Senator;

Whereas, the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) conduct business on behalf of the student body;

Whereas, resolutions on behalf of the student body must come up under a period called “New Business” during Senate meetings;

Whereas, resolutions that do not come up under New Business are subjected to a Senate vote in order to be heard;

Whereas, only members of ASUM Senate have the ability to introduce resolutions under New Business;

Whereas, this makes it onerous for a student that is not a member of the Senate to bring up a resolution;

Whereas, items introduced under New Business are officially on the record regardless of whether they are brought up or not during the following meeting;

Whereas, members of the Senate have tried to use New Business;

Whereas, the purpose of New Business is transparency and accountability;

Whereas, New Business is not posted anywhere for the student body to read until a copy of the meeting’s minutes are posted;

Whereas, by the time the meeting’s minutes are posted the agenda with upcoming resolutions have already been released;

Whereas, resolutions have been brought up under New Business under inconspicuous titles;

Whereas, due to these issues New Business no longer fulfills its original intent;

Whereas, multiple ASUM meetings have exceeded four hours of languor;

Whereas, it is in the student body’s best interest for ASUM to obviate ineffective measures that dilapidate their time;
Whereas, Article 1, Section 2, Subsection C of ASUM House Rules states:

"C. All proposed resolutions and motions introduced during "New Business", if forwarded to the Senate by Relations and Affairs, 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."

Whereas, Article 1, Section 2, Subsection E of ASUM House Rules states:

"E. All approved actions of University Center Board, Relations and Affairs, SPA, Housing Board, 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."

Whereas, Article 1, Section 2, Subsection F of ASUM House Rules states:

"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."

Whereas, Article 1, Section 2, Subsection G of ASUM House Rules states:

"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."

Whereas, this procedure has fallen out of practice;

Whereas, Article 1, Section 2, Subsection H of ASUM House Rules states:

"H. The Vice President shall ensure that the text of all resolutions submitted for consideration at the next ASUM Senate meeting shall be posted on the ASUM website 24 hours preceding the meeting, or in the ASUM Office if unable to update the website. The list shall state the ASUM standing committee to which each resolution has been referred, if referred to a committee other than the Relations and Affairs Committee."

Whereas, Article IV, Section 1, Subsection J of ASUM Bylaws states:
“J. All approved actions of the University Center Board, Relations and Affairs, Student Political Action, Housing Board, 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 Old Business.”

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that Article 1, Section 2, Subsection C of ASUM House Rules be amended to read:

“C. All proposed resolutions, if forwarded to the Senate by Relations and Affairs, 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.”

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that Article 1, Section 2, Subsection E of ASUM House Rules be amended to read:

“E. All approved actions of University Center Board, Relations and Affairs, SPA, Housing Board, and Board on Budget and Finance may be forwarded to the next ASUM Senate meeting as a seconded motion.”

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that Article 1, Section 2, Subsection F of ASUM House Rules be amended to read:

“F. All Senate resolutions must be given to the Vice President, Office Manager, or designated Senate secretary 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.”

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that Article 1, Section 2, Subsection G of ASUM House Rules be stricken in its entirety;

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved that Article 1, Section 2, Subsection H of ASUM House Rules be amended to read:

“H. The Vice President shall ensure that the text of all resolutions submitted for consideration at the next ASUM Senate meeting shall be posted on the ASUM website 24 hours preceding the meeting, or in the ASUM Office if unable to update the website.”

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that Article IV, Section 1, Subsection J of ASUM Bylaws be amended to read:
“J. All approved actions of the University Center Board, Relations and Affairs, Student Political Action, Housing Board, and Board on Budget and Finance may be forwarded to the next ASUM Senate meeting as a seconded motion.”

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that New Business be removed from future Senate agenda items;

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that the numbering and lettering of ASUM House Rules and Bylaws to adjusted to reflect these changes.

Passed by Committee: March 24, 2014

Passed by ASUM Senate: __________________________, 2014

Final Vote: 10Y-13N

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