SB70-14/15: Resolution Regarding Kyi-Yo Fee

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The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Resolution Regarding Kyi-Yo Fee
February 11, 2015
SB70-14/15
Authored by: Iva Croff
Sponsored by: Trail Bundy, ASUM Senator; Kevin Skunk Cap, ASUM Senator

Whereas, The Associated Students of The University of Montana (ASUM) has received interest from students and staff of the University to support UM’s Kyi-Yo Native American Student Association’s Annual Celebration, by approving a student fee increase.

Whereas, This fee increase would be accumulated for the sole purpose of providing consistent financial support for the Kyi-Yo Pow-Wow, an annual cultural event held each spring on the University of Montana campus and is the foremost student-led cultural event that has taken place on the UM campus for over 50 years;

Whereas, ASUM is committed to supporting the University in its mission to encourage and celebrate the differences within a culturally diverse campus community;

Whereas, ASUM recognizes that the Kyi-Yo Native American Student Association, also referred to as the Kyi-Yo Student Club, is open to any interested student who would like to participate in the planning, organizing, and fund-raising for the annual Kyi-Yo Pow-Wow;

Whereas, ASUM recognizes that the mission of the Kyi-Yo Student Club is to bridge the faculty and students of the University of Montana with the communities of Missoula and surrounding areas by engaging in the cultural traditions in order to unify and promote the cultural identity of Native Americans;

Whereas, Each year, UM contributes $20,000 to the event, and the Kyi-Yo Club raises roughly $10,000 through an array of often time-consuming endeavors, which leaves a balance of approximately $20,000 to be recouped by charging an admission fee for what is frequently a free event at other university campuses;

Whereas, ASUM applauds the fundraising efforts of the Kyi-Yo Club and their volunteers, but lacks the budgetary means to implement support of a substantial, continuous award, or donation to the Pow-Wow every year;

Whereas, a nominal fee of $1.00 listed on the student registration bill would significantly enhance the budget for the Pow-Wow and alleviate the need to seek donations from a community who already gives so generously to many other activities and scholarships at the UM;

Whereas, The aforementioned student fee would allow the student body to have ownership in this culturally unique celebration, thus eliminating the necessity to charge admission to the event which would allow more community members, university students, and school-age children to attend and participate in the event and become more acquainted with the UM campus and facilities;
Whereas, Students deserve the right to vote on any increase in the fees they pay;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the following referenda language be placed on the May 2015 ballot, reading as follows:

ASUM is requesting a $1.00 fee increase to the activity fee in order to sustain the Kyi-Yo Native American Student Association’s Annual Kyi-Yo Pow-Wow, thus reflecting the University of Montana student body’s desire to enhance the campus community and bridge the gap among disparate groups of students, and boost interaction between students of various races, ethnicities, and cultural groups.

Yes, I support an increase in the activity fee by $1.00 for the Kyi-Yo Native American Student Association and Kyi-Yo Student Pow-Wow.

No, I do not support an increase in the activity fee by $1.00 for the Kyi-Yo Native American Student Association and Kyi-Yo Student Pow-Wow.

Passed by Committee: ____________________________, 2015

Passed by ASUM Senate: ____________________________, 2015

______________________________                         ________________________
Sarah Smith                                Sean McQuillan,
Relations and Affairs Chair                 Chair of the Senate