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SB43-16/17: Resolution Regarding Program Prioritization Efforts

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The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Resolution Regarding Program Prioritization Efforts
December 7th, 2016
SB43-16/17
Authored by: Julian Adler, ASUM Senator; Elle Fettig, ASUM Senator; Chase Greenfield, ASUM Business Manager; Stephen Pelletier, ASUM Senator; Anisa Ricci, ASUM Senator;
Sponsored by:

Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) is the representative voice for students of the University of Montana (UM);

Whereas, on December 1st, 2016 Montana Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian sent out a message stating that Royce C. Engstrom would resign as President as of December 31st;

Whereas, the status of Program Prioritization efforts at UM has not been addressed since the announcement of President Engstrom's resignation;

Whereas, there have been no announcements concerning the ongoing status of the present search for the office of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs in context of Engstrom's resignation;

Whereas, this leaves open the possibility that the position of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs will be filled by an interim for the 2017-2018 Academic Year;

Whereas, the position of the Provost will closely oversee the process of Program Prioritization and will indefinitely influence its decision making processes;

Whereas, the current timeline for program prioritization entails a 9-12 month listening period beginning in November, 2016;

Whereas, multiple changes in leadership and ownership of the Program Prioritization process by the Provost compromises the efficiency, consistency, and integrity of this process;

Whereas, it is imperative to the health of UM academics that any decisions about Program Prioritization beyond listening and information gathering be conducted by the next permanent Provost of the University of Montana;

Whereas, the search for a permanent Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs has been suspended;

Whereas, there is a high risk of losing qualified candidates for the position of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs if the search is discontinued or paused beyond the duration of Winter Break;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) urges the University of Montana to limit the Program Prioritization process to fact-
finding and listening sessions until a permanent Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs has been selected;

Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved that ASUM urges the University of Montana to limit the Program Prioritization Process to fact-finding and listening sessions until students return to campus for Fall Semester 2017, should a permanent Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs be selected before this time;

Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved that ASUM urges the University of Montana to continue the ongoing search for a permanent Provost in the most expeditious and timely fashion possible;

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to: Royce C. Engstrom, President of the University of Montana; Sheila Stearns, Incoming-Interim President of the University Montana; Clayton Christian, Commissioner of Higher Education; Beverly Edmund, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Mike Reid, Vice President for Administration and Finance; Tom Crady, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Affairs; Paul Tuss, Chair of the Board of Regents of Higher Education; Fran Albrecht, Vice-Chair of the Board of Regents of Higher Education; Levi Birky, Student Regent; William Johnstone, Regent of Higher Education; Casey Lozar, Regent of Higher Education; Robert Nystuen, Regent of Higher Education; Martha Sheehy, Regent of Higher Education; Paul Haber, President of the University Faculty Association; John DeBoer, Chair of the Faculty Senate; and Jen Zellmer-Cuaresma, Staff Senate President; Tom Gallagher, President of the Missoula College Faculty Association;

Passed by Committee: ______________________________, 2016

Passed by ASUM Senate: ______________________________, 2016

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Connor Fitzpatrick                        Elizabeth Engebretson
Chair of Relations & Affairs              Chair of the Senate