

ITEM 155-1008-R0512

MontPIRG Fee Assessment; The University of Montana - Missoula

THAT

Consistent with the BOR Policy 940.12.1 (Tuition and Fee Approval) and BOR Policy 506.1 (Student Participation in Fee Decisions) the Board of Regents of the Montana University System approves the assessment of a \$5 MontPIRG per student, per semester, refusable (opt out) fee.

EXPLANATION

The University of Montana students have established their own non-profit citizen corporation called the Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG). MontPIRG's mission is to involve students in community issues and advocate for the public interest. Students use MontPIRG to develop effective citizenship and professional skills through public policy involvement. Through MontPIRG, students strive to act as a catalyst that facilitates a legacy of social improvement for the benefit of all Montanans.

MontPIRG's work provides a unique experiential training opportunity on real issues for University students. In doing so, the organization produces students with developed citizenship skills. The cultivation of these skills is imperative in light of the coming elections in November. Too often students are not able to express a substantial message. MontPIRG is the organization needed and decided upon by the students to remedy this dilemma.

Over 1,300 students signed a petition to place the following language on a ballot for spring 2012 student elections.

Yes, University of Montana students should establish and run the Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG) and fund it with a \$5 refusable fee per student, per semester. The fee would be refusable during registration each semester.

No, University of Montana students should not establish and run the Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG) and fund it with a \$5 refusable fee per student, per semester. The fee would be refusable during registration each semester

The referendum to establish the \$5 fee passed with 1,449 students voting in favor, with 955 opposing the fee.

ATTACHMENTS

MontPIRG Petition