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(ASUM)

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SB35-15/16: Student Fee Referendum

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Student Fee Referendum**
3 **February 17th, 2016**
4 **S35-15/16**

5 **Authored by: Cody Meixner, ASUM President; Betsy Story, ASUM Vice President;**
6 **Mackenzie Lombardi, ASUM Senate Secretary**

7 **Sponsored by:**

8
9 Whereas, The University of Montana is currently experiencing a drop in enrollment;

10
11 Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) is experiencing
12 significant operational budget shortfalls, expected to continue in Fiscal Year 2017;

13
14 Whereas, during budgeting for Fiscal Year 2016, the ASUM Senate withdrew funding from
15 Zero-Based Carryover funds, from its Employee Contingency Fund, and from its healthcare
16 savings in order to rectify an executive accounting error;

17
18 Whereas, ASUM's agencies have experienced cuts of approximately 20% in the last three (3)
19 fiscal years in order to account for decreasing enrollment;

20
21 Whereas, cuts to these programs have significantly reduced their ability to serve the student
22 population at UM;

23
24 Whereas, these programs have experienced increased awareness and use of services despite
25 dropping enrollment;

26
27 Whereas, the services provided by ASUM agencies such as Child Care, Legal, Transportation,
28 Sustainability, Productions, Off-Campus Renter Center, and more, significantly impact student
29 recruitment, retention, and success;

30
31 Whereas, the ASUM Activity Fee has increased twice since 2012;

32
33 Whereas, these increases came in the amount of \$6 in 2012, which is reserved solely for ASUM
34 recognized student groups, and in the amount of \$3 in 2015 to establish an infant care center and
35 a scholarship fund for student research;

36
37 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the following language be submitted to the April 2016
38 elections:

39
40 “The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) currently has a \$61.35 Activity
41 Fee it uses to fund its staff, operations, agencies, and student group activities. Some of the services
42 supported by this fee are:

- 43
- 44 • Funding for almost 200 student groups with a total membership of more than 44% of the
 - 45 UM student body
 - 46 • Affordable, high-quality child care that allows student parents to remain in school

- 47 • UM’s only transportation system via the UDash bus fleet and bike rentals
- 48 • UM Productions, a student-run productions agency that brings shows like Macklemore and
- 49 Death Cab for Cutie to UM
- 50 • Tenant/landlord dispute resolution and reliable renter information through the Off-Campus
- 51 Renter Center
- 52 • Student/faculty dispute resolution through mediation by the Student Resolution Officer
- 53 • Short-term loans to students in addition to research, travel, and professional development
- 54 scholarships
- 55 • Political advocacy for students in the Montana State Legislature with a student lobbyist
- 56 • Affordable and comprehensive Legal Services to students, including everything from
- 57 consultation to representation
- 58 • Sustainability grants that have funded almost 50 student-led energy efficiency projects
- 59 through the KRELF fund
- 60 • The independent and student-run Montana Kaimin Newspaper and KBGA College Radio
- 61 Station

62
 63 These and other ASUM services are being more heavily utilized than ever before. ASUM proposes
 64 a \$9.65 increase that is needed to maintain current services and directly attend to the immediate
 65 needs of UM students. Without this increase, ASUM will have to shut down at least one of its
 66 student-run agencies.

67
 68 Do you support a \$9.65 increase to the ASUM fee for continued student services?
 69

70 Yes, I support a \$9.65 increase for student services provided by ASUM.
 71

72 No, I do not support a \$9.65 increase for student services provided by ASUM.”
 73

74
 75
 76
 77

78 Passed by Committee: _____, 2016

79
 80 Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2016

81
 82
 83
 84
 85
 86 _____
 87 Kaitlin Hopingardner,
 Chair of Board on Relations and Affairs

86 _____
 87 Betsy Story,
 Chair of the Senate