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**The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Resolution Regarding Kaimin Fee Increase
March 30, 2016
SB48-15/16**

**Authored by: Meg Dowaliby, Kaimin Business Manager;
Sponsored by: Sarah Smith, ASUM Business Manager**

Whereas, Kaimin is a University of Montana (UM) student run media outlet;

Whereas, the Kaimin is a highly valued and instrumental component of UM life and culture;

Whereas, the Montana Kaimin has dramatically reduced its expenses in recent years by moving its printing to the Bozeman Daily Chronicle to reduce printing costs, reducing the wages rate paid to staff;

Whereas, the Kaimin had incurred a negative balance at the end of Fiscal Year 2014;

Whereas, the Kaimin is scheduled to repay The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) \$18,000 over the course of the next year;

Whereas, the Kaimin has experienced a drop in advertising sales that can be partially attributed to the student enrollment decline;

Whereas, the Montana Kaimin along with other news agencies are under constant pressure to report the news earlier, more concisely and by electronic media;

Whereas, online advertising has not generated a sufficient amount of revenue to cover the revenue lost in the reduction of print advertising and student fee revenue;

Whereas, a fee increase would help the Kaimin pay for increased technology costs associated with web and mobile publishing platforms;

Whereas, students have a right to vote on proposed fee increases during the ASUM elections;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the following question be placed before the student body of the University of Montana for vote during the 2016 ASUM General Election:

“The Montana Kaimin is proposing a \$1 fee increase to the Montana Kaimin fee. The Montana Kaimin is a student run media company for the University of Montana and employs around 50 students to prepare and design the weekly print publication and the daily online content. They ask for this increase for the purposes of modernizing the technology of the organization, maintaining necessary reserves, paying student wages, and continuing to provide students free news dedicated to covering issues important to the University of Montana campus community.”

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51 _____ Yes, I support increasing the Montana Kaimin fee by \$1, from \$5 to \$6 per
52 semester.

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54 _____ No, I do not support increasing the Montana Kaimin fee by \$1, from \$5 to \$6 per
55 semester.

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57 Passed by Committee: _____, 2016

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59 Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2016

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62 _____
63 Kaitlin Hopingardner,
Chair of Relations and Affairs

Betsy Story,
Chair of the Senate