

1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Regarding a Health Fee Increase for the 2018 - 2019 Biennium**
3 **April 12th, 2017**
4 **SB80-16/17**

5 **Authored by: Chase Greenfield, ASUM Business Manager;**
6 **Sponsored by: Sam Forstag, ASUM President**
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8 Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) is the official
9 representative body of the students of the University of Montana (UM);

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11 Whereas, earlier this semester, ASUM passed SB59-16/17, a resolution endorsing the continued
12 prioritization and support for mental health resources at UM in the Curry Health Center;

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14 Whereas, mental health services are critical to the students in the Montana University System;

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16 Whereas, an analysisⁱ conducted by the Center for Collegiate Mental Health shows that students'
17 self-reported distress levels for depression and anxiety have continued to increase over the past
18 six (6) years;

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20 Whereas, the total number of scheduled service hours have increased by 28% over the past six
21 (6) years according to the same report;

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23 Whereas, a September 15 study by the Montana University System (MUS) 'Suicide Prevention
24 and Student Mental Health Task Force'² found that: "*Campuses have seen a significant increase*
25 *(16% over the last five years) in utilization of mental health services.*"

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27 Whereas, this same report from the MUS Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Task Force
28 found that "*Campuses do not have adequate staffing or resources to address the need for*
29 *services.*"

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31 Whereas, the Curry Health Center (CHC) receives approximately 30,000 clinical visits each year
32 across its Medical, Counseling, and Dental services;

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34 Whereas, the CHC also provides approximately 35,000 non-clinical outreach encounters to
35 students each year;

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37 Whereas, the CHC is anticipating a \$330,000 budget shortfall for the 2018-2019 biennium due to
38 anticipated increases in personnel wages and the currently-projected 5% enrollment decline
39 would require a fee increase of approximately 3.9% to stave off cuts entirely;

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41 Whereas, some level of fee increase is important to University of Montana students and critical
42 retention and mental health resources, and is uniquely necessary to ensure that students' access
43 to critical components of CHC core services is not impaired over the 2018 - 2019 biennium;

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45 Therefore, Let it Be Resolved, that the Associated Students of the University of Montana
46 (ASUM) requests that the Board of Regents consider and approve a 3% fee increase to the

47 University of Montana Health Fee at the May 2017 meeting to ensure that prospective cuts to the
48 Curry Health Center do not significantly impede students' access to critical services like student
49 counseling;

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51 Therefore, Let it Further Be Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to: Sheila Stearns,
52 University of Montana President; Mike Reid, Vice President for Administration & Finance;
53 Beckie Christiaens, Associate Vice President of Administration and Finance; Levi Birky, Student
54 Regent; Clayton Christian, Commissioner of Higher Education; Paul Tuss, Chair of the Montana
55 Board of Regents; Fran Albrecht, Vice Chair of the Montana Board of Regents.

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58 Passed by ASUM Senate: April 12, 2017

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Elizabeth Engebretson
Chair of the Senate

i https://sites.psu.edu/ccmh/files/2017/01/2016-Annual-Report-FINAL_2016_01_09-1gc2hj6.pdf

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<https://mus.edu/board/meetings/2016/Sept2016/ARSA/Suicide%20Prevention%20Task%20Force%20Report%209-16.pdf>