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SB49-18/19: Resolution Regarding ASUM Support for OER Initiatives at the University of Montana

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Regarding ASUM Support for OER Initiatives at the University of Montana**
3 **March 15th, 2019**

4 **SB49-18/19**

5 **Authored by: Lyssa Schei, ASUM Senator**

6 **Sponsored by:**

7
8 Whereas, The University of Montana (UM) currently suffers from a lack of funding due to low
9 retention rates and dropping enrollment;

10
11 Whereas, Tuition and fees nationwide have increased by 63% and textbook costs have risen by
12 88% since January 2008;

13
14 Whereas, Recent studies have found that up to 65% of students opt out of buying textbooks;

15
16 Whereas, UM wishes to stay on the forefront of educational trends and increase ease of
17 accessibility for its students;

18
19 Whereas, Open education modules will help students keep money in their pocket and may help
20 the University see an increase in its retention rates, due to lower prices overall;

21
22 Whereas, Open Educational Resource (OER) initiatives would increase student accessibility to
23 required class texts, assignments, tests, quizzes, and modules;

24
25 Whereas, The Treasure State Academic Information & Library Services consortium has created
26 a statewide OER Committee and has hired an OER Coordinator to oversee the implementation of
27 OER on Montana campuses;

28
29 Whereas, OER at UM is currently funded by the Mansfield Library, Office of the Provost, and
30 School of Extended & Lifelong Learning;

31
32 Whereas, The University's current "Inclusive Access" system creates security concerns, due to
33 students being required to often give third-parties sensitive university-related information;

34
35 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That the Associated Students of the University of Montana
36 (ASUM) Senate support the aforementioned offices in furthering OER access at UM;

37
38 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this resolution be sent to: Jon Harbor, Provost; Barry
39 Brown, Interim Dean of the Maureen & Mike Mansfield Library; Roger Maclean, Dean of the
40 School of Extended and Lifelong Learning.

41
42 Passed by Committee: March 22nd, 2019

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44 Passed by ASUM Senate: April 10th, 2019

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Ethan Hanley

Ethan Hanley,
Chair of the Relations and Affairs Committee

Marrah Welton

Marrah Welton
Chair of the Senate

DRAFT