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SB61-19/20: Resolution Endorsing the Sustainability Fee Adjustment

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Endorsing the Sustainability Fee Adjustment**
3 **February 20, 2020**
4 **SB61-19/20**

5 **Authored by: Zoe Nelson, ASUM Senator; Kyle Johnston, ASUM Senator;**
6

7 Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) passed SB26-19/20 on
8 November 6, 2019, which established the sustainability fee referendum for 2020;
9

10 Whereas, Efforts to implement and promote sustainable practices on campus have repeatedly
11 received strong support from the student body through campus-wide referenda, student surveys,
12 and past ASUM resolutions;
13

14 Whereas, The Sustainability Fee is one of only two student-driven fees at the University of
15 Montana with an “opt-out” option, the other being the MONTPIRG Student Fee, which is subject
16 to a biannual renewal by the ASUM Senate and the Association;
17

18 Whereas, Making the fee mandatory versus “opt-out” would generate over \$38,000 of additional
19 funding annually to go towards the KRELF Fund and ASUM Sustainability operations, based on
20 current enrollment;
21

22 Whereas, Article VI, Section 3, Subsection N of the ASUM Bylaws allows the ASUM Senate to
23 campaign for the passage or defeat of a referendum regarding a student-driven fee¹;
24

25 Whereas, The ASUM Activity Fee increase and Rate Adjustment approved in SB58-19/20 and
26 SB59-19/20, respectively, will receive a substantial amount of support from the ASUM
27 Executives with or without an endorsement from the Senate;
28

29 Whereas, According to the ASUM Constitution, the ASUM President is “the official spokesperson
30 for the Association”²;
31

32 Whereas, The ASUM Vice President and ASUM Business Manager, in their capacity as elected
33 Executive Members, are expected to work diligently to advocate on behalf of the Association;
34

35 Whereas, This fee adjustment will be the third time the student body has voted on such a proposal;
36

37 Whereas, Passage of this Fee Adjustment at the University of Montana must
38 be by substantial margins to justify its passage at Board of Regents;
39

40 Whereas, Endorsing and advocating for the fee adjustment is akin to ASUM taking a greater stance
41 on sustainability issues rather than putting the adjustment before students during General
42 Elections;
43

44 Whereas, Endorsing and advocating for the fee adjustment as a Senate will provide stronger
45 mechanisms for marketing and promoting the change;
46

47 Whereas, Endorsing the fee adjustment amid the outbreak of COVID-19 could enhance ASUM's
48 ability to reach the 12.5% voter turnout requirement necessary for the implementation of
49 Constitutional Amendments and Fee Referenda, both of which are on the ballot this year;
50

51 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That ASUM endorse the Sustainability Fee Referendum proposed
52 and accepted by the Senate in SB26-19/20;
53

54 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That ASUM actively campaign for the passage of the
55 Sustainability Fee Referendum as a unified body through the use of social media, tabling around
56 campus, and all other appropriate and legitimate forms;
57

58 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That the ASUM Senate strongly encourages the 2019-2020
59 and 2020-2021 ASUM Executives to lobby on behalf of this fee adjustment prior to, during and
60 after the 2020 ASUM General Election;
61

62 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this resolution be sent to: Madeleine Jones, ASUM
63 Sustainability Coordinator; Paul Lasiter, Vice President for Operations and Finance; Eva Roche,
64 UM Sustainability Coordinator; Shane St. Onge, Chair of Elections Committee; and Tyler Trevor,
65 Deputy Commissioner for Budget and Planning.
66

67
68 Passed by Committee: _____, 2020
69

70 Passed by ASUM Senate: March 25, 2020
71

72
73
74 _____
75 Noah Durnell,
76 Chair of the Relations and Affairs Committee
77

74 _____
75 Ethan Hanley,
76 Chair of the Senate
77

78 _____
79 Emma Kiefer,
80 Chair of the Sustainability Board
81

82 Passed by ASUM Senate: 18Y, 0N, 1A
83