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Fall 9-9-2020

SB13-20/21: Resolution Regarding ASUM's Endorsement of the University of Montana COVID-19 Reporting System

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Regarding ASUM's Endorsement of the University of Montana COVID-19**
3 **Reporting System**

4 **August 27, 2020**

5 **SB 13 – 20/21**

6 **Authored by: Taylor Gregory, ASUM President;**

7 **Sponsored by: Lyssa Schei, ASUM Senator; Talia Nicholls, ASUM Senator;**

8
9 Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) advocates for and
10 represents all students at the University of Montana (UM);

11
12 Whereas, The Faculty Senate passed a resolution on August 25, 2020 which recommends that
13 UM establish a shared dashboard to report the known positive cases of COVID-19 amongst
14 students, staff, and faculty;

15
16 Whereas, ASUM discussed the creation of a similar system during the September 2, 2020 senate
17 meeting, sending the resolution back to committee for further research and debate;

18
19 Whereas, On September 4, 2020, the University of Montana and Missoula County Health
20 Department announced the creation of a COVID-19 reporting system for cases affiliated to UM;

21
22 Whereas, Anonymously releasing known positive cases of COVID-19 is practiced at other
23 universities, including but not limited to: Arizona State University, Baylor University, Brigham
24 Young University Provo, Elon University, Idaho State University, Marquette University,
25 Syracuse University, Texas Tech University, Texas A&M University, the University of Alabama
26 System, the University of Arkansas System, The University of Colorado Boulder, The University
27 of Dayton, the University of Idaho, The University of Maryland, University of Miami, The
28 University of Nebraska-Lincoln, The University of Utah, The University of Virginia, The
29 University of Washington, The University of Wisconsin System, the University of Wyoming,
30 Utah State University, and Western Carolina University;

31
32 Whereas, The shared COVID-19 reporting system ensures anonymity of individuals who test
33 positive while also protecting those in the UM community and Missoula at large;

34
35 Whereas, UM is partnering with the Missoula City-County Health Department (MCCHD), as the
36 statistical reporting entity for our community, on this COVID-19 reporting system;

37
38 Whereas, ASUM recognizes the concerns about privacy and accurate data representation,
39 especially since it is difficult to determine how many cases are affiliated with UM at any given
40 time;

41
42 Whereas, ASUM also recognizes that providing as much accurate information as possible is
43 crucial for keeping the campus community informed, provided that an explanation is presented
44 on the COVID-19 reporting system enumerating that not all known results are reported or
45 available;

46

47 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that ASUM endorses UM's plan to implement a COVID-19
48 information reporting system that will report positive cases in Missoula County as well as those
49 affiliated to UM;

50
51 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That ASUM recommends the UM COVID-19 reporting
52 system be structured around a threshold or threat levels to assist the community in planning and
53 decision making for their own health and safety and/or if a full transition to remote instruction
54 becomes necessary;

55
56 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That ASUM supports UM including the following
57 information on the shared reporting system:

- 58 1. Positive test rates for symptomatic students using information provided by Curry
59 Health Center and the Missoula County Health Department;
- 60 2. Percent occupancy of isolation and quarantine spaces being used in UM facilities
61 both on and off campus;
- 62 3. County-level information regarding positive tests and active cases that is readily
63 accessible online for anyone to access;

64
65 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that this resolution be sent to: Seth Bodnar, President of
66 UM; Jeff Adams, Medical Director of Curry Health Center; Chris Palmer, Chair of the Faculty
67 Senate; Charity Atteberry, Chair of the Staff Senate; Paula Short, Director of Communications at
68 UM; Sarah Swager, Vice Provost for Student Success.

69
70 Passed by Committee: _____, 2020

71
72 Passed by ASUM Senate: September 9, 2020

73
74
75
76 _____
77 Noah Durnell, Patrick James
78 Flanagan, Chair Relations and Affairs Committee Chair of the
Senate