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ASUM Student Government

Fall 11-12-2020

SB44-20/21: Resolution Proposing a Constitutional Referenda to Strike the Petition Signature Requirement

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Proposing a Constitutional Referenda to Strike the Petition Signature**
3 **Requirement**

4 **October 21st, 2020**

5 **SB 44 - 20/21**

6 **Authored by: Ethan Hanley, ASUM Business Manager;**

7 **Sponsored by: Noah Durnell, ASUM Senator; Cierra Anderson, Student-at-Large;**

8
9 Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) are the elected body of
10 the student governance at the University of Montana (UM);

11
12 Whereas, A healthy and deep pool of candidates promotes both the vitality of ASUM and better
13 representation of the students at UM;

14
15 Whereas, ASUM currently requires anyone wishing to run for an ASUM Executive position to
16 complete a petition of one hundred signature;

17
18 Whereas, Barriers to the democratic process hinder involvement;

19
20 Whereas, Gathering signatures in order to appear on the ballot is a gray area that is seen by the
21 Senate as a form of early campaigning;

22
23 Whereas, Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some senators are serving the body remotely this
24 academic year;

25
26 Whereas, ASUM seeks to include remote and distance learners in its advocacy and
27 representation;

28
29 Whereas, Keeping this process in our constitution will effectively disenfranchise students from
30 participating in student government;

31
32 Whereas, Article 7, Section 4 of the Constitution currently reads:

33 *Section 4 . Election to ASUM Senate and Executive office shall require:*

34 1. *Members of the Association may file for candidacy for the office of Executive or*
35 *Business Manager by petitions signed by at least one hundred (100) registered*
36 *students.*

37 2. *The Senate will be composed of a number of seats equal to the proportion set*
38 *out in Article 4, Section 1(a), to be determined by the previous Fall Census Data.*
39 *The students who receive the largest number of votes in the ASUM General*
40 *Elections shall fill those seats.*

41 a. *During the ASUM General Election, one seat shall be reserved for the*
42 *following demographics:*

43 i. *Graduate Students*

44 *ii. Missoula College Students*

45 *b. One seat shall be added on in the Fall Semester to be filled no earlier*
46 *than the fourth week by Presidential appointment to be confirmed by two-*
47 *thirds (2/3) of the Senate:*

48 *i. Freshman Students*

49 *3. The term of office for Senators and Executives shall extend from one (1) week*
50 *after the General Election until one (1) week after the following year's General*
51 *Election.;*

52
53 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That in accordance with Article 10, Section 1 of the ASUM
54 Constitution, the following question be placed before the student body of UM for a vote during
55 the 2021 General Election:

56
57 “The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) aims to represent all students at
58 the University of Montana (UM) by having a diverse election pool for Executive candidates.
59 Currently, ASUM requires a petition with one-hundred (100) student signatures in order for a
60 potential candidate for the Executive or Business Manager to be placed on the ballot. ASUM
61 hopes to eliminate barriers for participation by eliminating the petition gathering requirement for
62 these candidates as defined in Article 7, Section 4, Subsection 1. The requested amendment to
63 the constitution can be found below.

64
65 Section 4 . Election to ASUM Senate and Executive office shall require:

66 ~~1. Members of the Association may file for candidacy for the office of Executive~~
67 ~~or Business Manager by petitions signed by at least one hundred (100) registered~~
68 ~~students.~~

69 **21.** The Senate will be composed of a number of seats equal to the proportion set
70 out in Article 4, Section 1(a), to be determined by the previous Fall Census Data.
71 The students who receive the largest number of votes in the ASUM General
72 Elections shall fill those seats.

73 a. During the ASUM General Election, one seat shall be reserved for the
74 following demographics:

75 i. Graduate Students

76 ii. Missoula College Students

77 b. One seat shall be added on in the Fall Semester to be filled no earlier
78 than the fourth week by Presidential appointment to be confirmed by two-
79 thirds (2/3) of the Senate:

80 i. Freshman Students

81 **32.** The term of office for Senators and Executives shall extend from one (1) week
82 after the General Election until one (1) week after the following year's General
83 Election.

84
85 Do you support this change as a revision to the ASUM Constitution?
86

87 _____ Yes, I support these changes as a revision to the ASUM Constitution.

88

89 _____ No, I do not support these changes as a revision to the ASUM Constitution.”;

90

91 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this resolution be sent to: Gwen Coon, ASUM
92 Office Manager; The Future chair of the Elections committee.

93

94

95 Passed by Committee: _____, 2020

96

97 Passed by ASUM Senate: November 12, 2020

98

99

100

101 _____
102 Noah Durnell,
Chair of the Relations and Affairs Committee

Patrick James Flanagan,
Chair of the Senate