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SB10-21/22: Resolution Endorsing the University of Montana Civic Knowledge Initiative

Canyon S. Lock

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The Associated Students of the University of Montana 1 2 Resolution Endorsing the University of Montana Civic Knowledge Initiative 3 September 6, 2021 4 SB10-21/22 5 Authored by: Canyon S. Lock, ASUM Vice President: 6 Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) represents students at 7 8 the University of Montana (UM): 9 Whereas, The Mansfield Center is an academic unit on the UM campus that, among other goals, 10 11 seeks to "[foster] ethical public policy and leadership": 12 Whereas, ASUM has a history of producing bipartisan political and civic leaders; 13 14 Whereas, ASUM operates through fundamentally democratic processes modeled on the civic and 15 governmental ideals of the American political system: 16 17 18 Whereas, The Mansfield Center seeks to institute the Civic Knowledge Initiative (CKI), which would ensure that UM students graduate with a high degree of civic literacy; 19 20 21 Whereas, ASUM and the Mansfield Center share values concerning the importance of servant 22 leadership, civic engagement, and democratic ideals: 23 Whereas, Civic Literacy initiatives have recently been incorporated into the curriculum of 24 various American universities²; 25 26 27 Whereas, Only around one in four Americans can name all three branches of government³: 28 Whereas, The contemporary American political dialogue has become exceedingly tense and, at 29 times, violent, largely as a result of challenges in civic discourse; 30 31 32 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That ASUM hereby endorses the efforts of the Mansfield Center 33 to implement the CKI within the UM curriculum; 34 35 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this resolution be sent to: Deena Mansour, Executive Director of the Mansfield Center; Robert Saldin, Director of the Mansfield Ethics in Public 36 Affairs Program; Reed Humphrey, Acting Provost; Nathan Lindsay, Associate Vice Provost of 37 Academic Affairs; Kimber McKay, Chair of the Faculty Senate; Sarah Swager, Vice Provost for 38 Student Success; Kelly Webster, Chief of Staff; and Seth Bodnar, UM President. 39

¹ Mansfield Center Website, https://www.umt.edu/mansfield/about/default.php

² New, Jake. Colleges Placing Increasing Importance on Programs Promoting Civic Engagement, www.insidehighered.com/news/2016/05/10/colleges-placing-increasing-importance-programs-promoting-civic-engagement.

³ "Americans' Knowledge of the Branches of Government Is Declining." *The Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania*, 18 Nov. 2020, www.annenbergpublicpolicycenter.org/americans-knowledge-of-the-branches-of-government-is-declining/.

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Passed by Committee:	, 2021
Passed by ASUM Senate: September 8, 2021	
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Elizabeth Bowles. Chair of the Relations & Affairs Committee	Canyon S. Lock, Chair of the Senate
Similar of the restations & rations committee	·
Passed Unanimously.	
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