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SB14-21/22: Resolution Enforcing an Absence Policy for Failure to Attend Committee Meetings

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Enforcing an Absence Policy for Failure to Attend Committee Meetings**
3 **September 14, 2021**

4 **SB14-21/22**

5 **Authored by: Canyon S. Lock, ASUM Vice President;**

6
7 Whereas, The primary purpose of the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM)
8 is to advocate for the general welfare of the students¹;

9
10 Whereas, It is conducive to the general welfare of the students at the University of Montana
11 (UM) to have effective and well-attended committees within their student government;

12
13 Whereas, The ASUM Senate is governed by its Bylaws²;

14
15 Whereas, Committees are an important aspect of the service of Senators and of maintaining the
16 functionality of ASUM;

17
18 Whereas, ASUM Senators must sit on a minimum of two committees, unless exempted by the
19 Vice President;

20
21 Whereas, Article II (3) of the Bylaws currently reads:

22
23 *(1) All absences, except those which occur during Final Budgeting, shall be*
24 *determined by the Vice President. Absences during Final Budgeting shall be*
25 *determined by the Business Manager.*

26
27 *(2) Unexcused absences and tardiness may be assessed by the Vice President in the*
28 *following degrees and circumstances:*

29 *(a) Being tardy, which may count for one-third (1/3) of an unexcused absence;*

30 *(b) Failure to attend an office hour, which may count for one-third (1/3) of an*
31 *unexcused absence;*

32 *(c) Failure to attend a Senate meeting, which may count for one (1) unexcused*
33 *absence;*

34 *(d) Failure to attend a retreat, which may count for one (1) or two (2) unexcused*
35 *absences per retreat; and*

36 *(e) Excessive calls of decorum, which may count for up to one (1) unexcused*
37 *absence per instance.;*

38
39 Whereas, It is a common misconception that Senators may receive a partial absence for failure to
40 attend a committee meeting;

41
42 Whereas, A Bylaws Working Group formed over the summer of 2021 and made substantial
43 changes to the Bylaws, including the addition of a section that defines the grounds for which a
44 Senator may receive an absence;

¹ ASUM Constitution

² ASUM Bylaws, Preamble

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Whereas, The Senate accepted these changes unanimously³;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That Article II (3)(2) of the Bylaws be amended to read:

(1) All absences, except those which occur during Final Budgeting, shall be determined by the Vice President. Absences during Final Budgeting shall be determined by the Business Manager. Absences for failure to attend committee meetings shall be determined by the Vice President or the Chair of the committee in question.


(2) Unexcused absences and tardiness may be assessed by the Vice President in the following degrees and circumstances:

- (a) Being tardy, which may count for one-third (1/3) of an unexcused absence;*
- (b) Failure to attend an office hour, which may count for one-third (1/3) of an unexcused absence;*
- (c) Failure to attend a Senate meeting, which may count for one (1) unexcused absence;*
- (d) Failure to attend a retreat, which may count for one (1) or two (2) unexcused absences per retreat; and*
- (e) Excessive calls of decorum, which may count for up to one (1) unexcused absence per instance.*
- (f) Failure to attend a meeting of a committee to which a Senator is assigned, which may count for one-third (1/3) of an unexcused absence.*

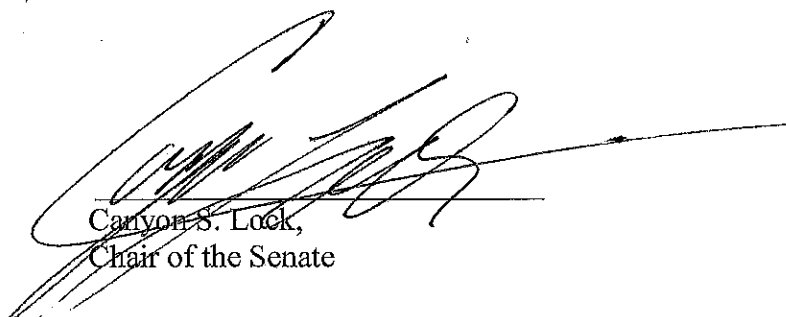
Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this Resolution be sent to: Gwen Coon, ASUM Office Manager; and Alex Berna, ASUM Secretary.

Passed by Committee: September 26, 2021

Passed by ASUM Senate: September 29, 2021



Elizabeth Bowles,
Chair of the Relations and Affairs Committee



Canyon S. Lock,
Chair of the Senate

Passed Unanimously.

³ See Meeting Minutes Relating to Associated Students of the University of Montana S. Bill 9, 2021-2022 S. (Sept. 8, 2021)(Drafted by Durnell, Lock, Rinck, Gudmundsson, Ververis).