

University of Montana

## ScholarWorks at University of Montana

---

Senate Resolutions, 2007-Present

ASUM Student Government

---

Fall 11-10-2021

### SB42-21/22: Resolution Urging the University of Montana Foundation, The University of Montana, and Students to Form a Working Group to Explore Fossil Fuel Reinvestment

Canyon S. Lock

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarworks.umt.edu/asum\\_resolutions](https://scholarworks.umt.edu/asum_resolutions)

**Let us know how access to this document benefits you.**

---

#### Recommended Citation

Lock, Canyon S., "SB42-21/22: Resolution Urging the University of Montana Foundation, The University of Montana, and Students to Form a Working Group to Explore Fossil Fuel Reinvestment" (2021). *Senate Resolutions, 2007-Present*. 932.

[https://scholarworks.umt.edu/asum\\_resolutions/932](https://scholarworks.umt.edu/asum_resolutions/932)

This Institutional Document is brought to you for free and open access by the ASUM Student Government at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Senate Resolutions, 2007-Present by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).

1                                   **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**  
2 **Resolution Urging the University of Montana Foundation, The University of Montana, and**  
3 **Students to Form a Working Group to Explore Fossil Fuel Reinvestment**

4                                   **October 4, 2021**

5                                   **SB42-21/22**

6                                   **Authored By: Canyon S. Lock, ASUM Vice President;**

7                                   **Sponsored By: Steve Running, Professor Emeritus of Ecosystem and Conservation**  
8 **Sciences; Elani Borhegyi, Climate Response Club President; Jack Kuney, Chair of the**  
9 **ASUM Sustainability Board and ASUM Senator;**

10  
11 Whereas, The primary responsibility of the Associated Students of the University of Montana  
12 (“ASUM”) is to serve as an advocate for the general welfare of the students<sup>1</sup>;

13  
14 Whereas, Anthropogenic climate change, currently and into the future, considerably affects  
15 the lives, livelihoods, and welfare of people everywhere, including the student body of the  
16 University of Montana (“UM”)<sup>2</sup>;

17  
18 Whereas, UM has demonstrated that it has a comprehensive understanding of the importance  
19 of combating anthropogenic climate change by investing in on-campus sustainability projects  
20 and by implementing the first academic minor concerned with climate change in the United  
21 States;

22  
23 Whereas, The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of fossil fuel energies, including coal and oil, are the principal  
24 causes of anthropogenic climate change<sup>3</sup>;

25  
26 Whereas, The University of Montana Foundation (“UMF”) continues to invest in fossil fuel  
27 energies;

28  
29 Whereas, Between 2014 and 2017, the Senate passed a number of resolutions expressing  
30 support for divestment and urging the UMF to divest from fossil fuels<sup>4</sup>;

31  
32 Whereas, Both the climate crisis and the corresponding concern at local, national, and  
33 international levels have worsened since 2014, when this issue was first brought to the Senate,  
34 and since 2017, when this issue was most recently addressed by the Senate;

35  
36 Whereas, In addition to ASUM resolutions, there has been a considerable amount of student  
37 advocacy in favor of divestment, including the formation of student groups like Reinvest  
38 Montana and Climate Response Club;

---

<sup>1</sup> “ASUM Constitution”, *Associated Students of the University of Montana*, Accessed February 11, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> “Climate Change Impacts.” Climate change impacts | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Accessed February 11, 2021. <https://www.noaa.gov/education/resource-collections/climate/climate-change-impacts>.

<sup>3</sup> “U.S. Energy Information Administration - EIA - Independent Statistics and Analysis,” Where greenhouse gases come from - U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), accessed February 11, 2021, <https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/energy-and-the-environment/where-greenhouse-gases-come-from.php#:~:text=Nearly%20half%20of%20U.S.%20energy,21%25%20came%20from%20burning%20coal>.

<sup>4</sup> Eric Lillquist, “SB55-13/14 Resolution Regarding Divestment”, *Associated Students of the University of Montana*, Accessed February 11 2021.

39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79

Whereas, ASUM has held multiple referenda which have shown overwhelming support for reinvestment initiatives;

Whereas, Reinvest Montana staged a sit-in of the UMF office in 2017 to demonstrate student opposition to their profiteering from carbon emitting energy sources, such as coal and oil, and were told to work through their student representatives in ASUM<sup>5</sup>;

Whereas, Several other higher education institutions in America, including but not limited to Hampshire College and the entire University of California system, have divested from fossil fuels, largely as a result of student and faculty advocacy<sup>6</sup>;

Whereas, The Associated Students of Montana State University recently passed a resolution stating the urgency and severity of the climate crisis;

Whereas, The Montana State University Foundation recently agreed to the formation of a working group to discuss the possibility of divestment;


Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That ASUM affirmatively states its concern with the dire situation regarding climate change at the local, global, and national level;

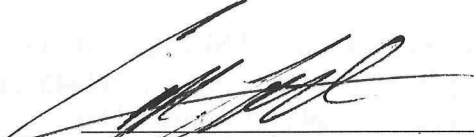
Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That ASUM seeks the formation of a working group, consisting of representatives from the student body, faculty, the UM administration, and the UM Foundation, for the purpose of exploring the many ways to invest in socially and environmentally responsible companies;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this resolution be sent to Seth Bodnar, UM President; Cindy Williams, President and Chief Executive Officer of the UMF; Kelly Webster, Chief of Staff; Eva Rocke, UM Sustainability Coordinator; Maddy Jones, ASUM Sustainability Director; Kimber McKay, Chair of Faculty Senate.

Passed By Committee: November 7, 2021

Passed By ASUM Senate: November 10, 2021

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth Bowles,  
Chair of Relations and Affairs

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Canyon S. Lock,  
Chair of the Senate

<sup>5</sup> Martin Kidston, "Students Occupy UM Foundation's Office to Punctuate 'Climate Crisis'," Missoula Current, April 26, 2017, <https://missoulacurrent.com/business/2017/04/um-divestm-fossil-fuels/>.  
<sup>6</sup> Leah Asmelash, "The University of California Has Fully Divested from Fossil Fuels. It's the Largest School in the US to Do It," CNN (Cable News Network, May 20, 2020), <https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/20/us/university-of-california-divest-fossil-fuels-trnd/index.html>.

80 Passed 18Y-2N-0A.