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**The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Resolution Encouraging the Elimination of Online Fees
September 26th, 2022**

SB03-22/23

Authored By: Elizabeth Bowles, ASUM President; Alexandra Berna, ASUM Vice President;

Whereas, One of the core values of the Associated Students of the University of Montana (“ASUM”) is equity;

Whereas, Online school has become increasingly more popular since the 2020 pandemic ¹;

Whereas, The Priorities for Action cite the desire to increase and improve online schooling and increase equity in curricular and teaching;

Whereas, Priority Two reads:

“Grow market-driven online programs” (2.2.1) and “Foster a community of faculty well versed in evidence-based and equity-minded teaching practices and curricular design”(2.1.3) ²;

Whereas, The online fee is defined as:

“An online learning fee is assessed on all online courses to partially defray costs associated with courses delivered online over the World Wide Web.” ³

Whereas, The purpose of online fees is largely unknown to students and faculty and is broadly used for UOnline;

Whereas, Current online fees stand at \$50.00 per credit, and \$25.00 for blended courses ⁴;

¹ <https://www.umt.edu/institutional-research/metrics/online-education/online-gened-accreditation.php>

² https://www.umt.edu/strategy/priorities_for_action/pfa2table.php

³ <https://www.umt.edu/umonline/programs/umonline-coa/default.php>

⁴ <https://www.umt.edu/business-services/students/tuition-and-fees/tuition-fees-fall-spring2022-2023/fy2023-tuitionfee-ungrad-pbac1.pdf>

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That this resolution calls for the elimination of online fees, which is a student government approved fee;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this resolution proposes a vote to the student body to gauge opinion for the elimination of online fees;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That the following referendum language be placed on the ballot for the 2023 ASUM General Election:

Online fees are placed on students' registration bill that attend online or partially online school, and cost \$50.00 per credit for online or hybrid courses, and \$25.00 per credit for partial online school. ASUM has voted in favor of calling for more equity for students in their registration and payments to the University:

Voting yes calls for the elimination of online fees, and no calls for maintaining the existing fee as is.

_____ *Yes, I support the elimination of online fees.*

_____ *No, I do not support the elimination of online fees.*

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this Resolution be sent to Pardis Madhavi, Provost; Leslie Webb, Vice Provost for Campus Life; Brian Reed, Assistant Vice Provost for Student Success; Brian French, Executive Director for Student Success; Paul Lasiter, Vice President of Operations of Finance; Lauren Fern, Faculty President Elect; Norris Blossom, Student Regent; Loren Bough, Regent; Todd Buchanan, Regent; Joyce Dombroski, Regent; Casey Lozar, Regent; Jeff Southworth, Regent; Brianne Rogers, Chair of Board of Regents;

Passed by Committee: September 26th, 2022

Passed by ASUM Senate: October 5th, 2022

Emma Wickum,
Chair of Relations and Affairs

Alexandra Berna,
Chair of the Senate