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### **SB50-21/22-Resolution Encouraging Campus Dining to Implement a Round-Up Donation System to Mitigate Basic Needs Insecurity**

Cassandra Williams

Kat Cowley

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1                   **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**  
2       **Resolution Encouraging Campus Dining to Implement a Round-Up Donation System to**  
3                   **Mitigate Basic Needs Insecurity**

4                   **October 22, 2021**

5                   **SB50-21/22**

6       **Authored by: Cassandra Williams, ASUM Senator; Kat Cowley, ASUM Bear Necessities**  
7                   **Director;**

8  
9       Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (“ASUM”) has a duty to  
10      represent and serve the University of Montana (“UM”) student body;

11  
12      Whereas, The term “basic needs” refers to equitable access to “nutritious and sufficient food,  
13      safe/secure/adequate housing, healthcare to sustain mental and physical well-being, affordable  
14      transportation, affordable technology, resources for personal hygiene care, and childcare related  
15      needs”<sup>1</sup>;

16  
17      Whereas, 63% of UM students who responded to the 2020 #RealCollege survey faced some form  
18      of Basic Needs Insecurity (“BNI”), an increase from the 58% reported in the 2019 survey<sup>23</sup>;

19  
20      Whereas, The rate of students experiencing BNI at UM was 10% higher than the average four-  
21      year institution in 2020<sup>4</sup>;

22  
23      Whereas, Food insecurity disproportionately affects students who identify as BIPOC,  
24      LGBTQIA+, disabled, veteran, and nontraditional;

25  
26      Whereas, UM’s mission statement reads:

27  
28                   *The University of Montana transforms lives by providing a high-quality and **accessible***  
29                   ***education** and by generating world-class research and creative scholarship in an*  
30                   *exceptional place. We integrate the liberal arts and sciences into undergraduate,*  
31                   *graduate and professional studies to shape global citizens who are creative and agile*  
32                   *learners committed to expanding the boundaries of knowledge and to building and*  
33                   ***sustaining diverse communities***<sup>5</sup>;

34  
35      Whereas, Helping students to meet their basic needs is an important component of ensuring that  
36      getting an education at UM is accessible;

37  

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<sup>1</sup> Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice website: <https://hope4college.com/theory-of-change/>

<sup>2</sup> Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice at Temple University, "2020 #realcollege Survey School Report" (2021). *ASUM Renter Center Publications*. 6. [https://scholarworks.umt.edu/renter\\_center\\_pubs/6](https://scholarworks.umt.edu/renter_center_pubs/6)

<sup>3</sup> Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice at Temple University, "2019 #realcollege Survey School Report" (2020). *ASUM Renter Center Publications*. 5. [https://scholarworks.umt.edu/renter\\_center\\_pubs/5/](https://scholarworks.umt.edu/renter_center_pubs/5/)

<sup>4</sup> Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice at Temple University, "2020 #realcollege Survey School Report" (2021). *ASUM Renter Center Publications*. 6. [https://scholarworks.umt.edu/renter\\_center\\_pubs/6](https://scholarworks.umt.edu/renter_center_pubs/6)

<sup>5</sup> Office of the President website. <https://www.umt.edu/president/mission.php>

38 Whereas, partnerships in support of UM's mission statement are one of Campus Dining's shared  
39 values and guiding principles<sup>6</sup>;

40  
41 Whereas, ASUM and Campus Dining are partners in ensuring food security on campus;

42  
43 Whereas, ASUM's Basic Needs Committee advises and supports the Bear Necessities Agency  
44 and UM Food Pantry;

45  
46 Whereas, The UM Food Pantry's AmeriCorps VISTA is currently engaged in capacity building  
47 to expand the Food Pantry's ability to serve students experiencing BNI;

48  
49 Whereas, Community efforts to address BNI often rely on charitable donations;

50  
51 Whereas, Rounding up to the nearest dollar for donations is a common charitable practice at  
52 many stores and food chains;

53  
54 Whereas, Campus Dining locations support BNI-related charitable giving by asking customers to  
55 donate to the annual Can the Cats food drive;

56  
57 Whereas, Campus Dining supports food access by accepting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance  
58 Program ("SNAP") Electronic Benefit Cards at the Corner Store, UC Market, and its campus  
59 workplace Community Supported Agriculture ("CSA") program<sup>7</sup>;

60  
61 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That ASUM encourages Campus Dining to prompt its customers  
62 to voluntarily round up to the nearest dollar at checkout for the purpose of donating to BNI  
63 programs and services on campus;

64  
65 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That such programs and services include the UM Food  
66 Pantry, emergency aid funds, scholarships for counseling fees at Curry Health Center, and other  
67 similar programs;

68  
69 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That the receiving program of these donations be rotated  
70 on a semi-semesterly basis;

71  
72 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That ASUM encourages Campus Dining to prompt  
73 customers donate to the student support programs listed above when placing orders through UM  
74 Catering;

75  
76 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That the Executives, ASUM Bear Necessities Agency  
77 Director and Campus Dining be charged with working to accomplish this task alongside all  
78 necessary stakeholders;

79  
80 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this Resolution be sent to Kat Cowley, ASUM Bear  
81 Necessities Director; Hilary Rosa, UM Food Pantry MTCC AmeriCorps VISTA; Collin

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<sup>6</sup> Campus Dining website. <https://www.umt.edu/dining/get-to-know-us/default.php>

<sup>7</sup> Campus Dining website. <https://www.umt.edu/dining/sustainability-programs/food-access/default.php>

82 Zollinger, UM Food Pantry Student Coordinator; Richard Huffman, Director of Campus Dining;  
83 Gail Peters, Rise+Rooted Manager; Katie Helms, Coffee Shops Manager; Dennis Creel, The  
84 Market Manager; Colton Buford, UM Catering Manager; Carrie Elensky, POS/FMS  
85 Administrator.

86  
87

88 Passed by Committee: November 14, 2021

89

90 Passed by ASUM Senate: November 17, 2021

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94   
Elizabeth Bowles,  
95 Chair of Relations and Affairs

96

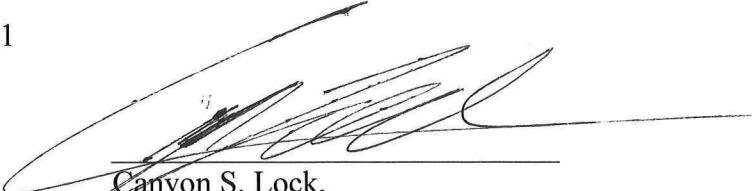
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99   
Kat Cowley,  
100 Chair of the Basic Needs Oversight Board

101

102 Passed Unanimously.

  
Canyon S. Lock,  
Chair of the Senate