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Fall 8-30-2023

SB01-23/24: Resolution Establishing the ASUM Hardship Fund

Sara Niekamp

Maggie Bell

Kat Cowley

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Establishing the ASUM Hardship Fund**
3 **August 30, 2023**
4 **SB01-23/24**

5 **Authored by: Maggie Bell, ASUM President; Sara Niekamp, ASUM Operations Manager;**
6 **Kat Cowley, ASUM Bear Necessities Director**

7
8 Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (“ASUM”) exist in mission,
9 value, and scope to advocate for students and promote the students’ best interests;

10
11 Whereas, The actions and fiscal responsibilities of ASUM are bound by fiscal policy;

12
13 Whereas, ASUM has had the opportunity to bring the prior-known “ASUM Loan Fund” in-house
14 and reshape the fund to be more accessible to students in need;

15
16 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That Section 19 of Fiscal Policy be stricken and replaced as
17 follows;

18
19 ***Section 19. ASUM Hardship Fund***

- 20
21 (1) ***The ASUM Hardship Fund is intended to be a last resort emergency fund when***
22 ***all other resources have been exhausted. The fund may help cover costs***
23 ***associated with unplanned emergency expenses that disrupt the life and ability to***
24 ***achieve academic success of an ASUM fee paying student.***
25 (2) ***The fund is to be distributed at the discretion of the ASUM Bear Necessities***
26 ***Director in conjunction with the ASUM Operations Manager and other staff as***
27 ***deemed necessary. The discretion of the fund is not to be decided on by a Senate***
28 ***committee, executives, or any other group of students as it relates to sensitive and***
29 ***personal student information.***
30 (3) ***Students are eligible for up to \$350 dollars twice per year. Each student’s “year”***
31 ***begins the day their first fund distribution is awarded. Students must be actively***
32 ***enrolled or prove intent of enrollment over breaks. Need must be assessed and***
33 ***established through the Bear Necessities Agency in conjunction with other***
34 ***appropriate avenues on campus.***
35 (4) ***Proof of need must be established via invoice or similar document. Payment will***
36 ***only be distributed to the vendor identified on provided documentation. Payment***
37 ***arrangements will be provided by the ASUM Operations Manager or other***
38 ***identified ASUM Staff.***
39 (5) ***On a yearly basis the ASUM Operations Manager and Director of Bear***
40 ***Necessities will provide a summary report of funds distributed to the ASUM***
41 ***Senate. This report will maintain student confidentiality.***

42 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this resolution be sent to Gwen Coon, ASUM Office
43 Manager; Sara Niekamp, ASUM Operations Manager; and Kat Cowley, ASUM Bear Necessities
44 Director.

45

46 Passed by Committee: _____, 2023

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48 Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2023

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52 _____
Noah Vanderkar,

53 Chair of the Senate