

May 24-25, 2012

ITEM 155-2009-R0512

Authorization to Separate a Student Press Fee from the Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU) Student Activity Fee

THAT

The Board of Regents of the Montana University System authorizes Montana State University to designate \$2.43 of the existing ASMSU student activity fee per student per semester for funding of the ASMSU Exponent, MSU-Bozeman's student newspaper.

EXPLANATION

1. The move would result in no net change to the total fee amount levied to support ASMSU programs.
 2. Distancing the ASMSU Senate from direct control of the Exponent's operating budget remedies a long-standing conflict of interest with regards to the relationship between student government and the student press on the MSU-Bozeman campus, an issue of national concern with regards to the First Amendment rights of institutionally-supported collegiate student media.
 3. Responsibility for financial oversight of the Exponent's operations will shift to the publication board required by the Montana Board of Regents Student Affairs Policy 506.2(5), consisting of representatives from both ASMSU and the MSU Administration in addition to media professionals.
 4. The ASMSU Senate voted to support the move in February, 2012.
 5. Exponent student leadership has requested that the change be made effective at the beginning of the 2012-13 school year instead of waiting until FY14 so as to allow current editorial staff members to oversee the implementation of new operational procedures.
 6. Unspent funds from the student press fee will be carried over in the designated subfund for the Exponent, and will not be commingled with the general ASMSU reserve, allowing the publication to plan its business operations on a longer-term basis.
 7. The proposed fee will be indexed for inflation consistent with other ASMSU fees, as was approved in Item 143-2011-R0509.
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ATTACHMENTS

None