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**The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Resolution Adjusting the ASUM Sustainability Fee
November 9th, 2016
SB37-16/17**

**Authored by: Sam Forstag, ASUM President;
Meredith Repke, ASUM Sustainability Coordinator**

Sponsored by:

Whereas, Efforts to implement sustainable practices have repeatedly received strong support from the student body through campus-wide referenda, campus surveys, and past years' ASUM resolutions;

Whereas, The ASUM Sustainability Fee is the only ASUM fee that with an 'opt-out' option, and currently sits at \$6;

Whereas, The ASUM Sustainability Fee's opt-out rate was approximately 29.4% in 2016 and 31.5% in 2015;

Whereas, The ASUM Sustainability Fee is the only dedicated funding source for implementing sustainability efforts at the University of Montana;

Whereas, The ASUM Sustainability fee has invested over \$250,000 into the University of Montana through projects that currently generate over \$30,000 in annual savings as of 2014 and account for a reduction of 0.66% of the University's carbon-equivalent (CO_{2e}) emissions;

Whereas, Transitioning the fee from its current opt-out status to a campus-wide fee would lead to an increase of over \$40,000 in additional funds being generated annually;

Whereas, An increase of \$6 for the ~30% of students that would otherwise 'opt-out' would constitute an increase in the cost of attendance of 0.003% for in-state students and 0.0002% for out-of-state students;

Whereas, The Sustainability Fee is a major source of funding for UM's effort to reduce its carbon emissions and to protect the interests of current UM students, the human race writ large, and posterity;

Therefore, Let it Be Resolved, In accordance with the ASUM Constitution, Article 10, Section 2, that the following question be placed before the student body of the University of Montana for vote during the 2017 ASUM General Election:

"Since 2009, the ASUM Sustainability Fee has generates funds to carry out student-led sustainability projects. The Sustainability Fee is the currently the only ASUM fee with an 'opt-out' option. ASUM is proposing that the Sustainability Fee be changed from an 'opt-out' fee to a campus-wide fee. This change to the Sustainability Fee would generate around \$40,000 more for sustainability efforts annually.

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___ Yes, I support changing the ASUM Sustainability fee to a campus-wide fee and removing its current opt-out status.

___ No, I do not support changing the ASUM Sustainability fee to a campus-wide fee and removing its current opt-out status.

Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2016

Elizabeth Engebretson,
Chair of the Senate