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Fall 11-6-2019

### SB26-19/20: Resolution Regarding Sustainability Fee Referendum

Kyle Johnston

Zoe Nelson

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#### Recommended Citation

Johnston, Kyle and Nelson, Zoe, "SB26-19/20: Resolution Regarding Sustainability Fee Referendum" (2019). *Senate Resolutions, 2007-Present*. 768.

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1                   **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**  
2                   **Resolution Regarding Sustainability Fee Referendum**  
3                   **October 29, 2019**  
4                   **SB26-19/20**

5                   **Authored by: Kyle Johnston, ASUM Senator; Zoe Nelson, ASUM Senator;**  
6                   **Sponsored by: Emma Kiefer, ASUM Senator;**  
7

8       Whereas, Efforts to implement sustainable practices have repeatedly received strong support from the  
9       student body through campus-wide referenda, student surveys, and past years' Associated Students of the  
10      University of Montana (ASUM) resolutions;

11  
12      Whereas, The Sustainability Fee is a major source of dedicated funding for the University of Montana's  
13      (UM) sustainability efforts, including carbon emission reductions, developing green buildings and  
14      grounds, supporting sustainable transportation, reducing or utilizing efficient means of energy  
15      consumption, supporting locally sourced food options on campus, and diverting waste through recycling  
16      and composting efforts;

17  
18      Whereas, Supporting sustainability efforts are instrumental in campus-wide recruitment endeavors;

19  
20      Whereas, The ASUM Sustainability Fee is the only dedicated funding source for implementing  
21      sustainability efforts at UM;

22  
23      Whereas, The ASUM Sustainability Fee is the only ASUM fee with an "opt-out" option, and currently  
24      sits at \$6;

25  
26      Whereas, The ASUM Sustainability Fee's opt-out rate was reported to be approximately 29% in Fall,  
27      2019 but is, on average, about 33%;

28  
29      Whereas, Making the fee mandatory versus "opt-out" would generate over \$38,000 of additional funding  
30      annually;

31  
32      Whereas, An increase of \$6 per semester for the students that would otherwise opt-out would constitute a  
33      marginal increase to the cost of attendance for in-state and out-of-state students;

34  
35      Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That in accordance with Article 10, Sections 2 and 3 of the ASUM  
36      Constitution, the following question be placed before the student body of UM for a vote during the 2020  
37      ASUM General Election:

38  
39      "The ASUM Sustainability Fee is \$6 per semester and is used to carry out student-led sustainability  
40      projects such as the installation of covered-bike parking and water-bottle filling stations. In addition to  
41      student-led projects, the Sustainability Fee funds efforts of the ASUM Sustainability Center to advocate  
42      for students' sustainability concerns. ASUM is proposing that the current Sustainability Fee be changed  
43      from an "opt-out" fee to a mandatory, campus-wide fee. This change to the Sustainability Fee would  
44      generate around \$38,000 more for sustainability efforts annually, based on current enrollment.

45  
46      \_\_\_ Yes, I support changing the ASUM Sustainability Fee to a mandatory fee and removing its current  
47      opt-out status.

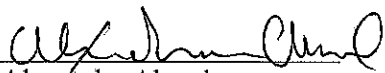
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49      \_\_\_ No, I do not support changing the ASUM Sustainability Fee to a mandatory fee and removing its  
50      current opt-out status."

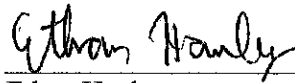
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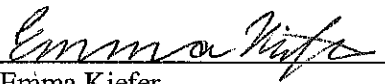
Therefore, Let it Be Further Resolved, That this resolution be sent to Grace Dunnehoff, Chair of Elections Committee; Madeleine Jones, ASUM Sustainability Coordinator; Paul Lasiter, Vice President for Operations and Finance; Eva Roche, UM Sustainability Coordinator; Tyler Trevor, Deputy Commissioner for Budget and Planning.

Passed by Committee: November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

Passed by ASUM Senate: November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019

  
Alexandra Akmal,  
Chair of the Relations and Affairs Committee

  
Ethan Hanley,  
Chair of the Senate

  
Emma Kiefer,  
Chair of the Sustainability Board

Resolution Passed: 17 Yes 3 No 0 Abstentions