

May 20, 2020

ITEM 188-1014-R0520

Request for Approval to Increase the ASUM Student Activity Fee

THAT

The Board of Regents approves an off-cycle request for a student driven fee brought forward by the Associated Students of University of Montana (ASUM), in conjunction with UM Administration, requesting authorization, in accordance with Board of Regents' Policy 940.12.1, to establish a \$3 fee increase to the ASUM Student Activity fee.

EXPLANATION

The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) provides a host of agencies that assist in the recruitment, retention, and general welfare of students on campus, as well as overseeing and funding all recognized student groups on campus. ASUM currently oversees more than 150 student groups on campus and provides these groups with the resources to fulfill their mission and provide students with the opportunity to pursue their passions and find a community that speaks to them. With the exception of Transportation, ASUM primarily receives funding for the operation of its agencies and student groups through a Student Activity fee that is designated by the Montana Board of Regents.

The revenue acquired from student fees over the past decade has decreased due to declining enrollment at the University of Montana. ASUM has had to contribute more to student wages as a result of increases in the minimum wage for employees over the past two years. ASUM recently had to use part of its financial reserves twice in the past five years to account for increased costs associated with ASUM Childcare, which indicates that the agency should be funded at a higher amount.

ASUM recently incorporated the UM Food Pantry under the purview of the ASUM Renter Center and the costs associated with supplying that program with the resources it needs to service students. The legal needs of University of Montana students have increased, thus necessitating the expansion into consumer protection advocacy, family law, and more.

The ASUM Administration has made efforts to reduce expenses by transferring the Student Resolution Officer position responsibilities to the ASUM President and ASUM Legal Services' and reducing the cost of ASUM retreats and meeting expenses. The combination of decreasing enrollment and increased costs has financially restricted ASUM from servicing the student body in an all-encompassing and equitable manner.

ASUM does not seek to properly fund ASUM agencies at the expense of student groups. ASUM believes it would be appropriate to pursue a fee increase to maintain its current level of services and funding to student groups, and to help supply its new initiatives with the resources needed to succeed;

The ASUM requests that the \$3 fee increase to the Student Activity Fee be added to an ASUM student referenda during the spring election cycle. The following chart represents the proposed change to the ASUM Student Activity Fee.

	ASUM Fees		
	Current Fee	Fee Increase	Proposed Fee
Activity Fee	\$67	\$3	\$70
Other	\$6	\$0	\$6
Total	\$73	\$3	\$76

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1: Fee Schedule

Attachment #2: ASUM Election Results Report – Spring 2020