

1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Advocating for the Increase of the ASUM Fee**
3 **February 19th, 2023**

4 **SB29-22/23**

5 **Authored by: Elizabeth Bowles, ASUM President; Alexandra Berna, ASUM Vice**
6 **President; Joselyn Jolly, ASUM Business Manager;**
7

8 Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (“ASUM”), represents the
9 student interests at the University of Montana (“UM”);

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11 Whereas, ASUM has not had a fee increase in three (3) years¹;

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13 Whereas, ASUM provides a number of services, that contribute to the general wellbeing of the
14 students, their retention, aid, and success at the University;

15
16 Whereas, ASUM currently oversees the following agencies: ASUM Legal Services, ASUM
17 Childcare, ASUM Bear Necessities, ASUM Food Pantry, ASUM Sustainability Center, ASUM
18 Office of Transportation;

19
20 Whereas, ASUM’s services have expanded in the last two years, as ASUM adopted the ASUM
21 Bear Necessities agency in 2021, which has provided invaluable resources to the students at the
22 University;

23
24 Whereas, Staff wages have increased over the last two years, as well as the cost of living in the
25 state of Montana, which increases the student wages that ASUM contributes;

26
27 Whereas, Inflation has risen 6.4% in the last year nationally;

28
29 Whereas, The Montana Legislature is debating a \$1.50 raise, which is larger than the \$0.55 raise
30 available to staff in November of 2022;

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32 Whereas, ASUM believes it would be appropriate to pursue a fee increase to maintain current
33 levels of services, aid to students as well as student groups, and to maintain these programs for
34 the future;

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36 Whereas, The service that is provided through student group funding, provides in invaluable
37 resource of campus life, student wellbeing, and an ability to find community;

38
39 Whereas, ASUM had 97 student groups complete the final budgeting, and received funding
40 toward their FY24 budget;

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42 Whereas, ASUM had 104 student groups total this year that could receive funding upon request;
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¹ Belcher, Abbigail; Hanley, Ethan; and Parsons, Daniel, "SB58-19/20: Resolution Regarding an Increase to the ASUM Student Activity Fee" (2020). *Senate Resolutions, 2007-Present*. 978.
https://scholarworks.umt.edu/asum_resolutions/978

44 Whereas, A \$6.00 increase would result in \$94,500 more revenue, allowing for upkeep in
45 employee pay and service expansion, as well as the amount we are able to give to student groups;
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47 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That the following ballot language be added to an ASUM student
48 referenda during the Spring election cycle:
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50 “The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) is proposing a \$6.00 fee
51 increase (prorated to fifty percent for students enrolled in less than seven credits) to the ASUM
52 Student Activity fee. ASUM as the student government at the University, provides funding to six
53 (6) agencies and student groups. Due to the increase of staff wages, and costs to daily living, as
54 well as spending, ASUM asks for this fee increase.”
55


56 ___ Yes, I support increasing the ASUM Activity fee by \$6.00, from \$70.00 to \$76.00 per
57 semester for full-time students and from \$35.00 to \$38.00 for part-time students
58


59 ___ No, I do not support increasing the ASUM Activity fee by \$6.00, from \$70.00 to \$76.00
60 per semester for full-time students and from \$35.00 to \$38.00 for part-time students
61

62 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this Resolution be sent to: Jared Gibbs, ASUM
63 Elections Coordinator; Paul Lasiter, Vice President of Operations and Finance; Kelly Webster,
64 Chief of Staff and Associate Vice President for Strategic Planning and Implementation; Seth
65 Bodnar, UM President; Gwen Coon, ASUM Office Manager; Sara Niekamp, ASUM Operations
66 Manager; Norris Blossom, Student Regent; Loren Bough, Regent; Todd Buchanan, Regent;
67 Joyce Dombrowski, Regent; Casey Lozar, Regent; Brianne Rogers, Regent Chair; Jeff
68 Southworth, Regent; Tyler Trevor, Deputy Commissioner for Budget & Planning, Chief of Staff;
69 Clayton Christian, Commissioner of Higher Education; Jasmine Casanovas, Executive Assistant
70 to the Commissioner.
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73 Passed by Committee: February 26th, 2023
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75 Passed by ASUM Senate: March 8th, 2023
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78 _____
79 Emma Wickum,
80 Chair of Relations and Affairs



Alexandra Berna,
Chair of the Senate