

## Memorandum of Understanding

Between

The Associated Students of the University of Montana  
("ASUM")

and

University of Montana Operations & Finance Office of Sustainability

Regarding the  
Kless Sustainability Fund and the  
ASUM Sustainability Fee

### I. Background and Purpose

Students at the University of Montana voted to create the ASUM Sustainability Fee (the "Fee") in 2009 as the result of a referendum put forward by ASUM. The Fee generates resources for the Kless Sustainability Fund (the "Fund"). The Fee began as an opt-out \$4 fee in 2009, increased to an opt-out \$6 fee in 2013, and became a mandatory fee of \$6 in 2019, all by student vote. The Fee has not been increased since 2013. Since its establishment in 2009, the Fee has generated approximately \$1.3 million that has been deployed (via the Kless Sustainability Fund) into campus energy efficiency, tracking, and resource conservation projects. Additionally, the Fee has engaged hundreds of students in project development, proposal writing, proposal review, and proposal approval processes. Students voted to increase the sustainability fee from \$6 to \$9 in the spring of 2024.

Proceeds from the Fee are credited to a Designated Fund under the Associate Vice President of Operations and Finance. A portion (12.5%) of these proceeds is set aside to partially fund the salary of the Sustainability Coordinator, who serves as the primary liaison between students and management for development and vetting of sustainability projects competing for Fund resources. The remainder of the Fee is used to fund selected projects.

Fund project proposals are reviewed and selected for funding by the Kless Sustainability Committee (the "Committee"), which is comprised of seven (7) UM students, at least two (2) of whom must be ASUM Senators and the remaining at-large students who are appointed by ASUM, one (1) representative from Facilities Services, one (1) faculty member of Environmental Studies, and one (1) faculty member from Missoula College. The ASUM vets students who apply to be Students-at-Large (SALs) before assigning these students to the Committee.

This MOU clarifies and memorializes the mutual understanding of ASUM and UM Sustainability regarding the Fee, the Fund, the Committee, ASUM, and the Office of Sustainability.

### II. Understanding

It is the mutual understanding of ASUM and the Office of Sustainability that:

1. The Fee increase is supported by ASUM and has been passed as a result of the 2024 spring election process by the majority of student voters;
2. Due to the structure of the Kless Committee and the process by which funds are awarded, the Fund is an ASUM led and managed Fund;
3. The Committee will continue to reserve two seats for ASUM Senators and 5 seats for at-large students to be selected by ASUM; and

4. The Fund bylaws dictate the composition of the Committee, the parameters of the allocations of the funds, and the steps that must be taken to amend the Fund's bylaws.

### III. Contact Information

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2. UM Sustainability

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By: Maggie Bell and Elizabeth Kamminga

For: ASUM

Date: 5/13

**Signature:** Eva Roche

By: Eva Roche

For: UM Sustainability

Date: 5/13/24