**The Montana Associated Students**
**Resolution Urging a Vast Reduction in Higher Education Budget Cuts**
**October 12, 2017**
**Authored by: Abbigail Belcher, ASUM Senator;**
**Sponsored by: Mariah Welch, ASUM Senator; Braden Fitzgerald, ASUM President; Brenna Love, ASUM Vice President**

Whereas, The Montana Associated Students (MAS) shall provide fair and equal representation for the students in the Montana University System;

Whereas, During the 2017 Montana State Legislative session, a total of 12.4 million dollars was cut from the Montana University System;

Whereas, Senate Bill (SB) 261 has caused a decrease of 15 million dollars in funding;

Whereas, Due to the costs associated with wildfires, Governor Steve Bullock has previously requested up to a 10 percent reduction across all state agencies, leading to another 45 million dollar reduction;

Whereas, Governor Bullock's most recent recommendation to the legislature would lead to a 4.5 million dollar reduction in the MUS budget;

Whereas, Undergraduate students in Montana recently faced a tuition increase as a result of the 2017 legislative cuts;

Whereas, Increasing tuition and fees, as well as the loss of instructors, will discourage students from attending college;

Whereas, An educated population enhances the economy and improves quality of life across Montana;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That MAS encourages Governor Steve Bullock and the Montana State Legislature cease all efforts to decrease the MUS budget;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That MAS encourages Governor Steve Bullock and the Montana State Legislature take measures to support and enhance higher education in Montana;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this resolution be sent to Steve Bullock, Governor of the State of Montana; Senator Llew Jones, SD 9; Representative Nancy Ballance, HD 87; Representative Mike Hopkins, HD 92; and Representative Nate McConnell, HD 89; Mike Cooney, Lieutenant Governor of Montana; Dan Villa, Budget Director of Montana; Senator Scott Sales, President of the Montana State Senate; Senator Fred Thomas, Majority Leader of the Montana Senate; Jon Sesso, Minority Leader of the Montana Senate; Representative Austin Knudson, Speaker of the Montana House of Representatives; Representative Ron Ehli, Majority Leader of the Montana House of Representatives; and Representative Jenny Eck, Minority Leader of the Montana House of Representatives.

Passed by MAS Council: November, 2017