

1 **The Montana Associated Students**
2 **Resolution Regarding the Freezing of the Helena College Student Government Association**
3 **November 15th, 2017**

4 **Authored by: Quinn Kurokawa, ASHC President; Dalton Johnson, ASHC Vice-President;**
5 **Sponsored by:**
6

7 Whereas, the Montana Associated Students (MAS) is the official representative body of the
8 students of the Montana University System (MUS);
9

10 Whereas, the first line of the MAS Mission statementⁱ reads as follows:

11 *Montana Associated Students (MAS) shall provide fair and equal representation for the*
12 *students in the Montana University System.*
13

14 Whereas, all Associated Student organizations within the MUS are representatives recognized by
15 MAS;
16

17 Whereas, on October 4th, 2017, the Dean of Helena College issued a statement on behalf of the
18 Assistant Dean of Student Affairs that effectively froze the student government organization at
19 Helena College;
20

21 Whereas, the reasoning provided for issuing this freeze was as follows:

22 *At this time I do not believe the organization is meeting [its] mission. As you are well*
23 *aware, we have strife and fractured components within Helena College's current SGA.*
24 *As a result, I feel it is in the best interest of all Helena College students to place*
25 *a freeze on Helena College SGA and its clubs.*
26

27 Whereas, Board of Regents Policy 940.8, Section A.ⁱⁱ reads as follows:

28 *Student activity fees at campuses of the Montana University System, as established by*
29 *prior action of the Board of Regents, shall not be considered as earmarked funds in*
30 *Board policy. It is intended that budget allocations shall be established by officers of the*
31 *respective student government associations pursuant to the Associated Students*
32 *Constitution of the campuses as approved by the president or chancellor. No impairment*
33 *of existing contractual obligations shall occur.*
34

35 Whereas, the freezing of a student government association clearly inhibits the association from
36 dispersing its activity fee dollars as indicated in Board of Regents Policy;
37

38 Whereas, in an October 9th email, the Dean of Helena College issued a statement that indicated
39 that "All future programming/activities and spending however, are not permitted to advance at
40 this time" for associated student government operations;
41

42 Whereas, this freeze infringes upon student autonomy and allocation of resources, which
43 contradicts the mission statement of MAS and Board of Regents Policy 940.8;
44

45 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the Montana Associated Students (MAS) condemns any
46 attempt to freeze or otherwise inhibit the operations of any student government association
47 within the Montana University System;

48
49 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that MAS recommends the reinstatement of all associated
50 student government functions at Helena College;

51
52 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that MAS discourages and condemns any attempts to
53 further inhibit the associated student governments of the Montana University System;

54
55 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that MAS discourages and condemns any attempts by
56 administrators, faculty, or staff to utilize student government association resources for their own
57 gain or privilege;

58
59 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the following
60 individuals as soon as possible: Jean Baker, Interim Dean of Helena College; Elizabeth Stearns-
61 Sims, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs at Helena College; Sheila Stearns, Interim President of
62 the University of Montana; Waded Cruzado, President of Montana State University; Seth
63 Bodnar, incoming President of the University of Montana; John Cech, Deputy Commissioner for
64 Academic, Research, and Student Affairs; Chase Greenfield, Student Regent; and Fran Albrecht,
65 Chair of the Board of Regents;

66
67 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that MAS encourages the chief-executive officers at the
68 University of Montana and Montana State University to distribute a copy of this resolution to all
69 deans and chancellors of their affiliate campuses.

70

71

72 Passed by MAS Council: November 15, 2017

73

74

ⁱ <https://mus.edu/mas/default.asp>

ⁱⁱ <https://mus.edu/borpol/bor900/940-8.pdf>