

May 25-26 2017

ITEM 175-1008-R0517

Request for authorization to adjust ASUM Sustainability Fee – University of Montana-Missoula

THAT

The Board of Regents of the Montana University System authorizes the University of Montana,-Missoula to convert the current opt-out sustainability mandatory fee to a non-optional mandatory fee, beginning fall 2017.

EXPLANATION

UM students voted in the spring of 2015 to remove the Sustainability Fee's opt-out status but the adjustment was not confirmed at the Board's May 2015 meeting. The students voted 60.38% to 39.62% to alter the ASUM Sustainability Fee from its current opt-out status to a mandatory fee.

The \$6 flat rate Sustainability Fee currently provides \$80,000 - \$90,000 of annual funding to support grants and loans to student and faculty/staff-led sustainability projects on the UM campus, including projects; such as retrofitting buildings, installing smart metering systems, installing rooftop solar arrays, and expanding recycling efforts to all residence halls.

The fee has been assessed since 2009 and represents the only part of the ASUM Activity Fee assessed with an opt-out status. Opt-out rates have ranged from 28% - 34% in spring, summer and fall 2016. Removing the fee's opt-out status would generate roughly \$50,000/year more for student-led sustainability and energy efficiency efforts on the UM campus.

The ASUM Sustainability Fee and KRELF (Kless Revolving Energy Loan Fund) increasingly provide the most viable opportunity for directors and fiscal managers to invest in the efficiency and performance of campus buildings and shrink operational costs in pursuit of UM's financial and environmental sustainability goals.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment #1 – 2019 Biennium Mandatory Fee Schedule with additional fee
- Attachment #2 – SB37/16-17, ASUM Resolution Regarding Adjusting the ASUM Sustainability Fee
- Attachment #3 – Sustainability Fee opt out rates, 10-3-2016
- Attachment #4 – KRELF Project Highlights, May 2017
- Attachment #5 – Current Statement of Financial Status