

ITEM 155-1009-R0512

Student Activity Fee Increase; The University of Montana - Missoula

THAT

Consistent with the BOR Policy 940.12.1 (Tuition and Fee Approval) and BOR Policy 506.1 (Student Participation in Fee Decisions) the Board of Regents of the Montana University System approves a \$6 increase to the Associated Students of The University of Montana Student Activity fee.

EXPLANATION

The Associated Students of The University of Montana currently have a \$33 activity fee that is allocated to fund ASUM service agencies such as ASUM Child Care, ASUM Legal Services, ASUM Off-Campus Renter Center, ASUM Administration and all ASUM recognized student groups. The proposed \$6 increase to the student activity fee will ensure better capacity and support to ASUM recognized student groups. ASUM Senate Bill 39-11/12, *A Resolution Regarding Referendum Language for Student Group Fee*, was a resolution to place the issue on the April 2012 ballot. It was approved by the ASUM Senate by a roll call vote of 14-4. The referendum language read as follows:

"The Associated Students of The University of Montana currently has a \$33.00 Activity Fee it uses to fund its staff, operations, agencies and student group activities. ASUM proposes to increase its current fee by \$6 to provide for much needed student group, music union and sports union funding. This 15% increase will exclusively be reserved for student group funding as a non-negotiable obligation of the student activity fee.

Do you Support an increase of \$6 to the ASUM fee for student group activities?

Yes, I support a \$6 student group fee increase.

No, I do not support a \$6 student group fee increase."

The referendum to increase the ASUM Student Activity fee passed with approximately 57% of the vote – 1,493 students voted in favor, while 1,124 opposed the increase.

The \$6 increase to the ASUM Student Activity fee was proposed in response to a significant budget shortfall of available funds to support student groups. During budgeting of FY13, ASUM received over \$419,859 in student group requests, and due to budget constraints ASUM was only able to allocate only \$64,563. As compared to FY12's allocation, ASUM administration only increased about \$10,000 to respond to collective bargaining obligations and increases in administrative costs.

The ASUM Student Activity fee has not been increased since 2004, while enrollment and the ASUM services that address student needs have expanded. The need for an increase was experienced this year more than previous years, as ASUM's allocation of student groups came at the expense of other ASUM agencies. Because ASUM is service oriented, the sacrifice through budget cuts that was experienced this year by our agencies is not conducive to sustain service levels. To ensure student groups can provide necessary extra-

curricular support and student engagement opportunities it is critical for them to receive ASUM financial support. The ASUM Student Activity fee must increase.

ATTACHMENTS

Student Referendum