

June 30, 2020

ITEM 189-1003-C0620

Request for Authorization to Restructure the ASUM Activity Fee – The University of Missoula

THAT

The Board of Regents approves an off-cycle request for a student driven fee brought forward by the Associated Students of University of Montana (ASUM), in conjunction with UM Administration, requesting authorization, in accordance with Board of Regents' Policy 940.12.1, to restructure the opt-out Sustainability ASUM Activity fee to include a mandatory rate of \$6 per semester for any student taking one (1) credit or more.

EXPLANATION

The Associated Students of the University of Montana currently oversees the following agencies: ASUM Childcare, ASUM Legal Services, ASUM Office of Transportation, ASUM Renter Center/UM Food Pantry, and the ASUM Sustainability Center. Efforts to implement sustainable practices have repeatedly received strong support from the student body through campus-wide referenda, student surveys, and past years' Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) resolutions.

The ASUM Sustainability Fee is a major source of dedicated funding for the University of Montana's (UM) sustainability efforts, including carbon emission reductions, developing green buildings and grounds, supporting sustainable transportation, reducing or utilizing efficient means of energy consumption, supporting locally sourced food options on campus, and diverting waste through recycling and composting efforts. Additionally, the ASUM Sustainability Fee has supported student-led sustainability projects such as the installation of covered-bike parking and water-bottle filling stations, and funds efforts of the ASUM Sustainability Center to advocate for students' sustainability concerns.

The ASUM believes that campus and student support of sustainability efforts are instrumental in campus-wide recruitment endeavors, and the ASUM Sustainability Fee is the only dedicated funding source for implementing sustainability efforts at UM.

Since its inception, the ASUM Sustainability Fee is the only ASUM fee with an "opt-out" option, and currently is assessed at \$6.00. The percentage of UM students electing to opt-out of paying the ASUM Sustainability Fee's was most recently reported at 29% in the Fall of 2019 but has historically averaged approximately 33%. Making the fee mandatory versus "opt-out" would generate approximately \$38,000 of additional annual funding, and constitutes a marginal increase to the cost of attendance for students.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1 - SB26-19/20: Resolution Regarding Sustainability Fee Referendum

Attachment #2 – Proposed Mandatory Fee Schedule

Attachment #3 – ASUM Election Results Report