The Associated Students of the University of Montana

Resolution Regarding ASUM Support for OER Initiatives at the University of Montana

March 15th, 2019

SB49-18/19

Authored by: Lyssa Schei, ASUM Senator

Sponsored by:

Whereas, The University of Montana (UM) currently suffers from a lack of funding due to low retention rates and dropping enrollment;

Whereas, Tuition and fees nationwide have increased by 63% and textbook costs have risen by 88% since January 2008;

Whereas, Recent studies have found that up to 65% of students opt out of buying textbooks;

Whereas, UM wishes to stay on the forefront of educational trends and increase ease of accessibility for its students;

Whereas, Open education modules will help students keep money in their pocket and may help the University see an increase in its retention rates, due to lower prices overall;

Whereas, UM has received a federal grant to promote Open Educational Resource initiatives on campus;

Whereas, Open Educational Resource (OER) initiatives would increase student accessibility to required class texts, assignments, tests, quizzes, and modules;

Whereas, The Montana University System has created a statewide OER Committee and will soon be hiring an OER Coordinator to oversee the implementation of OER on Montana campuses;

Whereas, OER at UM is currently funded by the Mansfield Library, Office of the Provost, and School of Extended & Lifelong Learning;

Whereas, The University’s current “Inclusive Access” system creates security concerns, due to students being required to often give third parties sensitive university-related information;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That the Associated Students of the University of Montana Senate support the aforementioned offices in furthering OER access at UM;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this resolution be sent to: Jon Harbor, Provost; Barry Brown, Interim Dean of the Maureen & Mike Mansfield Library; Roger Maclean, Dean of the School of Extended and Lifelong Learning.

Passed by Committee: __________________________, 2019

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Ethan Hanley,
Chair of the Relations and Affairs Committee

Mariah Welch,
Chair of the Senate