

## Aber Day Resolution, 5/5/22

*Whereas* we are a campus with few but enjoyable traditions, including the Hello Walk, the annual pumpkin on Main Hall, and cannons marking touchdowns at our football games;

*Whereas* UM traditions build community among our students, faculty, and staff; offer points of connection and storytelling for our alumni many years after they have graduated, and aid in bolstering mental health, recruitment, and retention of our UM community;

*Whereas* UM is uniquely and beautifully suited for outdoor enjoyment, with Mount Sentinel right on our very campus and the Clark Fork River, North Hills, Mount Jumbo, and Blue Mountain close by;

*Whereas* our campus benefits from all celebrations of our outdoors and community, and lost our historic Aber Day tradition, celebrated on campus from 1915-1979<sup>1</sup>.

*Whereas* Aber Day traditionally focused on spending a day outside in community with other students, faculty, and staff, ending with a picnic or “buffalo feed” put on by UM Food Service, complete with UM Jazz players adding music, bicycle races being held around campus, and individuals enjoying lounging or tossing frisbees and playing other lawn games.

*Whereas* UM President Robert T. Pantzer (1966-1974) named Aber Day a holiday with a particular focus on “socialization among UM students, faculty, and staff”;

*Therefore*, be it resolved that the Faculty of UM encourage the initiation of a contemporary revival of key elements of our historic Aber Day traditions in a renewed annual Aber Day celebration. Classes will not be held on this day. Faculty and staff will work but will be encouraged to use the day in activities that enhance mental health and wellbeing, connection with colleagues, students and the outdoors.

*Further*, be it resolved that an Aber Day committee made of faculty, staff, students, and administration should work together to establish the expectations and plan the execution of the renewed tradition of Aber Day, which shall be held during the month October, which holds no other holiday.

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<sup>1</sup> [Aber Day: A spring day to remember on UM campus | Local News | missoulian.com](#)