RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

OF

THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Adopted 17 November 2016

Whereas, The student population at Montana State University has grown 33% in the last 10 years and is now the largest and fastest-growing university in Montana; and,

Whereas, MSU has the highest classroom utilization in Montana and among the highest in the nation, averaging 72% during the week with peaks as high as 88%; and,

Whereas, The Math Learning Center and Writing Center continue to assist a record number of students each semester, with the Math Learning Center regularly seeing students line up outside waiting to get service; and,

Whereas, MSU has a strong relationship with veterans, and has seen a 77% increase in veteran enrollment since 2009, resulting in the current Veteran Support Center routinely reaching capacity; and,

Whereas, MSU is committed to providing essential support services to its growing population of students with disabilities, with the current space for such services being inadequate; and,

Whereas, Romney Hall is strategically situated between the Hosaeus Fitness Center, Gaines Hall, the Renne Library, and the Strand Union Building, the four busiest and most utilized buildings on campus; and,

Whereas, Romney Hall will contain essential new classroom spaces as well as space for Math Learning Center and Writing Center services, disability services, and veterans services; and,

Whereas, The new classroom space in Romney Hall will provide over 1,000 new classroom seats which, over an average school day, will provide more than 9,000 additional instructional hours for students; and,

Whereas, The current Romney Hall building is extremely underutilized due to the fact that much of its space is unusable, is not ADA compliant nor energy efficient, and does not meet modern building codes including fire safety; and,

Whereas, The MSU administration has committed to relocating all departments currently housed in Romney Hall to new, better-suited spaces; and,
Whereas, The current Romney Hall building is a culturally-significant and beautiful part of Montana’s history that is structurally sound and deserves to be preserved; and,

Whereas, The State of Montana has a responsibility to ensure that Montana’s land grant university has enough teaching space to provide a quality education for its students; and,

Whereas, The renovation of Romney Hall is the #1 major construction priority of the entire Montana University System for the 2017 session and was approved by the Montana Board of Regents at its May 2016 meeting; now, therefore, be it,

Resolved, That the Associated Students of Montana State University strongly support the funding of the Romney Hall renovation by the Montana State Legislature.

Matthew Campbell – Senate Speaker Pro Tempore