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SENATE STATE ADMIN.

EXHIBIT NO. 1

DATE 3.11.05

ROLL NO. SR9

Access & Excellence

March 10, 2005

Senator Carolyn Squires

Chair, Senate State Administration

Montana Senate

Box 200500

Helena, MT 59620-0500

Madam Chair Squires and Honorable Members of the Senate:

I respectfully ask you to consider the magnitude of the decision that you soon will make regarding the confirmation of Montana's Student Regent, Kala French. The time has come for the discussion on this matter to become elevated and just, and that personal politics are left behind as the Senate decides what is best for the very future of our great state: the students of the Montana University System.

It is rare that one comes across a student of such fine attributes and ability like Ms. French – she is indeed, a true asset to our university system. That is why it has been with the greatest of pride that I have served with Student Regent French for the past nine months. Being a member of the Montana Associated Students (MAS) Student Regent Search Committee in April, I have seen Ms. French's success and loyalty to the students of Montana come to fruition from day-one, and thus why I can most effectively and appropriately attest to the impact Regent French has on the Montana University System.

Within my capacity as both the Student Body President of Montana State University-Billings and as Vice President of the Montana Associated Students (MAS), I have worked very closely with Ms. French concerning issues that affect the students of the Montana University System (MUS). Within this short span of time, Kala has more than exemplified her 'above and beyond the call of duty' commitment to the students and has resoundingly garnered the trust of students within the MUS. Regent French began her term by acquainting herself with student leaders across the state, and initiating her bi-monthly newsletter, "*Recently at the Regents...*" This informative bulletin has been an invaluable tool for keeping the students of the Montana University System informed and involved on pertinent issues, including everything from Shared Leadership for a Stronger Montana Economy, to issues on transferability, to legislative updates.

Additionally, students within their leadership roles state-wide have been blessed with Ms. French's perpetual correspondence and steadfast commitment to keeping student leaders involved on issues occurring within the Board of Regents. In September, an issue was unearthed regarding a particular fee waiver, and the Board was concerned about how students felt about the various fee waivers at each of the MUS campuses. Regent French promptly compiled and disseminated to MAS a thorough package of information regarding the current fee waivers state-wide and provided further insight on how to best approach student leaders about this particular issue. Other like packages have included information on access to higher education, transferability, and the rising prices of textbooks. The students truly appreciate Kala's level of correspondence, as it is integral in allowing Montana's student leaders to stay informed and take their leadership roles to a heightened level!

Within Ms. French's capacity as a member of the seven-member Board of Regents and an ex-officio member of MAS, it is indubitable that Student Regent French has exemplarily served the students of Montana and is well-deserving of being confirmed to serve future student leadership. However it's not only in her newsletters, her correspondence, and other board duties in which she does spectacular work.

Montana is lucky to have Kala as a public servant because she truly cares about the greater good for Montana students. Throughout her term as a regent, Kala has continually called upon MAS for feedback regarding her service to the students of Montana. If an issue arises on a certain campus, and Kala can be of assistance, she will not hesitate to attend a senate meeting to answer questions and participate. In cases in our vast state where distance has been a hindrance, Kala has always made arrangements to call in and still make herself available as a resource to fellow students. Ms. French truly does care about the students within our state and their future, and serves us all with passion, pride, and dignity.

In other spectrums within public policy, if an issue comes about, it is often said "ask the experts -- what do the experts say?" In this very case, the *students* are your experts, and I decree to you that the Associated Students of Montana State University-Billings will continue to stand behind Student Regent French for her indefatigable efforts in providing excellence to the students of the Montana University System. I ask the Montana Senate to consider the integrity within this fine young individual and the profusion of good that she has done for the Montana University System. I also ask the Montana Senate to consider the means by which negativity has been thwarted Regent French's way. If the issue truly is about secular lobbying, than that should make the senate's job very easy, as both Regent French and Regent Foster have severed outside lobbying ties to accommodate their passion for, and their allegiance to the Montana University System. Furthermore, please take into account the efforts that have been made by *special interest student groups* to stifle Kala's regard for the students of Montana. Such organizations certainly do *not* speak for the entirety of the students of Montana.

Student Regent Kala French is undoubtedly the best person for this job, and it truly tugs at one's heart to think that a political crusade could potentially prevent this remarkable individual from providing excellence in service to the state of Montana. Kala truly puts her all into this position and has provided a fresh, well-reasoned, and amicable perspective to the Montana Board of Regents. Getting down to brass tacks, it is simple: Montana loses if it loses Student Regent French.

I vehemently urge the Montana Senate to support Kala French and confirm her appointment to the Montana Board of Regents. She is truly an invaluable asset to Montana!

Sincerely,



Adam Lucido
President,
Associated Students
Montana State University-Billings

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