EXHIBIT 9
DATE 3/8/07
HB 807

To: The House Appropriations Committee
From: Denver Henderson; ASUM lobbyist

In regards to Rep. Sinrud's question about student involvement in the CAP negotiations, please consider the following information.

Students participation in the decision making process:

They elect a representative body, Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM), that acts as a collective laison between the student body and the administration, other campuses, the Board of Regents, and governing bodies at the local, state, and federal level.

The ASUM executives are required to attend all of the Regent meetings, during which they give a brief campus report. Like every other decision making body, the Regents designate a period of time for public comment for each item on the agenda. The agenda for Regents meetings is sent to the ASUM executives prior to the meeting, and that agenda is posted in the ASUM office. Students are encouraged to attend these meetings, and to give testimony as frequently as possible.

The ASUM executives also sit on a smaller representative body made up of student presidents and vice-president from throughout the university system called Montana Associated Students (MAS). MAS meets during the Regent meetings to discuss items on the agenda, and draft a comprehensive resolution to the Regents if necessary.

There is also a student position on the Board of Regents that is a voting member of the body. The Student Regent is charged with informing the student body presidents about important issues, and representing students throughout the university system. The current Student Regent, Heather O'Laughlin, is particularly good about communicating the Regents discussions and actions with ASUM.

Student involvement concerning the College Affordability Plan:

During the May '06 meeting the Board of Regents discussed an initiative to fund the MPACT program created to help make college more affordable for resident students. The program appropriated $2.5 million in ongoing expenditures and helps match college applicants with available scholarship dollars.

During the September '06 Regents meeting the Governor's office presented the College Affordability Plan. MAS discussed CAP at length with Commissioner Stearns and Regent O'Laughlin. The board endorsed the College Affordability Plan with a vote of 7 to 0.

ASUM discussed and passed resolution SB 15 supporting the College Affordability Plan on Nov 1st, 2006. The resolution passed with unanimous consent. A copy of that resolution is included on the attached page.

SB15-06/07 Resolution Regarding Governor Schweitzer's College Affordability Plan (CAP) - passed 11/01/06 with unanimous consent

Whereas, tuition in the state of Montana has been on the rise since 1991;

Whereas, there is a widening rift between the rise in the average household income and the rises in the cost of higher education for Montana's students;

Whereas, Governor Brian Schweitzer's proposed College Affordability Plan (CAP) would hold in-state tuition at current levels for the next biennium;

Whereas, this hold will involve an additional $50 million in state support to help supplement rising operating costs of institutions of higher education;

Whereas, a hold in tuition increases will help ensure that Montana residents will not have to face the continually rising costs of higher education;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that the Associated Students of The University of Montana (ASUM) thank Governor Brian Schweitzer for his proposal to *cap* in-state tuition and promise to make college affordable for Montana residents.

Therefore, Let it Be Further Resolved that the ASUM will work diligently in the upcoming legislative session to make the proposed College Affordability Plan a reality for Montana.

Authored by: ASUM President Andrea Helling

ASUM Vice President Cedric Jacobson