Fall 2014

SB034-14/15: Cyberbullying

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The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Resolution Regarding Cyberbullying
2014
SB034-14/15
Authored by: Jonathon Knudson, ASUM Senator, Shelby Wheeler, ASUM Senator
Sponsored by:

Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) represents the students of the University of Montana;

Whereas, ASUM seeks action at the University of Montana that will have positive and tangible affects for the students of the University of Montana;

Whereas, anonymous social media has seen a rise in use on the campus of the University of Montana, along with other colleges and universities in the United States;

Whereas, with the ability to share thoughts, opinions, and information anonymously, there is concern that what is shared may be harmful to others on campus, representing a form of cyberbullying;

Whereas, at the University of Montana, applications like Whisper and Yik Yak have become widely popular;

Whereas, on applications like Whisper and Yik Yak, harmful and malicious posts have been shared directed towards the Fraternity and Sorority system, individual students, faculty, and staff of the campus;

Whereas, cyberbullying is seen to be an egregious act because the victims of cyberbullying are often unable to escape such behavior;

Whereas, cyberbullying done through anonymous social media raises a particular concern because such posts may be seen by large audiences in a short periods of time;

Whereas, the Cyberbullying Research Center states that cyberbullying has been known to cause alcohol and drug use, cause health problems, lower self-esteem, and have severe effects on a person’s ability to perform well in school;

Whereas, cyberbullying can cause a direct threat to the safety and security of individuals;

Whereas, policies at the University of Montana that address cyberbullying, or digital harassment, are not clear and widely known to students;

Whereas, without knowledge of such policies, students are often unaware that real action can be taken when cyberbullying or digital harassment occurs;
Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that ASUM encourages the administration of the University of Montana to develop a task force, to specifically address cyberbullying and digital harassment;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that ASUM encourages this initiative make clear what actions can be taken through the Student Conduct Code and the Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Stalking, and Retaliation policy to discourage and address cyberbullying and digital harassment when it does occur;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that members of the student body, faculty, and staff be included in the formation of this initiative to facilitate a campus wide discussion on this issue, and for the campus as a whole to address the effects of the issue;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to; Dr. Rhondie Voorhees, Dean of Students, Dr. Theresa Branch, Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Royce Engstrom, President of the University of Montana, Jessica Weltman, Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action and Title IX, Sandra Schoonover, Director of Residence Life, Maggie Linder, President of Staff Senate, and Steve Lodmell, Chair of Faculty Senate.

Passed by Committee: __________________________, 2014

Passed by ASUM Senate: __________________________, 2014

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Sarah Smith,     Sean McQuillan,
Chair of Relations and Affairs  Chair of the Senate