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SB034-14/15: Cyberbullying

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Regarding Cyberbullying**
3 **2014**

4 **SB034-14/15**

5 **Authored by: Jonathon Knudson, ASUM Senator, Shelby Wheeler, ASUM Senator**
6 **Sponsored by:**
7

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

10
11 Whereas, ASUM seeks action at the University of Montana that will have positive and
12 tangible affects for the students of the University of Montana;

13
14 Whereas, anonymous social media has seen a rise in use on the campus of the University
15 of Montana, along with other colleges and universities in the United States;

16
17 Whereas, with the ability to share thoughts, opinions, and information anonymously,
18 there is concern that what is shared may be harmful to others on campus, representing a
19 form of cyberbullying;

20
21 Whereas, at the University of Montana, applications like Whisper and Yik Yak have
22 become widely popular;

23
24 Whereas, on applications like Whisper and Yik Yak, harmful and malicious posts have
25 been shared directed towards the Fraternity and Sorority system, individual students,
26 faculty, and staff of the campus;

27
28 Whereas, cyberbullying is seen to be an egregious act because the victims of
29 cyberbullying are often unable to escape such behavior;

30
31 Whereas, cyberbullying done through anonymous social media raises a particular concern
32 because such posts may be seen by large audiences in a short periods of time;

33
34 Whereas, the Cyberbullying Research Center states that cyberbullying has been known to
35 cause alcohol and drug use, cause health problems, lower self-esteem, and have severe
36 effects on a person's ability to perform well in school;

37
38 Whereas, cyberbullying can cause a direct threat to the safety and security of individuals;

39
40 Whereas, policies at the University of Montana that address cyberbullying, or digital
41 harassment, are not clear and widely known to students;

42
43 Whereas, without knowledge of such policies, students are often unaware that real action
44 can be taken when cyberbullying or digital harassment occurs;

45

46 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that ASUM encourages the administration of the
47 University of Montana to develop a task force, to specifically address cyberbullying and
48 digital harassment;

49
50 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that ASUM encourages this initiative make clear
51 what actions can be taken through the Student Conduct Code and the Discrimination,
52 Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Stalking, and Retaliation policy to discourage and
53 address cyberbullying and digital harassment when it does occur;

54
55 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that members of the student body, faculty, and
56 staff be included in the formation of this initiative to facilitate a campus wide discussion
57 on this issue, and for the campus as a whole to address the effects of the issue;

58
59 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to; Dr.
60 Rhondie Voorhees, Dean of Students, Dr. Theresa Branch, Vice President of Student
61 Affairs, Dr. Royce Engstrom, President of the University of Montana, Jessica Weltman,
62 Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action and Title IX, Sandra
63 Schoonover, Director of Residence Life, Maggie Linder, President of Staff Senate, and
64 Steve Lodmell, Chair of Faculty Senate.

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67

68 Passed by Committee: _____, 2014

69
70 Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2014

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72

73 _____
74 Sarah Smith,
Chair of Relations and Affairs

Sean McQuillan,
Chair of the Senate