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SB87-14/15: Resolution Regarding the University of Montana Student Conduct Code

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Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) represents the interests of the student body;

Whereas, the health and safety of students at the University of Montana (UM) is of vital importance;

Whereas, without the incentive of some kind of amnesty, underage UM students are less likely to contact medical services or the police in unsafe or even life-threatening situations, especially those that involve alcohol or other drugs;

Whereas, over 100 colleges around the country have ‘Good Samaritan’ policies regarding alcohol amnesty;

Whereas, the University of Montana Police Department and UM administration already practice loose forms of unspoken amnesty policies;

Whereas, a section of the UM Discrimination and Sexual Harassment policy, separate from the Student Conduct Code, is already devoted to amnesty;

Whereas, incorporating similar language into the UM Student Conduct Code would make students more aware that they can seek medical help for their peers, even under the influence, without the threat of being found in violation of UM policy;

Whereas, introducing this language to the UM Student Conduct Code would encourage under-age UM students to seek medical help for themselves and their peers;

Whereas, UM students should be aware that actions related to their intoxication, such as disorderly conduct, are still violations of the UM Student Conduct Code and can result in disciplinary charges;

Whereas, this language should be at the forefront of the UM Student Conduct Code, so as to ensure that students can easily access it;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that ASUM recommends, as the University of Montana administration work to revise and modernize the UM Student Conduct Code, the creation of a prominent heading titled: “XX. Amnesty for Drug or Alcohol Possession and Consumption Violations;”
Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that ASUM recommends that the UM Student Conduct Code headings be renumbered to account for this additional heading;

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that ASUM recommends that the University of Montana administration incorporates the following, or similar, language into the student conduct code, under the newly incorporated heading:

*The University of Montana strongly encourages students to report instances in which they or others may be in unsafe situations. Therefore, students who contact officials in instances such as these, will not be disciplined by the University for any violation of the University’s drug or alcohol possession or consumption policies in which they might have engaged in connection with the reported incident. Students should, however, remain aware that actions related to their intoxication, such as disorderly conduct, are still violations of the Student Conduct Code, and can result in disciplinary charges.*

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to UM President Royce Engstrom; UM Dean of Students Rhondie Voorhees; UMPD Director and Chief Marty Ludemann; UMPD Assistant Director and Captain Ben Gladwin; Residence Life Office (RLO) Director Sandra Schoonover; RLO Assistant Director of Student Conduct & Programs Kelly Magnuson; and UM Faculty Senate Chair Stephen Lodmell.

Passed by Committee:

Passed by ASUM Senate: ____________________________, 2015

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