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# SB31-16/17: Resolution Expanding Free Speech Zones on Campus

Garret Morrill

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1                                   **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**  
2                                   **Resolution Expanding Free Speech Zones on Campus**  
3   **September 13, 2016**

4   **SB31-16/17**

5                                   **Authored by: Garret Morrill, ASUM Senator;**  
6                                   **Sponsored by: UM Student Augustine Menke**

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8       Whereas, the University of Montana is a public institution which seeks to pursue the best in  
9       academic inquiry and educational excellence;

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11       Whereas, the First Amendment protects the rights of freedom of expression, which is critical to  
12       fostering critical thinking, meaningful inquiry, and the Liberal Arts;

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14       Whereas, the University of Montana currently designates the area between the Mansfield Library  
15       and the University Center as the 'Free Speech Zone';

16  
17       Whereas, the University of Montana currently restricts Freedom of Expression on the Oval to  
18       allow only events organized with the Center Event Planning Office and by approval of the  
19       University President;

20  
21       Whereas, the University of Montana currently restricts the distribution of printed materials to  
22       Centennial Circle, the walkway up to it from Arthur Avenue, and the aforementioned locations;

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24       Whereas, the concept of a 'Free Speech Zone' runs contrary to the fundamental goals of a  
25       University, violates First Amendment rights, and inhibits academic inquiry and critical thought;

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27       Whereas, Montana State University revised its Freedom of Expression Policy in 2011 to allow  
28       Freedom of Expression across all outdoor areas of its campus with sensible guidelines to protect  
29       the academic functions and students of the campus;

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31       Whereas, students, faculty, and the public ought to be able to freely express themselves on the  
32       campus grounds as per their Constitutional rights and goals of higher learning;

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34       Whereas, the language contained in the 'UM Free Speech Policy' document fully and succinctly  
35       details the rights and responsibilities of both the University and individuals concerning free  
36       expression on campus;

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38       Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the Associated Students of the University of Montana  
39       (ASUM) approves the language and policies contained within the 'UM Free Speech Policy'  
40       document and recommends it to be adopted into University Policy;

41  
42       Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that ASUM recommends Montana Events Services update  
43       its documentation to reflect the policy changes described in the 'UM Free Speech Policy' and  
44       edited 'Faculty Services Policy Procedures' when this Resolution is approved by the  
45       Administration;

46

47 Therefore, Let It Be further Resolved, that the ASUM President present this resolution, the ‘UM  
48 Free Speech Policy’, and the edited ‘Facilities Services Policy Procedures’ documents to Cabinet  
49 at the soonest available opportunity once the appropriate administrators have been consulted;

50  
51 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that this resolution and the ‘UM Free Speech Policy’  
52 document be forwarded to: Royce Engstrom, University President; Lucy France, Legal Counsel;  
53 Mike Reid, Vice President for Administration and Finance; Shannon Brilz, Montana Events  
54 Services Director; Jessica Shaffer, Montana Events Services Event Coordinator; Karen Schlatter,  
55 Montana Events Services Event Coordinator; Marty Ludmann, Office of Public Safety; and Dale  
56 Robertson, Montana Events Services Assistant Director.

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58 Passed by Committee: \_\_\_\_\_, 2016

59  
60 Passed by ASUM Senate: \_\_\_\_\_, 2016

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68 \_\_\_\_\_  
69 Connor Fitzpatrick,  
Chair of Relations and Affairs Committee

\_\_\_\_\_ Elizabeth Engebretson  
Chair of ASUM Senate