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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**

7
8 Whereas, the University of Montana is a public institution which seeks to pursue the best in
9 academic inquiry and educational excellence;

10
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;

13
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;

23
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;

26
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;

30
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;

33
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;

37
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

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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