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Spring 2-15-2017

### SB60-16/17: Resolution Regarding Free and Civil Expression on Campus

Garret Morrill

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1                                   **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**  
2                                   **Resolution Regarding Free and Civil Expression on Campus**

3   **2/3/2017**

4   **SB60-16/17**

5                                   **Authored by: Garret Morrill, ASUM Senator**

6   **Sponsored by:**

7  
8       Whereas, recent events have prompted widespread public unrest and tension in cities and on  
9       University campuses across the nation;

10  
11       Whereas, on February 1st a speaking event with Milo Yiannopoulos at UC Berkley was  
12       disrupted and later canceled due to riotous action that set fire to University equipment and  
13       injured multiple attendees;

14  
15       Whereas, previous Universities to his speaking events have experienced similarly disruptive,  
16       unlawful protests that prevented his events from occurring in an orderly fashion such as at  
17       DePaul University and UC Davis;

18  
19       Whereas, attempts by University of Alabama, University of Maryland, DePaul University,  
20       University of Iowa, and others to impose ‘security fees’ and other measures to prevent student  
21       groups that invited him from hosting the speaking events;

22  
23       Whereas, the institution of free expression has come under threat both from individuals  
24       demanding some may not be allowed to speak, and from University Administrations that wish to  
25       selectively disenfranchise some speakers based on disagreement with the content of their speech;

26  
27       Whereas, it is the duty of the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) to  
28       affirm and uphold principles and values that are vital to the development and success of the  
29       students it represents as per the ASUM Mission Statement:

30  
31       *The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) provides services to enhance the*  
32       *student experience, advocates for the rights of all University of Montana (UM) students as a*  
33       *unified body, and builds a system of trust and transparency among students, faculty, and staff.*

34  
35       Whereas, similarly unlawful and disruptive demonstrations at other Universities has resulted in  
36       property damage, lower enrollment, and loss of donor/alumni funding support;

37  
38       Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the Associated Students of the University of Montana  
39       (ASUM) condemns the disruptive conduct, intimidation, imminent threats of violence, and acts  
40       of violence perpetrated and encouraged against speakers and attendees of University events;

41  
42       Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that ASUM condones civil, orderly expressions protected  
43       by the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment and our University codes for all those who utilize this University’s  
44       facilities and grounds, and condemns the unlawful suppression of any law-abiding individual’s  
45       right to free and orderly expression in this University;

46  
47       Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that ASUM urges the University Administration and

48 Campus Police to continue protecting the rights and safety of all students, staff, speakers, and  
49 visitors on our campus and to enforce the laws when necessary to maintain peace, order, and  
50 security;

51  
52 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that ASUM encourages law enforcement to hold, to the  
53 best of their ability, individuals accountable for their actions both commendable and  
54 impermissible in cases of public demonstration;

55  
56 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that ASUM recommends that the University of Montana  
57 Administration make a similar firm commitment to the University community and the public at  
58 large to protect free expression from both unlawful censorship and violence;

59  
60 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that this Resolution be forwarded to interim President  
61 Shelia Stearns, Interim Provost Beverly Edmonds, Chief of Public Safety Marty Ludemann, Vice  
62 President Tom Crady

63  
64  
65  
66

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

68

69 Passed by ASUM Senate: \_\_\_\_\_, 2016

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73 \_\_\_\_\_  
74 Connor Fitzpatrick,  
75 Chair of Relations and Affairs Committee

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

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