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Fall 9-20-2017

### SB05-17/18: Free Speech Commitment

Garret Morrill

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

3   **9/8/2017**

4   **SB05-17/18**

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 at UC Berkeley was disrupted and later canceled due  
12   to riotous action that set fire to University equipment and injured multiple attendees;

13  
14   Whereas, Previous Universities have experienced disruptive, unlawful protests that prevented  
15   similar events from occurring in an orderly fashion such as at DePaul University and UC Davis;

16  
17   Whereas, There were attempts by University of Alabama, University of Maryland, DePaul  
18   University, University of Iowa, and others to impose ‘security fees’ and other measures to  
19   prevent student groups that invited him from hosting the speaking events;

20  
21   Whereas, Recent events of public demonstrations across the country such as at Berkeley,  
22   California on April 15<sup>th</sup> and Charlottesville, Virginia on August 12<sup>th</sup> have devolved into riots in  
23   part due to their local police behavior impeding the maintenance of law and order;

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

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

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

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

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

43  
44   Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, That ASUM condones civil, orderly expressions protected  
45   by the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment and our University codes for all those who utilize this University’s

46 facilities and grounds, and condemns the unlawful suppression of any law-abiding individual's  
47 right to free and orderly expression in this University;  
48

49 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, That ASUM would strongly discourage the University  
50 from imposing unusually high fees on individuals and groups who would express themselves on  
51 campus and to finalize these costs at the time of the event's proposal;  
52

53 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, That ASUM urges the University Administration and  
54 Campus Police to continue protecting the rights and safety of all students, staff, faculty, speakers,  
55 and visitors on our campus and to enforce the laws when necessary to maintain peace, order, and  
56 security;  
57

58 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, That ASUM recommends that the University of Montana  
59 Administration make a similar firm commitment to the University community and the public at  
60 large to protect free expression from both unlawful censorship and violence;  
61

62 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, That this Resolution be forwarded to Sheila M. Stearns,  
63 President of the University of Montana; Rosi Keller, Vice President of Administration and  
64 Finance; Beverly Edmond, Interim Provost of the University of Montana; Marty Ludemann,  
65 Chief of Police for the University of Montana; Rhondie Vorhees, Dean of Students; and Montana  
66 Events Services.  
67  
68  
69  
70

71 Passed by Committee: \_\_\_\_\_, 2017  
72

73 Passed by ASUM Senate: \_\_\_\_\_, 2017  
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75  
76

77 \_\_\_\_\_  
78 Connor Fitzpatrick Brenna Love  
79 Chair of Relations and Affairs Chair of the Senate  
80