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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 **3/19/2018**

4 **SB05-17/18**

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

6 **Sponsored by: Sonny Capece, ASUM Senator**

7
8 Whereas, Some recent events of public demonstrations at University campuses across the
9 country have devolved into physical violence and property destruction;

10
11 Whereas, Recent public demonstrations on this University campus such as Mike Adams' speech
12 or the March Walk Out protest have raised fears about public safety and/or generated calls to
13 deny some speakers the ability to express themselves on campus;

14
15 Whereas, Certain groups advocate for our public University to become a speech arbitrator and
16 deny lawful speakers certain non-discriminating platforms and venues on campus by
17 preemptively judging speakers based on political, religious, and personal beliefs;

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19
20 Whereas, Free expression forms the cornerstone of higher education's academic experience for
21 both students and faculty in the dissimulation and challenging of ideas in an open and engaged
22 environment;

23
24 Whereas, It is the duty of the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) to
25 affirm and uphold principles and values that are vital to the development and success of the
26 students it represents as per the ASUM Mission Statement:

27
28 *The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) provides services to enhance the*
29 *student experience, advocates for the rights of all University of Montana (UM) students as a*
30 *unified body, and builds a system of trust and transparency among students, faculty, and staff.*

31
32 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That ASUM condemns unlawful conduct, and acts of violence
33 perpetrated and encouraged against any speakers, attendees, protestors, or observers of
34 University events;

35
36 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, That ASUM condones civil and lawful expressions
37 protected by the First Amendment and our University codes for all those who utilize this
38 University's facilities and grounds, and condemns the unlawful suppression of any law-abiding
39 individual's right to free expression in this University;

40
41 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, That ASUM strongly discourages the University from
42 imposing unusual or extraordinary security fees on individuals and groups who would express
43 themselves on campus;

44

45 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, That ASUM condemns the notion of ‘no platforming’
46 individuals based on the content of their expressions and instead advocates for holding
47 individuals and groups accountable for their conduct;
48

49 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, That ASUM urges the University Administration and
50 Campus Police to continue protecting the rights and safety of all students, staff, speakers,
51 observers, protestors, and visitors on our campus and to enforce the laws when necessary to
52 maintain peace, civility, and security;
53

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

58 Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, That this Resolution be forwarded to Seth Bodnar,
59 President of the University of Montana; Adrienne Donald, UC Director; Paula Short, Director of
60 Communications; Jed Liston, Director of Alumni Relations, Cindy Williams, Chair of the UM
61 Foundation; and the deans of the various colleges.
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Passed by Committee: _____, 2018

Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2018

72 _____
73 Connor Fitzpatrick
74 Chair of Relations and Affairs

Brenna Love
Chair of the Senate