SB36-19/20: Resolution Supporting the Recommendation of the Diversity Advisory Council to Remove the Swastika Symbol From the Exterior of Corbin Hall

Abbigail Belcher
The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Resolution Supporting the Recommendation of the Diversity Advisory Council to Remove
the Swastika Symbol From the Exterior of Corbin Hall
November 8, 2019
SB36-18/19
Authored by: Abigail Belcher, ASUM President;
Sponsored by: Melissa Glueckert, ASUM Senator;

Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) represents all students
at the University of Montana (UM);

Whereas, Two of ASUM’s core values are “advocacy” and “diversity”;

Whereas, There is currently a swastika symbol on the exterior of Corbin Hall and the meaning of
the symbol is unclear;

Whereas, It is the duty of ASUM to advocate for diverse populations that have significant
justification to be deeply affected by the appearance of a hate symbol, regardless of the
explanation provided afterwards;

Whereas, The philosophical benefits of students and the public by maintaining the opportunity to
view and discuss the symbol on the sidewalk outside of Corbin Hall are less significant than the
impacts on students who are forced to be reminded of topics like genocide, anti-semitism,
racism, and homophobia;

Whereas, Per the Diversity Advisory Council’s (DAC) recommendation, interested parties will
have the opportunity to view the symbol at their leisure in the Mansfield Library;

Whereas, Students have reached out to the DAC to express their dissent with the tile;

Whereas, Calling attention to the symbol could have consequences that would significantly
impact morale at UM, like vandalism and association of UM with a hate symbol by visitors;

Whereas, ASUM must prioritize the needs of ASUM fee paying students over the intent of the
architect, other associated meanings of the symbol, and the perceived educational value of the
symbol;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That ASUM supports the recommendation made by the DAC to
remove the tile from Corbin Hall and place it in the UM Archives and Special Collections
portion of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this resolution be forwarded to Adrienne Smith,
University Center Director and Chair of the DAC; Hailey Michelson, Student Involvement
Network Advisor; Kelly Webster, Chief of Staff; Seth Bodnar, President of the University of
Montana.
Passed by Committee: November 19th, 2019
Passed by ASUM Senate: December 4th, 2019

Alexandra Akmal,
Chair of the Relations and Affairs Committee

Ethan Hanley,
Chair of the Senate

Resolution Passed: 19 Yes 1 No 4 Abstentions