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The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Resolution Regarding ASUM’s Official Stance on Land Acknowledgement
October 3, 2022
SB08-22/23

Authored by: Mary Melissa Glueckert, UM Student;
O’Shay Birdinground, ASUM Senator;

Sponsored by: Dr. Salena Beaumont Hill, Director of Inclusive Excellence; Dr. Brad Hall,
President of Blackfeet Community College;

Whereas, The University of Montana (“UM”) lies on the aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispel people;

Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (“ASUM”)’s organization also lies on the aboriginal territories of the Séliš and Qlispé, or known today as the Salish and Kalispel people;

Whereas, In 1855 the US Government engaged in treaty negotiations with leaders of the Kootenai, Salish, and Pend d’Oreille Nations to secure tribal territories for use by non-Indigenous peoples, this is now known as the Treaty of Hellgate¹;

Whereas, Tribal nations were misled and manipulated by the US government into believing the Treaty of Hellgate was to establish peace between themselves and the Blackfeet Nation, not to surrender land²;

Whereas, As a result of this Treaty, the people of the Kootenai, Salish, and Pend d’Oreille Nations were forced to leave their homelands and instead move onto what is now the Flathead Reservation³;

Whereas, Many different Indigenous communities occupied the land which is now the United States (US) prior to Christopher Columbus’s arrival to the US in 1492⁴;

¹ Cultural history-brief history of the people. (n.d.). Retrieved November 29, 2022, from http://www.flatheadwatershed.org/cultural_history/pend_salish.shtml

² Cultural history-brief history of the people. (n.d.). Retrieved November 29, 2022, from http://www.flatheadwatershed.org/cultural_history/pend_salish.shtml

³ *Evaluating AI materials and resources for the classroom*. (n.d.). Retrieved November 30, 2022, from <https://opi.mt.gov/Portals/182/Page%20Files/Indian%20Education/Indian%20Education%20101/Evaluating%20AI%20Materials%20and%20Resources%20for%20the%20Classroom.pdf>

⁴ Zinn, H. (2017). *A people's history of the United States*. Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

Whereas, Since the arrival of Columbus on Indigenous lands in the US, white people have been responsible for an estimated 13 million deaths of Indigenous people⁵;

Whereas, The US Government has a long history of forcing Indigenous communities to agree to treaties regarding land ownership;

Whereas, The dispossession of Indigenous Culture is American History;

Whereas, UM and subsequently, ASUM, lay on stolen land;

Whereas, The Séliš-Q̓lispé Cultural Committee created the following land acknowledgment language for UM:

The University of Montana acknowledges that we are in the aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispel people [a number of whom are present with us today at this ceremony/event]. Today, we honor the path they have always shown us in caring for this place for the generations to come.⁶;

Whereas, This land acknowledgement is often used in Faculty syllabi, at the end of student/Staff/Faculty email signatures, said by the UM President or other Admin/Faculty before big events, Department's websites, among other places;

Whereas, ASUM has no formal stance on land acknowledgment;

Whereas, One of ASUM's core values is Diversity;

Whereas, It is impossible for ASUM to promote diversity without first acknowledging that the land in which was stolen;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, ASUM adopt the following official stance on land acknowledgement:

⁵ *Counting the dead: Estimating the loss of life in the indigenous ...* (n.d.). Retrieved November 30, 2022, from <https://www.se.edu/native-american/wp-content/uploads/sites/49/2019/09/A-NAS-2017-Proceedings-Smith.pdf?bbeml=tp-LoV-wVHX0k6TcA7Wm6g2wQ.jSys0KeQJgUafvsYIdAsKZw.rvHGgn32To02VwLgzvtEx4g.lqjTrZHIjR0WBL7o0wcew3Q>

⁶ *Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX.* Office of. (n.d.). Retrieved November 29, 2022, from <https://www.umt.edu/eo/equal-opportunity/diversity/default.php>

The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) acknowledges that we are in the aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispel people. Today, we honor the path they have always shown us in caring for this place for the generations to come.⁷;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, The Marketing and Outreach (“M&O”) Coordinator be tasked with posting the aforementioned official stance on all official ASUM social medias, including but not limited to: Facebook, Instagram, and Linktree;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, The M&O Coordinator be tasked with putting the aforementioned official stance on the ASUM website in a prominent area;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, This resolution be sent to: Taylor Curry, ASUM Coordinator of Marketing and Outreach; Dr. Salena Beaumont-Hill, Director of Inclusive Excellence; Gwen Coon, ASUM Office Manager.

Passed by Committee: November 20th, 2022

Passed by ASUM Senate: December 7th, 2022

Emma Wickum,
Chair of Relations & Affairs

Alexandra Berna,
Chair of the Senate

O’Shay Birdinground,
Chair of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

This Resolution Passed Unanimously

⁷ *Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX*. Office of. (n.d.). Retrieved November 29, 2022, from <https://www.umt.edu/eo/equal-opportunity/diversity/default.php>