Spring 2012

SB30-11/12: Campus Safe Learning Environment

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The Associated Students of The University of Montana

Resolution Regarding Campus Safe Learning Environment

February 1, 2012

Senate Bill SB30-11/12

Authored by: Jenifer Gursky, ASUM President, and Mariah Williams, ASUM Senator

Sponsored By: Brittany Salley-Rains, WRC Office Coordinator; Emilie Loran, WRC Outreach Coordinator; Travis Suzuki, Janyssa Overturf, and Asa Hohman, ASUM Senators

Whereas, The University of Montana has acknowledged in recent media outlets and public forums that it has a problem with sexual assault;

Whereas, sexual violence is the second most common violent crime committed on college campuses today;

Whereas, sexual violence encompasses a broad range of behaviors from sexual harassment to rape, including: attempted or completed voyeurism (peeping), indecent exposure, knowingly transmitting sexually transmitted infections or inducing incapacitation to facilitate sexual contact;

Whereas, President Engstrom has publicly outlined a three-pronged approach to this issue: widespread education, improvement in University communication, and a thorough review of the athletic department’s response to possible sex crimes committed by UM athletes;

Whereas, victims of alleged sexual assaults have reported that they feel an effort has been made to shift blame from the alleged perpetrators to the victims;

Whereas, The Associated Students of The University of Montana’s Women’s Resource Center (WRC) is a consensus-based organization dedicated to raising awareness of women’s and gender issues and serving and assisting women in our community;

Whereas, The Associated Students of The University of Montana (ASUM) has had strategic stakeholder meetings with the President of The University of Montana, the Vice President of Student Affairs, representatives from the Student Assault Resource Center (SARC), representatives from the WRC, the Director of the University Center and the Executive Director of the National Coalition Building Institute;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that ASUM will strategically find ways to involve students in every step, discussion, meeting and applicable committees to seek solutions with community stakeholders;

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved that ASUM will keep the issue of sexual assault at The University of Montana a priority in its focus and agenda;
Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that ASUM will encourage The University of Montana administration both through informal discussions and through formal proposals to expand the capacity of the WRC and SARC, strengthen the collaboration of the first responder community and build sensitive and responsive competency-building programs within The University community surrounding reporting and responding to sexual assault;

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved that ASUM recommends to the Vice President of Student Affairs a proposal to expand the current capacity of the WRC and SARC both through direct funding, support through equal stakeholder collaboration and potential hiring of a staff advisor position.

Passed by Committee: __________________________, 2012

Passed by ASUM Senate: __________________________, 2012

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Travis Suzuki, Jeffrey Edmunds,
Relations and Affairs Chair Chair of the Senate