2016-R-4
ASMSU Support for LGBTQIA Student Needs

Sponsors: Geneva Zoltek  
Spencer Pappas  
Kyle Glose  
Adam Sanders  
Amaryllis Oswald  
Connor O’Leary  
Hope Lynn  
Megan Potts

Signatories: John Miller  

Yes/7 No/0 Abs/0  
Date: 2/18/16

Vote Necessary: Majority

Intent: To express the support of the Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU) for the continued collaboration toward addressing the current needs of Montana State University Students, and in particular the needs of LGBTQIA students.

Whereas, the ASMSU Mission Statement reads that “ASMSU is [...] dedicated to enhancing the college experience at Montana State University with leadership [...] opportunities;” and,

Whereas, the ASMSU Constitution reads that “ASMSU shall not discriminate according to sex, [...] sexual preference, gender identity or expression [...] in the implementation of any of its policies;” and,

Whereas, Montana Executive Order 04-2016 establishes protections for LGBT individuals in state employment; and,

Whereas, the City of Bozeman Municipal Code contains passages establishing protections for LGBTQIA individuals in housing, employment, and public accommodations; and,

Whereas, the Montana State University (MSU) Office of Institutional Equity’s Mission Statement reads that they support “[...] the University’s goals by promoting an inclusive, diverse and supportive environment for external members of the campus community and our employees and students to excel regardless of their [...] sex, sexual preference/orientation, gender identity, gender expression, transgender [...] status;” and,

Whereas, ASMSU and MSU are dedicated to ensuring student safety both in and outside the classroom and ensuring equal opportunities among students; and,

Whereas, the MSU Diversity Awareness Office conducted a randomized survey as recently as Spring 2015, and found that a majority (52%) of LGBTQIA students felt they had to conceal an aspect of their identity to avoid harassment or discrimination on campus; and,

Whereas, 39% of incidents experienced by LGBTQIA students occurred in the classroom; and

Whereas, the responding LGBTQIA students reported fearing for their safety twice as much as non-LGBTQIA students on campus; and,
Whereas, ASMSU has been approached by numerous LGBTQIA students expressing concern over existing provisions at MSU; and,

Whereas, MSU administration, ASMSU, and LGBTQIA students are working to address issues regarding student safety and wellbeing and increase efforts toward creating a campus where all students may thrive, where student privacy is accommodated, and where safety concerns are met.

Therefore, let it be resolved that: The Associated Students of Montana State University support the continued collaboration between Montana State University administration and students in ensuring that all students are provided with an environment in which they feel safe and comfortable regardless of their sexual preference, gender identity, gender expression, or transgender status, allowing students to focus on the pursuit of excellence in education, research, creativity and civic responsibility in line with Montana State University’s land-grant mission.

Let it be further resolved that: a copy of this resolution be sent to Levi Birky, ASMSU President; Holly Capp, ASMSU Vice President; Marianne Brough, ASMSU Director of Operations; Joshua B. Soares, ASMSU Senate Speaker; Spencer Pappas, ASMSU Senate Speaker Pro Tempore; Dr. Waded Cruzado, President of Montana State University; Terry Leist, Vice President for Administration and Finance; Dr. Chris Kearns, Vice President for Student Success; Dr. Matthew Caires, Dean of Students; Tracy Ellig, Executive Director of University Communications; Ariel Donohue, MSU Diversity Awareness Office; Jeff Bondy, MSU Residence Life; and Erin Murdock, MSU Exponent.