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SB45-11/12: Socially Responsible Apparel

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1 **The Associated Students of The University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Regarding Socially Responsible Apparel**
3 **March 21, 2012**

4 **Senate Bill Number: SB45-11/12**

5 **Authored by: Emerald LaFortune, ASUM Senator, and**
6 **Clayton Springmeyer, ASUM Senator**

7 **Sponsored by: ASUM Sustainability Center, Travis Suzuki, ASUM Senator,**
8 **Students for Economic and Social Justice, Jen Gursky, ASUM President**
9 **and the Bookstore at The University of Montana**

10
11
12 Whereas, The University of Montana’s strategic plan acknowledges the importance of a
13 global perspective and understanding which includes the objective of “global engagement
14 and leadership at all levels”;

15
16 Whereas, the State of Montana Constitution’s Declaration of Rights includes the phrase
17 “rights of pursuing life’s basic necessities, enjoying and defending their lives and
18 liberties, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and seeking their safety, health
19 and happiness in all lawful ways”;

20
21 Whereas, many apparel factories in developing countries exploit workers by forcing long
22 hours of work, unsafe working conditions, stifling efforts to unionize, and hiring
23 children;

24
25 Whereas, the Worker Rights Consortium (WRC) “conducts independent, in-depth
26 investigations; issues public reports on factories producing for major brands; and aids
27 workers at these factories in their efforts to end labor abuses and defend their workplace
28 rights”;

29
30 Whereas, Alta Gracia meets the WRC standards by paying a living wage to every worker
31 in their Dominican Republic factory and ensuring workers are allowed the right to a safe
32 and healthy workplace, the right to be treated with dignity and respect on the job, and the
33 right to form a union;

34
35 Whereas, students can only effectively support Alta Gracia if there are a variety of sizes
36 and style options in stock;

37
38 Whereas, Alta Gracia has competitive prices and appearance as the other collegiate
39 apparel options in the Bookstore at The University of Montana;

40
41 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that The Associated Students of The University of
42 Montana (ASUM) endorses the current stock of Alta Gracia apparel at the Bookstore of
43 The University of Montana and that ASUM encourages the Bookstore to increase its
44 supply of Alta Gracia or other comparably socially responsible apparel.

45
46 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that ASUM will use Alta Gracia or a comparably

47 socially responsible apparel company for our ASUM promotional t-shirts or other ASUM
48 labeled apparel.

49

50 *Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, ASUM encourages and recommends University of*
51 *Montana collegiate licensing contracts seek socially responsible merchandise for all*
52 *licensed University of Montana merchandise.*

53

54 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that ASUM recommends the Bookstore at The
55 University of Montana ~~partner with the student group Students for Economic and Social~~
56 ~~Justice in advertising socially responsible apparel through methods such as tabling,~~
57 ~~raffles, prominent bookstore displays, and other measures.~~ *actively advertise socially*
58 *responsible apparel, such as their Alta Gracia line.*

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62 Passed by Committee: _____, 2012

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65 Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2012

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71 _____
72 Travis Suzuki,
73 Relations and Affairs Chair

71 _____
72 Jeff Edmunds,
73 Chair of the Senate