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SB28-21/22: Resolution Demanding the Resignation or Termination of Rob Smith, University of Montana Computer Science Professor

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Demanding the Resignation or Termination of Rob Smith, University of**
3 **Montana Computer Science Professor**

4 **October 11, 2021**

5 **SB28-21/22**

6 **Authored by: Canyon S. Lock, ASUM Vice President; Nicholas Ververis, ASUM Senator;**
7 **Emma Kiefer, ASUM Senator; Mary Melissa Glueckert, ASUM Senator;**

8 **Sponsored by: Noah Durnell, ASUM President;**

9
10 Whereas, The primary purpose of the Associated Students of the University of Montana
11 (“ASUM”) is to advocate for the general welfare of the students;

12
13 Whereas, Diversity and inclusivity are two of ASUM’s core values;

14
15 Whereas, The University of Montana (“UM”) values diversity¹;

16
17 Whereas, UM’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan under Strategy 3.2.2 (Expectation Setting)
18 states:

19
20 *Establish an expectation for all employees that we are an institution committed to*
21 *diversity, equity, and inclusion and that all employees have a role to play in this*
22 *commitment.*²;

23
24 Whereas, Rob Smith is a tenured professor in the UM Computer Science department;

25
26 Whereas, The Montana Kaimin published an article on October 11, 2021 detailing Rob Smith’s
27 disturbing and deplorable beliefs and claims as stated on his blog and YouTube channel³;

28
29 Whereas, Rob Smith has not denied these claims;

30
31 Whereas, Rob Smith has publicly disseminated and sermonized homophobic, islamophobic,
32 sexist, ableist, and pedophilic beliefs;

33
34 Whereas, In a blog post on July 27, 2020, Rob Smith wrote:

35
36 *You can’t be surprised at the pedophiles when you support same sex relationships. What*

¹ Office of the President. *Mission Statement*. University of Montana. Retrieved October 11, 2021, from <https://www.umt.edu/president/mission.php>

² Office of the President. *UM’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan, Strategy 3.2.2 (Expectation Setting)*. University of Montana. Retrieved October 11, 2021, from <https://www.umt.edu/diversity-equity-inclusion-plan/priorities-for-action-3/objective-3.2/strategy-3.2.2.php>

³ Tallman, A. (2021, October 11). *‘Ethically bankrupt’ blog: UM professor reported for misogynistic writings*. Montana Kaimin. Retrieved October 11, 2021, from http://www.montanakaimin.com/features/ethically-bankrupt-blog/article_e652a6b8-2892-11ec-bf62-3b2f56e19994.html.

37 *principle allows you to do that?*⁴;

38
39 Whereas, In a blog post on January 30, 2017, Rob Smith wrote:

40
41 *The fact is that one cannot both be a peaceful Muslim and a faithful Muslim. In other*
42 *words, Muslims are only peaceful to the degree that they are not Muslims.*⁵;

43
44 Whereas, In a blog post on April 5, 2020, Rob Smith wrote:

45
46 *Almost everyone who is dying from coronavirus has pre-existing conditions. This doesn't*
47 *make their lives less valuable, but every one of them would already be dead, sometimes*
48 *decades ago, in any other time in human history. They have already received a massive*
49 *blessing of extended life. They have already received more mercy than they were due.*⁶;

50
51 Whereas, In a blog post on October 15, 2018, Rob Smith wrote:

52
53 *It will come across as some wacko propaganda, but did you know that women peak*
54 *physically at age 16? It is interesting that, on the one hand, modern society has made it*
55 *taboo for a man to marry a 16 year old or so woman, suggesting it is inappropriate to*
56 *find a 16 year old or so woman attractive, while simultaneously designing all manner of*
57 *makeup products and fine-twined linen to make women older than this look as similar as*
58 *possible to 16 year old or so women. [I use the word woman, because historically people*
59 *used to base a woman's physical maturity on—you know, her physical maturity, instead*
60 *of on an arbitrary age.]*⁷;

61
62 Whereas, In a blog post on October 15, 2018, Rob Smith wrote:

63
64 *Women have swapped the option of having and raising children for the requirement to*
65 *have a full-time career. It was a bad deal if you ask me.*⁸;

66
67 Whereas, The extreme beliefs promoted by Rob Smith, even if not stated explicitly in the

⁴ Smith, R. (2020, July 27). *Misplaced outrage*. Upward Thought. Retrieved October 12, 2021 from <https://bloximages.newyork1.vip.townnews.com/montanakaimin.com/content/tncms/assets/v3/editorial/e/d0/ed0b8d1e-2890-11ec-8c2a-ff6ce73e26d2/6160d6ac91e83.pdf.pdf>.

⁵ Smith, R. (2017, January 30). *Muslim Immigration: Stacking the deck to fulfill prophecy*. Upward Thought. Retrieved October 12, 2021, from <https://bloximages.newyork1.vip.townnews.com/montanakaimin.com/content/tncms/assets/v3/editorial/0/6f/06f60808-2891-11ec-960c-c3c79503ca6a/6160d6d571488.pdf.pdf>.

⁶ Smith, R. (2020, April 5). *Why should God stop coronavirus?* Upward Thought. Retrieved October 12, 2021, from <https://bloximages.newyork1.vip.townnews.com/montanakaimin.com/content/tncms/assets/v3/editorial/a/31/a31b9190-2890-11ec-9abb-9b4ba40716ca/6160d631a71f4.pdf.pdf>.

⁷ Smith, R. (2018, October 15). *Isaiah 3 part 2: The problem with the women*. Upward Thought. Retrieved October 12, 2021, from <https://bloximages.newyork1.vip.townnews.com/montanakaimin.com/content/tncms/assets/v3/editorial/b/cf/bcf47b22-2890-11ec-8c10-f346998f90a0/6160d6592ad8c.pdf.pdf>.

⁸ Smith, R. (2018, October 15). *Isaiah 3 part 2: The problem with the women*. Upward Thought. Retrieved October 12, 2021, from <https://bloximages.newyork1.vip.townnews.com/montanakaimin.com/content/tncms/assets/v3/editorial/b/cf/bcf47b22-2890-11ec-8c10-f346998f90a0/6160d6592ad8c.pdf.pdf>.

68 classroom, inherently create an inequitable and toxic environment for LGBTQIA+ individuals,
69 Muslim individuals, disabled individuals, women, and students under the age of 18 at UM;

70
71 Whereas, Computer Science majors are forced to take classes instructed by Rob Smith in order to
72 graduate due to the low number of computer science faculty;

73
74 Whereas, On October 11, 2021, UM President Seth Bodnar tweeted;

75
76 *I'm disgusted by the homophobic & misogynistic views reported in the*
77 *@MontanaKaimin. Building a culture of respect, empowerment, & equity is foundational*
78 *to our mission. I have directed UM officials to immediately address this matter through*
79 *investigatory & supportive measures.⁹;*

80
81 Whereas, Roughly 2000 individuals, including many students, have signed a petition demanding
82 Rob Smith's termination;

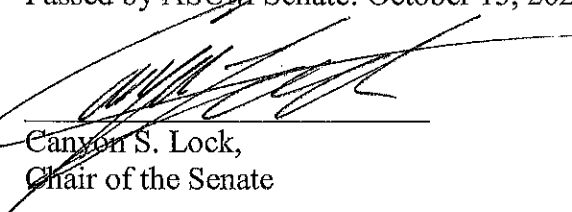
83
84 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That ASUM demands Rob Smith's immediate resignation;

85
86 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That, in lieu of resignation, ASUM demands Rob Smith's
87 immediate termination;

88
89 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That the October 13, 2021 ASUM Senate Meeting
90 minutes be sent to Rob Smith, Professor of Computer Science, once approved by the Senate;

91
92 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this resolution be sent to: Rob Smith, Professor of
93 Computer Science; Reed Humphrey, Acting UM Provost; Seth Bodnar, UM President; Terri
94 Phillips, Associate Vice President of Human Resources; Paul Lasiter, Vice President of
95 Operations; Kelly Webster, UM Chief of Staff; Nathan Lindsay, UM Vice Provost for Academic
96 Affairs; Jesse Johnson, Chair of the Computer Science Department; Matthew Semanoff,
97 Associate Dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences; Amanda Dawsey, UFA President;
98 Kimber McKay, Chair of the Faculty Senate; Brady Schwertfeger, Staff Senate President; and
99 Alicia Arant, UM Title IX Coordinator.

100
101
102 Passed by ASUM Senate: October 13, 2021

103
104
105
106 
107 Canyon S. Lock,
108 Chair of the Senate

109 Passed Unanimously.

⁹ Bodnar, Seth [@SethBodnar]. I'm disgusted by the homophobic & misogynistic views reported in the @MontanaKaimin. Building a culture of respect, empowerment, & equity is foundational to our mission. I have directed UM officials to immediately address this matter through investigatory & supportive measures. *Twitter*, October 11, 2021, <https://twitter.com/sethbodnar/status/1447652927141658625?s=21>.