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SB09-22/23: Resolution Requesting the Removal of the Swastika Symbols from Corbin Hall

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The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Resolution Requesting the Removal of the Swastika Symbols from Corbin Hall
November 18th, 2022

SB09-22/23

Authored by: O'Shay Birdinground, ASUM Senator; Asher Swan Adams, UM Student;
Josie Hess, UM Student;

Sponsored by: Elizabeth Bowles, ASUM President; Alexandra Berna, ASUM Vice
President;

Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (“ASUM”) has a responsibility to The University of Montana (“UM”) students to represent and advocate for their interests to UM’s administration;

Whereas, The Diversity Advisory Council (“DAC”) was alerted of the tiles on the exterior of Corbin Hall, featuring swastika symbols, by a UM Student;

Whereas, In 2019 ASUM passed SB36-19/20: *Resolution Supporting the Recommendation of the Diversity Advisory Council to Remove the Swastika Symbol From the Exterior of Corbin Hall*¹;

Whereas, SB36-19/20 proposed that the swastika tiles located on the exterior of Corbin Hall be removed and placed in the Archives and Special Collections area of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library as historic artifacts;

Whereas, The call to action, sent to the UM administration as proposed in SB36-19/20, was intentionally not completed nor widely acknowledged;

Whereas, UM Students have continually reached out to DAC members to express their dissent with the tiles;

Whereas, In 2019 the University of Indiana removed tiles and an educational plaque describing the symbol’s history, originally installed during the building’s construction in 1917, in the Bloomington Men’s Gymnasium²;

¹ Belcher, Abbigail, "SB36-19/20: Resolution Supporting the Recommendation of the Diversity Advisory Council to Remove the Swastika Symbol From the Exterior of Corbin Hall" (2019). *Senate Resolutions, 2007-Present*. 771. https://scholarworks.umt.edu/asum_resolutions/771

² Reschke, M. (2019, July 8). *Swastika tiles removed from IU Building*. Times. Retrieved November 18, 2022, from <https://www.heraldtimesonline.com/story/news/2019/07/08/swastika-tiles-removed-from-iu-building/46640907/>

Whereas, Displaying symbols appropriated by the Nazi Party sends a clear message to current and prospective students that UM is not an inclusive and safe space for those of all cultures and religions;

Whereas, The historical integrity of Corbin Hall should not be valued over the hateful message maintaining tiles featuring swastika designs portray;

Whereas, The eight (8) swastikas on the exterior of Corbin Hall misrepresent UM community values;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That the Senate support the removal of the tiles displaying swastika symbols on the exterior of Corbin Hall;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That the Senate support the tiles displaying swastika symbols be placed in the UM Archives and Special Collections area of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That the authors of this Resolution will work with the necessary stakeholders to finalize a plan for concrete action on this Resolution before the end of the 2022-2023 academic year;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this Resolution be sent to Wilena Old Person, Staff Co-Chair of the DAC; Anisa Goforth, Faculty Co-Chair of the DAC; O'Shay Birdinground, Student Co-Chair of the DAC; Kelly Webster, Chief of Staff and Associate Vice President for Strategic Planning and Implementation; Seth Bodnar, President of the University of Montana; Griffen Smith, Editor-In-Chief of the Montana Kaimin; Paul Trumbley, Director of UM Facilities Services; Paul Lasiter, Vice President of Finance and Operations.

Passed by Committee: November 20th , 2022

Passed by ASUM Senate: December 7th, 2022

_____,
Emma Wickum,
Chair of Relations and Affairs

_____,
Alexandra Berna,
Chair of the Senate

O'Shay Birdinground
Chair of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

This Resolution Passed Unanimously