



Associated Students of Montana State University Billings

February 10, 2020- Meeting Minutes

We strive for Leadership, Involvement, Sustainability, and Service

I. CALL TO ORDER – Vice President Taylor Kurkoski called the meeting to order at 5:03pm

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT- President Merritt, Vice President Kurkoski, Bus. Manager Unzaga, SRO Cunningham, Senator Boze, Senator Bryce-Black, Senator Combs, Senator Davis, Senator Janney, Senator Johnson, Senator McKinley, Senator Neff, Senator Niemi, Senator Norris, Senator Robertus, Senator Sexton, Senator Seymanski, Senator Williams

EXCUSED-

ABSENT-

III. PROXIES

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-2/3/20

V. PRESENTORS/REPRESENTATIVES-

-RHA

Tabatha is the president of the Residence Halls Association; they put on events, advocate for students, and conference. This year they have gone to the Reef and had a candy apple bar. Events are only for residents and are fully funded by the residence hall student fee. They advertise for events on social media (Instagram and sometimes Facebook), posters in the halls, and boards in the lobbies. Attendance varies greatly; the reef was the largest this year, with 75 students. The average is 20-30 students. Super bowl party had around 50 students. Organization of the RHA include the President, PR, and National Communications coordinator, who are elected by residents in the halls. When do elections take place? The last month of school, so new officers have a 2 week opportunity to get used to their new position.

VI. ADVISOR REPORTS –

-Dr. Kim Hayworth

- Started monthly meetings with the Student Advisor Council, but attendance was poor. This semester, meetings will start up again next week on the third Tuesday of every month. Kathy Kotecki also attends these meetings. Again, will have one for both City and University Campus in February, March, and April. -based on feedback about Sodexo, the chancellor came up with an idea; get real-time feedback from students. Made a poster “MSUB Administrator at your service, How can I help?” Posters will be in cafeteria, admin can grab it when they have lunch in the cafeteria, allowing students to approach them and ask questions.
- How have you been recruiting students for the advisory council? This semester, they approached the presidents of several student organizations and asked them to participate. EC concern: HEROES and Honors programs are not on that email list. Not all clubs were asked! Needed a variety of students, so they asked, for example, the graduate student programs for a representative. Accounting club and ROTC would like to be asked as well.
- Parking problems: spoke to the chief of university police department about these. He states that the faculty/staff permit holders may park in student areas, but students may not park in the faculty/staff spots, from 8am to 4pm. After 4pm, all parking spots are considered open. Signs say “enforced 24 hours,” so that is misleading and needs to be fixed. DSS told S. McKinley today that students



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with disabilities can park anywhere on campus. This information needs to be made clearer to students. Maybe it can be put on the back of the parking permits.

- President Merritt: Cafeteria is open 10 - 1pm for lunch and 5 - 6pm for dinner on weekends, which students feel is not enough availability. When they approached the Sodexo manager (Kate), she was not particularly nice about it. Students that eat on campus on the weekends stay for the limited hours, but there are no events or happenings on campus. Also, the bus schedule makes it hard to eat on campus over the weekends.
 - The Sodexo manager has a reputation of not responding to student emails. RHA has also tried to reach out about issues, and they don't respond.
 - Sodexo allows athletes who have practice, to come in after hours – this seems unfair, that athletes have this privilege over other students. Maybe they could just keep the cafeteria open later to accommodate more students, including those who work. Students do have the option of using their green to-go boxes.
 - Commuter meal plans should cost less – these plans are not required, however. In the housing office, a huge amount of students this year (more than the past three years) have come in to change their meal plans to the lowest, cheapest one because they don't want to eat in the cafeteria, yet it's required for students in the residence halls.
 - Kotecki: what solutions can senators propose for these issues? How does Senate show that we are solution-oriented as we bring issues up? Maybe would see responses/results if senators proposed a solution with the issue. This shows a willingness to work around the problem as a team.
 - SRO Cunningham: the university should take responsibility for working with Sodexo and any changes that are made. ASMSUB is not responsible for chasing down a food partner that is separate from the university and has had so many complaints over the past few years. He has written Sodexo many, many times and students have given feedback, yet nothing has changed and there is never a response. So what do we do?
 - Billings clinic also utilizes Sodexo – better food options at the hospital, healthier and tastier.
 - Tabatha agrees, it is a problem belonging to corporate, not students. RHA and Housing has reached out as well – they were told it is a corporate problem or were met with a bit of hostility.
 - S. Bryce-Black: When does the contract end? Are we able to break off the partnership? Sodexo reports to the Vice Chancellor for Finance/Business. This has a lot to do with local management; Sodexo should provide options for local market to choose from, on a cycle without constantly repeated food to find out what students seem to like. The contract is laid out by three years, followed by 2 two-year renewables (7 years total). We are in the second year, so we have one more year before evaluating if the partnership is working out. There was a significant decline in student satisfaction after the contract was made.

-Kathy Kotecki



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- S. Boze: the doors at Petro were locked at 8:25pm on a Friday, so after a basketball game or concert, students have to go all the way around to the parking lot doors. They open the doors at 8am. This schedule has been followed for at least the past three years; not a huge issue, but annoying.

-Dr. Paul Pope

- On Wednesday at 6pm, there will be a democratic debate in Petro Theater, between two candidates running for governor. This event is sponsored by College Democrats and facilitated by Dr. Pope. 5-6pm meet and greet with the candidates in the lobby outside Petro Theater. They will be discussing many issues, including funding for education.

-Lance Mouser

- On Wednesday from 10am to 1pm, there will be an Internship/Career Fair at City College. Majority of which includes trade program jobs, health field, etc. Even if a student is not actively looking for a job, it's a great opportunity to get an idea of these types of fairs and network. There will also be one held on the University campus next week.
- President Merritt: Could you find out the student opinion on the Sodexo at City College? Is it an issue there as well? We don't seem to hear much about it. Mouser hasn't heard many food complaints; it's much different with just lunch is open. And there are a bunch of eating options near City College, so many students go elsewhere.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

IX. NEW BUSINESS

X. EXECUTIVE & STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Savannah Merritt:

- BOR March 4th and 5th: S. Naomi, S. Williams, S. Davis, S. Combs, S. Neff, and S. Amy. S. McKinley doesn't know enough about it but may be interested. Will send an email to all of Senate. Need to know by Friday if you want to go. Dress is business professional. Leaving time depends on the meetings; will know tomorrow night. Usually starts at 5pm, so would leave about 2pm or 2:30pm.

Vice President Taylor Kurkoski:

- Faculty Excellence Awards Dinner, February 25th. The SSPR committee usually selects the student nominated faculty awards, but due to a quick deadline, SRO Cunningham and S. Bryce-Black made the selections. Will get an email out about the recipients. Event is held on campus, around 5:30pm.
- Feb. 15 is Service Saturday – Supporting Vulnerable Groups
- No senate meeting next week

Business Manager James Unzaga:



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- Financial Board Meeting Tonight after Senate - SAB discussion, Student United Way budget, and the Retort

Student Resolution Officer Robin Cunningham:

- SSPR meeting tonight
- Ski Tickets still available – about 40 left.

XI. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- President Merritt - Academic Senate: currently have 1 senator from each college and 3-4 at large senators. Restructuring to have 2 from every college and a guaranteed student position. Also discussing high-risk students (lack of attendance) to track and tackle those students: make sure they're okay, making sure they don't pay for classes they aren't taking. Several studies are being done – want to challenge professors to take attendance so that they can track those students. What is most effective to do so?
 - Professors are required to have office hours that correspond to the number of hours they teach per semester. Example, teaching 3 courses, need to be in office for certain number of hours.
 - If professors have a lack of communication, take it to the chair of the department and then the dean. The Academic Support Center has a new director and retention director. They have made amazing progress. Last semester, they broke the record for visits by students at a total of 4,000 visits. As of last week, they had 2,000 visits in the past month, so very likely going to break the record again.
 - Academic alerts, catching students early on if they aren't coming to class.
 - ASC has changed policies, let you as a tutor set your own schedule – makes it more open to students.

XII. SENATE & ACADEMIC CONCERNS

- No Classes and Offices Closed, Monday February 17th for President's Day
- Registration for Summer Session 2020 begins, Tuesday February 18th

XIII. WORDS ON CAMPUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday February 12th

- City College Internship and Career Fair, 10am-1pm
- Does your Love Succ?, 10am-2pm, Library
- Decorate a Valentine's Day Cookie, 11am, Library

Thursday February 13th

- Yellowjacket Theatre: History of Dating Auditions, 2-7pm, Banquet A&B
- Men's Basketball Game, 5:15pm, Alterowitz Gym
- Women's Basketball Game, 7:30pm, Alterowitz Gym - Pink Night!

Saturday February 15th

- Service Saturday, 9:30am-12:00pm, SUB Atrium
- Women's Basketball Game, 5:15pm, Alterowitz Gym
- Men's Basketball Game, 7:30pm, Alterowitz Gym



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XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT

XV. ADJOURNMENT – 5:55pm