



## Associated Students of Montana State University Billings

February 24, 2020- Meeting Agenda

*We strive for Leadership, Involvement, Sustainability, and Service*

**I. CALL TO ORDER** – Vice President Taylor Kurkoski called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

**II. ROLL CALL**

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

**EXCUSED-** Senator Boze, Senator Bryce-Black, Senator Johnson, Senator Sexton

**ABSENT-**

**III. PROXIES**

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-2/10/20**

**V. PRESENTORS/REPRESENTATIVES-**

Dr. Arnold

-General education committee: what is the purpose of getting rid of some general education courses? Many courses have not been offered or have very low enrollment, so it's not fiscally responsible to continue offering them. The purpose is to represent to students what it means to take general education courses. Before adding additional gen eds, the committee is making sure what is currently offered meets the needs of the students.

-The UNT Health Science Center is located in Fort Worth, Texas. MSUB is signing a partnership with them on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Do MSUB students hold an advantage when applying there? The university is particularly good for doing DNA research as well as FBI work. Students can contact Dr. Toenjes to ask additional questions. Texas Christian University has a medical school and also a partnership with UNT HSC.

-How do you feel about people in the general education committee who do not actually teach gen eds? Those who want to teach them should be able to.

-What if a student wants a more specialized class? Could they get that class in place? If it is of interest to the mass of students, and a professor desiring to teach it, the process could be started.

Pete Buchanan, Civic Engagement Coordinator

-Civic and community engagement, mainly focusing on volunteerism, service, and service learning support. Located in the Center for Engagement, SUB 222.

-Programs:

- Service Sting: online platform for logging volunteer hours. Purpose is to promote the campus and the broader idea of building a community at MSUB, helping to create that positive culture. Our employees use these hours to gage their success and the hours also go to state level.
- Service Saturday: cornerstone volunteerism program, which is high impact and low commitment. Each Service Saturday is themed surrounding the non-profits, which has improved our volunteer numbers. 88 has been our largest ever!
- Night on the Van: part of the food insecurity initiative, which also allows volunteers to reflect on the broad spectrum of people that live in



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our community. This event is an opportunity to go out and feed those of low socio-economics background and have a very high impact.

- Yellowjacket Emergency Pantry (YEP): has two locations one here and one at City College, which has moved to a bigger location. Students are welcome to visit the pantry.
- Check out the Center for Engagement page on the MSUB website

-Is there a specific area that you see has the greatest need? For example, the Salvation Army is always willing to take on volunteers. They specialize in areas like food poverty. Rather, if students have an area that they feel interested about, they can be matched up with a non-profit or even create their own projects.

-LEAD program: sets students up to have conversations with Billings leaders, like the hospitals. Tour these places and remove any stigma attached.

### Stephen Foggatt, Academic Support Center Director

-Office is on the first level of the SUB. Send fellow students who are struggling to the ASC. It's not hard to find: across from Stinger's and on the way to Rimrock Café. That's why ASC exists - to help students succeed and give them a competitive edge to pursue additional opportunities.

-Some students are in the pursuit of knowledge, but ultimately one's college degree is an investment in one's future. Imagine that you purchased a new vehicle, and you pay \$35,000-40,000. The average purchase price in 2018 was about \$38,000. You also decide to spend more for the extended warranty, to protect your investment. And you also will maintain the vehicle, which costs more money. It's the same with college – students should treat this important investment well by using available resources.

-Title 3 grant report – financial resources that are provided to increase the array of programs/services that they offer. Working to reimagine the ASC – looking at the full spectrum of students' academic needs. From helping with homework to offering studying strategies.

-Mike: oversees the tutoring and SI (supplemental instruction) programs. The peer mentoring program currently has 130 students assigned to peer mentors. They have identified students that are struggling academically and help them set goals. This can be intensive or more hands-off, depending on the individual student. Also utilize Academic Alerts: faculty or staff can put in this alert and explain the situation, so the ASC can reach out to them. Now advising, ASC, military veteran success, TRIO, and the Native American center are participating.

-If a student is interested in becoming a tutor for chemistry, do you need to have a set number of hours? Or do tutors drop in when they can? Always recruiting, especially at the end of the academic year.

-The reputation of ASC is great! They have quality employees (70) of which over half are students.

### Retort

-Brigham Jessen: Starting to upload weekly articles, revolving around five topics: Faculty member, staff member, process (like grade appeal), event, and club of the week. This week was lacking, but there is a submission folder online for the above-mentioned topics.



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-Will also be publishing two more stories within the next two days and scheduling weekend posts. Next week, will have interviews completed. A new paid writer is on the team– she will help with creative writing and providing an overview of the Art Department. An overview of Service Saturday will be going out next week.

### VI. ADVISOR REPORTS –

Dr. Kim Hayworth

-Preview Day tried something new: had some student leader’s talk with the students attending the event.

-Summer registration is open, and the webpage is up to date for that. Fall registration opens March 18<sup>th</sup>. Academic advising is opening appointments, and students can schedule with them if they need help. Also holding open chats on certain evenings (March 10<sup>th</sup>), to reach more students.

-Can you look at more than one category of classes at one time for a semester? This may be easier to choose what courses are available. Can find out, talk to registrar.

-There are no upper level education courses offered in the summertime. Faculty is highly discouraged from teaching upper division courses in the summer due to very low enrollment. Student should talk to their advisor about it. Education classes aren’t usually offered in the summer, similar to other universities. Principals of Microeconomics class, hoping to get it in the summer – 15 students are needed to enroll to make that happen.

-How can students be more involved in preview days without being employed by new student services? Besides the round services that were held today, most of the students working the event are employed. Maybe could start low commitment opportunities for students to volunteer for. Could create an all-campus invitation to participate in some of these events.

-Would help if an agenda could be sent out, much earlier than the week before an event, for students to have responsibilities in their schedule.

-Kathy Kotecki

-Dr. Paul Pope

-Lance Mouser

### VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### VIII. OLD BUSINESS

### IX. NEW BUSINESS

**Senate Bill #2-Consider Amending Retort Editor-In-Chief Requirements:** That the bylaws be edited at Article 6, Section 10, Page 92 to reflect added duties and requirements.

Moved to a vote. All in favor.

**Senate Bill #3- Consider Amending Student Activities Board Chair Requirements:** That the bylaws be edited at Article 8, Section 5, page 102 to reflect added duties and requirements.



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Moved to a vote. All in favor.

**Senate Bill #4-Consider Creating Requirements for all ASMSUB Budgeted Clubs and Orgs:** That Article 9 be added to the bylaws to reflect requirements of all ASMSUB budgeted clubs and orgs.

Moved to a vote. All in favor.

These Ad Hoc committees will have two to three senators sitting on each. Goal to be drafted and on the meeting agenda by March 16<sup>th</sup>.

### X. EXECUTIVE & STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### **President Savannah Merritt:**

- BOR March 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> : leave MSUB at 2pm. Will create group chat.
- Sodexo Meeting: 2/11, spoke to Kate and Karen about student concerns. Kate was very helpful and concerns should be brought to her. Many issues are miscommunication errors! There is another meeting 2/25 at 5pm in the Rimrock Café. This will be held every other Tuesday.
- Email Update: emailed administration; they responded and appreciated the email. Another email will be sent out tonight.
- Survey: three surveys for senators to take, regarding assessing EC members and the committees. All include open response questions. Savannah will see the results and give them to other officers. Please have them done by Wednesday at 5pm.

#### **Vice President Taylor Kurkoski:**

- No Senate Meeting next week March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Spring Break
- Elections Applications due by Friday March 13<sup>th</sup> at 2pm
- ASMSUB Elections March 18-19<sup>th</sup>
- Orientation Peer Leader Applications due February 28: Taylor has the link.
- February Events
- Senate, end of the year photo: March 16<sup>th</sup>, professional dress. Advisors will be included.
- March 18<sup>th</sup>: nominations for Student Leadership Dinner (held on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 5pm to 8pm) are due

#### **Business Manager James Unzaga:**

- Financial Board Meeting tonight after senate: Jazz Fest and Heroes budgets

#### **Student Resolution Officer Robin Cunningham:**

- Snow Bowl March 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm: Mandatory event for senators. Please sign up for a team; online or in the ASMSUB office.
- SSPR committee meeting tonight

### XI. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

General education meeting: shifting guidelines – will be evaluating syllabi of gen ed courses. It's beneficial for students to have a sample. Student artifacts are in the



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works. Students may fill out an evaluation and be given the course objectives to reflect if the course met them. Course inventory management: changed the way that faculty propose to bring new gen eds. If a course is considered “general education,” it should be able to apply to several majors. For example, some are more specific, like the Education major-oriented ones.

### **XII. SENATE & ACADEMIC CONCERNS**

-March 2-6, Spring Break, No Classes

### **XIII. WORDS ON CAMPUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Thursday February 27<sup>th</sup>**

- Rook Sip n Paint: LA building at 9am. \$10 per student.
- Student Organization Council, 3:30-4:30pm, SUB Banquet A&B
- Women’s Basketball Game, 5:15pm, Alterowitz Gym
- Men’s Basketball Game, 7:30pm, Alterowitz Gym

#### **Friday February 28<sup>th</sup>**

- Gaming Club Board Game Day, 3:15-7:00pm, SUB Stingers

#### **Saturday February 29<sup>th</sup>**

- Men’s Basketball Game, 5:15pm, Alterowitz Gym
- Women’s Basketball game, 7:30pm, Alterowitz Gym

-New Student Services is looking to hire a student to make calls to prospective students.

-Kristen Peterman, director of new student services, would be happy to come to a senate meeting

### **XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **XV. ADJOURNMENT – 6:19pm**