



# Associated Students of Montana State University Billings

February 3, 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 5:00pm

**II. ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT-** President Merritt, Vice President Kurkoski, Bus. Manager Unzaga, SRO Cunningham, Senator Boze, Senator Bryce-Black, Senator Combs, Senator Davis, Senator Fausnaugh, 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-1/27/20**

**V. PRESENTORS/REPRESENTATIVES-** Chancellor Edelman

**VI. ADVISOR REPORTS –**

-Dr. Kim Hayworth

-PsychArmor: online courses to serve military affiliated and veteran students. Includes four 15-minute videos that every staff, faculty, and administrator is being asked to view. A pizza party is being provided for any staff that has 100% participation, so far including Student Access and Success (Center for Engagement, Upward Bound, and Financial Aid). Also utilizing Education for All, a webinar with a quiz at the end.

-Enrollment numbers will be finalized on Wednesday (2/5), and appear to be slightly increased from Spring 2019. Look for a press release shortly.

-How are numbers in relation to fall? Usually institutions are a bit down in the spring compared to fall. New student numbers were up from last spring.

-Kathy Kotecki

-Dr. Paul Pope

-Lance Mouser

-Hands On at City College Facebook page is maintained by a writing instructor at City College. It serves for students to share information about projects regarding what discipline they are in, i.e. welding techniques. Good way to check out programs at City College!

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**X. EXECUTIVE & STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

President Savannah Merritt:

➤ Bird Petition:



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- An administrative assistant in the College of Education, whose husband works as a science professor here, completed a study about the frequent amount of birds that fly into the windows of the COE. The birds fail to differentiate between a window and the reflection of the rims, so they tend to fly into them and die. She has found 13 different species of birds that have died.
- This is an issue at many other universities as well. An article entitled “How Colleges are Sparing Birds’ Lives and Conserving Energy” (2018) was written about several colleges that produced large window stickers so the birds can see them. This is also done at large shopping malls, i.e. Dillards.
- She has started a petition, wanting to see how much it would cost to put up such stickers, and a student initiate stands a better chance of success. It would cost around \$50,000 to have stickers put on the COE windows, by August 15 of 2020. ASMSUB could possibly pay for part of it, because the Executive Committee (EC) can pull 25% of their funds that go unspent. We could use this as an opportunity for marketing, and also could get other departments on campus to endorse this and possibly help fund.
- Will the new science building have similar windows and thus similar problems? Dr. Barron is facilitator of a committee that will eventually be looking at this. Depending on how we build the science building, MSUB receives a ranking for how environmentally friendly it is.
- What other departments could contribute toward this initiative? Will talk to Dr. Edelman and Susan Simmers; usually when students push for something on campus, administration gets behind it.
- Retort Questions
  - What topics would you like to read about? Give comments to Savannah, text her and she will get them to Brigham.
  - EC will be submitting stories this semester, pertaining to how it’s like to have a role on the EC. Taylor has information about the same opportunity for senators.
- Board of Regents March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>: Will leave for MAS meeting on March 4, in Dillon on the University of Montana Western’s campus. Everything will be covered except the meals (2 unpaid for). Let Savannah know by Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> if you want to go.

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

- Stories for the Retort will count as an event (maximum of 2 stories per month).

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

- Financial Board Meeting tonight.

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

- SSPR Meeting Tonight



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- Outstanding Faculty Award Nominations due Friday. Can email the letter to Katelyn and turn the form into the office.
- Ski Tickets: we have sold 27 out of 100 tickets. Encourage friends to buy them; they are \$25 each. Limit 2 per student with a student ID.

### XI. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### XII. SENATE & ACADEMIC CONCERNS

-Senator Fausnaugh Resigned

-Why does it take so long for the Honor Roll to come out? Bozeman, Missoula, etc. had theirs out much earlier. Also, there is concern over the name, "Honor Roll." Compared to "Dean's List," it sounds a bit juvenile. Send an email to Dr. Arnold, the Provost, because that falls under her responsibilities.

-A senator attempted to change major three months ago (through the Registrar's Office), and it still hasn't been updated in DegreeWorks. Email Provost Arnold! There is only one person in charge of DegreeWorks for all students, so it understandably takes some time. There is no money in the system to hire another person.

-Issues with needing a capstone have arisen because a trip to Morocco no longer counts toward that. Usually, the program guidelines that a student starts with are the only guidelines he/she needs to follow in order to graduate. Email the Registrar's office.

-A senator came to campus this morning at 8am, and no sidewalks were de-iced. Had two people helping her get to class, but would not have made it in her wheelchair otherwise. Who should be notified about this issue? Also, the only handicapped parking for students is in one parking lot. The handicapped for faculty is off limits to students, but rarely gets used. Should create new handicapped parking for students, perhaps from underutilized reserved parking. Dr. Hayworth will contact Susan Simmers, who is also over the Campus Police, to get that addressed.

-Could we open all (including reserved) parking to students after 6pm or so? It seems unnecessary to make students walk in the dark when most of the reserved lots are empty at that time.

-Attendance policies on syllabus is causing problems. Individual professors are in charge of their own policies on attendance. In this case, after three unexcused absences, a full letter grade is dropped. This teacher stated that doctors' notes are not accepted, and chronic pain days do not count, either. DSS has said they don't address that policy. Would need to show that specific syllabus to the Provost; make sure to document this. Also could use SRO Cunningham to make a complaint, and he will help through that process.

### XIII. WORDS ON CAMPUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Thursday February 6<sup>th</sup>

-Women's Basketball Game, 7pm, Alterowitz Gym

#### Friday February 7<sup>th</sup>

-MSUB Jazz Festival, 7pm, Petro Theater



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-Men's Basketball Game, 7pm, Alterowitz Gym

**Saturday February 8<sup>th</sup>**

-Women's Basketball Game, 7pm, Alterowitz Gym

**XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**XV. ADJOURNMENT - 5:42pm**