



Associated Students of Montana State University Billings

November 4, 2019- 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, Business Manager Unzaga, SRO Cunningham, Senator Bryce-Black, Senator Neff, Senator Niemi, Senator Norris, Senator Robertus, Senator Seymanski, Senator Shovlin, Senator Williams

EXCUSED- Senator Davis, Senator Fausnaugh, Senator Sheehan

ABSENT-

III. PROXIES

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-10/28/19

V. PRESENTORS/REPRESENTATIVES-

-Chancellor Edelman

Recently met with General Quinn and Major General Ryans; saying there is no closure. There is a meeting next week with Rocky to do more recruiting. Will also be going on radio on Veteran's day with SRO Cunningham at 6 a.m. Still need help recruiting students, but the numbers have improved.

Meeting today with faculty about making online-only classes also available in person. Finding the balance is tricky, but right now it is hurting certain groups of students so it is being addressed. Nov. 15 will release a report for recommendations.

-Krista Montague, Athletic Director

Brought Rimrock Rivalry t-shirts - wear them to the upcoming game! The 'Give a Ton Food Drive' is starting at the women's basketball game versus Rocky Mountain College at Metra Park, 7pm on Wednesday. Bring your student ID to get into the game free. SACK is going to have a table in the SUB on Wednesday to hand out t-shirts to students; all the student athletes have shirts. There is a men's basketball game versus Rocky Mountain College on November 23 at 7pm, at Metra Park.

During finals week, the women play Thursday and the men play Friday; might provide pizza to students before the game on Thursday.

-Dr. Christine Shearer, Vice Provost

Role as the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences: gets to interact with students when they have an issue that hasn't been solved by faculty or the department chair. She is the longest-serving dean, since 2014, and this particular college is very active with 9 departments.

Role as the Vice Provost: oversee the MSUB Library, Advising and Career Services, Academic Support Center, and two other areas. This has been helpful to improve her perspective of the student and what it's like for the student to navigate all the areas of MSUB that they need to. What issues continually arise? Some are interpersonal and some are policy/procedural. Likes to be very open-door in this role.

Personal experience has allowed her to understand many situations a student may find his/herself in, and she feels a very strong attachment to students who need someone to help them, mentor them, and understand them. MSUB is a great college for this; the student population is the best (unspoiled and hardworking) she has ever worked with. She is originally from New York.

Current Issues:



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- Why can't a student get two Bachelor of Science degrees from the same college? For example, one can double major in Chemistry and Biology, but cannot achieve the two separate degrees. It is not Board of Regents Policy, and is only found in the MSUB advising catalog.
- Registration: why do you have to get special permission to sign up for classes that are not a part of the college you are enrolled in, even if you meet the pre-requisites? There are a lot of barriers that are making it hard for students to register for classes.
- Why must practicums and internships be unpaid? This is an issue that is a current concern. One focus for the Jacket Day of Giving is to help students that cannot afford to do an unpaid internship. This is also hurting their ability to network.
- What are the rules regarding capstones and how many credits they are worth? For example, the Chemistry capstone is only 1 credit, but requires that the student pass 4 of 5 national exams in order to graduate.
 - Faculty decides the layout and credit load of their capstones when the program is designed. If faculty were to submit for a change to the program right now, it would be in effect as soon as Fall 2021. The Vice Provost looks for such changes to help improve the student experience and decide if the design is appropriate. Need to help students understand the process.
 - Different programs have capstones like an independent study format (1:1 with advisor) while others are entire classes; it varies wildly.
 - Also important for the professors (many who have worked primarily in academia) to know how to advise students for their career paths, turning it into a marketable skill. Need to have this discussion more clearly with students; every interaction a student has with a professional on campus is a possible opportunity for a recommendation letter, helping students beyond their college experience.
 - Students should be more willing to advocate for themselves! Many are too polite to raise issues they are having. Feel free to email Dr. Shearer about more concerns:
c.shearer@msubillings.edu

-SAB

Nov. 21 @ 6:30pm is Bob Ross Night. There will be a competition to dress up as Bob Ross and prizes for the top 3 paintings. Only 100 students can be accommodated because that is how many canvases will be provided. Stinger will be opened up for free beverages. In Petro, paintings from previous sip-n-paint nights have been hung up to make the residence halls more homey and friendly. Perhaps they could use these paintings as well.

Nov. 8 - Pan y Blanco is playing, and SAB is providing food for that.



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The ice skating event is moved to January due to the awkward timing of finals week this semester.

VI. ADVISOR REPORTS

-Dr. Kim Hayworth

This Wednesday from 12-1pm in the Glacier room, TRIO is doing a celebration with cake for first generation students. Nov. 14-15 is Preview Day. This will be an overnight event with Minute to Win It games and events in the residence halls. Email Kristen Peterman (director of New Student Services) to get involved and help with Preview Day.

-Kathy Kotecki

Come to the basketball game on Wednesday! Bring canned goods for the food drive.

-Dr. Paul Pope

Set up meetings with your advisors and do not be afraid to ask them questions. The more questions you have for them the better.

-Lance Mouser

Register for classes and let us know if you have any troubles or questions. The open house at City College went well. Each department had the opportunity to highlight some opportunity they have and show up unique things about their respective programs and had great showcases. Weather was not very warm that day, but the turnout was as expected.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

IX. NEW BUSINESS

X. EXECUTIVE & STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Savannah Merritt:

- MAS Dues
- November BOR
- World Kindness Day
- Service Saturday November 16th- Senate Sponsoring

Vice President Taylor Kurkoski:

- Remember to fill out your October event sheet if you haven't yet, and the November sheet is in the office.
- As you are attending events on campus, challenge yourself to attend events from different departments and areas of campus.



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Business Manager James Unzaga:

- Budgets for each club and organization are in, we will begin going through those starting in the coming weeks.
- No meeting tonight, but there is a meeting on November 18th and there will be meeting guest.

Student Resolution Officer Robin Cunningham:

- Hall-o-ween went really well, thank you for all of you who participated.
- There is a meeting tonight to discuss our next upcoming events.

XI. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Naomi- General Education Committee

- There is a new form circulating through the committee and the faculty on campus for reviews of syllabi and outcomes of the courses.
- Continued talk of the general education program state wide and what those changes will look like.

Savannah- Academic Senate:

- Changes have been made to the environmental studies program on main campus to allow more options for people with two year degrees to jump into that and have it be relevant. There are more elective options within that program now depending on what the desired route is.
- The Clinical Lab Science major has been adjusted and now aligns better with the specific department requirements and allows more students to obtain that degree or a biology degree with less hassle in changing between the two.

XII. SENATE & ACADEMIC CONCERNS

- Monday November 11th, No classes and offices closed for Veteran's Day
- Registration for Spring Semester started today!

XIII. WORDS ON CAMPUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday November 5th

- Library Lecture Series, 6:30-8:00pm, LI 148
- Meet Mike Cooney with the MSUB College Democrats, 7:00-8:30pm, SUB

Beartooth

Wednesday November 6th

- Give a Ton Kickoff: Battlin' Bears/Yellowjackets Food Drive, 7:00-9:00pm,

MetraPark

Thursday November 7th

- Community Conversations by Humanites Montana, Women's and Gender Studies, noon-1pm, SUB Beartooth
- Student Organization Council, 3:30-4:30pm, SUB Banquet A&B
- Volleyball Game 7pm, Alterowitz Gym

Friday November 8th



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-Latin Jazz Concert & Dance 7pm, Glacier Room

Saturday November 9th

-Volleyball Game 1pm, Alterowitz Gym

Tuesday November 12th

-Notorious RBG Celebration, Women's and Gender Studies, 5:30-8pm, LI 205

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT

XV. ADJOURNMENT

6:10 pm