**I. CALL TO ORDER** – Vice President Taylor Kurkoski called the meeting to order at 5:04pm

**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 Niemi, Senator Norris, Senator Robertus, Senator Sexton, Senator Seymanski, Senator Williams

**EXCUSED-**

**ABSENT-** Senator Neff

**III. PROXIES**

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**-3/30/20

Motion to amend the minutes, seconded.

Discussion:

Senator Bryce-Black: The new mediated format of the meetings has caused problems. During the last meeting, Senator Bryce-Black had moved to table the budgets, and moved to amend them. These were not seconded, so no action was taken.

President Merritt: The only time something is included in the minutes is if it’s an official action. Judy: It would usually be noted in the minutes even if it wasn’t seconded.

Senator Bryce-Black: The bylaws state that the historian would follow the directives of the EC. Thinks that how the meeting transpired should be noted in the minutes.

President Merritt: The meeting minutes have improved in the past few years; something like that could be added, though.

VP Kurkoski: We could approve both the minutes from 3/30 and today in the next senate meeting, if we have one.

Judy: We could accept Laie’s amendment and then vote on the amended minutes. We can ask for a motion to approve the minutes as amended.

Moved to amend the minutes, seconded. All in favor.

**V. PRESENTORS/REPRESENTATIVES-**

Judy Williams, Student Legal Services Attorney

The MSUB business office uses the term “reserve” to refer to what our bylaws refer to as “contingency funds.” We define contingency as the money collected throughout the years comprised of unused budgets.

This is the only time in the bylaws that a resolution can be used in the financial aspect. Article 1 section 20 B – a formal resolution is over matters that senate does not have primary authority of, like an opinion of the senate. For example, “MSUB should be a nuclear-free zone.”

There is an exception in Article 4 Section 8 of the financial rules that says that you can have a resolution to exceed more than 25% of last year’s general fund. We already approved the budget, but there is a procedure to amend the budget. If the goal is to spend more than amount of the general fund collections as of September 2019, you need the resolution to exceed the previous year’s collection and go through that process. If the amounts exceed 18% of contingency, then we need to amend the budget to approve that amount. Any club can request additional funds, Article 4 Section 8C1 - if you don’t spend more than the 18% of contingency’s fund total.

Senator Bryce-Black: Thanks, Judy for meeting with us. When we spoke to EC, we saw the need for a bill instead of a resolution. We are skipping that step because the bill lets us use our authority over this issue. Is that the right way to amend a bylaw?

Judy: Good job on working hard on this, although wasconfused by the bill because it talks about a resolution, but it wants to temporarily amend the bylaw regarding rolling unused funds to contingency.

Senator Bryce-Black: Yes, we worked very hard to do this and looked for a format to write a bill, but couldn’t find it so we used the format of a resolution to write a bill. Yes, we seek to temporarily amend the bylaw, allowing the unused funds to roll back into the clubs’ accounts next year.

Judy: we have the authority to amend the bylaws; there isn’t a set procedure in our bylaws to amend them. She assumes that would proceed like any other senate bill. It is up to the student senate if we want to temporarily amend a bylaw. They are designed as a framework for us to do certain things and be responsible, which is our intention. They don’t tell us what we can’t do, but what we can do. The problem with temporarily amending a bylaw is not set forward, but it isn’t prohibited in our bylaws. Could do more research on it if that is desired by the senators. Nothing prohibits having a bill to amend a bylaw.

Senator Bryce-Black: To answer her reservation, looking at the bylaws which are vague, that procedure to change the bylaw and pass a bill, the thresholds are the same so that a majority vote is needed. Believes it requires less work for the senate to have to come back and reapply the bylaw instead of having to vote on removing it now, then re-voting next year to reinstate the bylaw.

President Merritt: Judy, say that this goes forward, how does that apply? Because if a bill goes forward and passes and it counteracts the 18% rule, how does that work?

Judy: This money would never technically enter contingency, so the 18% rule doesn’t apply or is of concern.

Senator Bryce-Black: This is the intention of the bill.

Judy: So the money that is unused by the clubs this year would simply be retained to use in the coming fiscal year. The fiscal year is July 1 through June 30, it doesn’t go by semesters.

President Merritt: Thank you, Judy. We wanted our senators to understand how resolutions work on our campus and other campuses, because it has never come up before.

**VI. ADVISOR REPORTS** –

Dr. Kim Hayworth

- Work continues on as if the students were here. Campus is not very fun without the students! Things we are working on: federal government passed the CARES act that provides funds during the pandemic; about $14 billion toward education in general. In MT some funds are available for students that have experienced financial crises because of the pandemic. We are readying ourselves and making a form for students to apply for that. Will be sharing information as soon as they can about that.

-have decided to move all new student registration online. Very busy organizing those activities into an online experiencing, hoping to keep it engaging. We have had to move recruiting efforts to be virtual: virtual tours, meetings, visits, etc.

- looking at using a texting platform in the future, alerting current students for important dates, such as the last day to withdraw from classes. Are excited about that and think it would be very good for current students.

-Senator Norris: is there updates on the discussion about summer classes/jobs? Kim: all classes in the summer will be online; students should have gotten an email regarding that. We are still on a hiring freeze, including both professional and student positions. Senator Bryce-Black: does that extend to the graduate assistant program, as well? Kim: don’t know the answer to that, but will email her directly about it.

-Senator Davis: any update on fall 2020? Kim: No news about that. The provost is asking the deans to plan for different scenarios. Are doing planning to be prepared, hoping to be back to in-person classes.

Kathy Kotecki

- SAB and Center for Engagement are putting a lot of effort and creativity into hosting online events for students: bingo, trivia, masked stinger.

-Orientation is all online, and we will miss some of that engagement. Also working on Welcome Week and ramping it up. That will be the first time for some students to meet in person.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**SB#5: COVID-19: Senator Bryce-Black**

The purpose of the attached bill is to remove financial barriers from ASMSUB-funded student clubs and organizations for the academic year 2020-2021. The current COVID-19 pandemic has eliminated any opportunity for in-person student events. These unique circumstances provide an opportunity for ASMSUB to further assist student organizations by rolling over student clubs’ remaining/unused 2019-2020 budgets to the upcoming year.

Moved to public discussion.

Moved to senate discussion:

Senator Norris: what are the financial barriers that we are helping clubs overcome?

Senator Bryce-Black: we see barriers as having the clubs come back after having everything online. By having them come back and have to go to contingency in order to hit it hard, that makes things more difficult for them. We want to give them the option to use the money they would have used this spring.

Senator Sexton: the bill wants to achieve allowing clubs to hit the ground running; this gives them the opportunity to use the funds they would have used this semester. Thought this was a win-win scenario. We can best serve the students in this way.

Business Manager Unzaga: one issue, if they don’t have to come to contingency, they have more freedom and we don’t have oversight then. It just seems like a lot of money, and we don’t see how they will be limited next year because of what is happening now.

Senator Davis: think that rolling over all the money would be too much money to give them. We don’t even know if the fall will be in-person.

Senator Norris: think it’s a good idea to get around them going around contingency. But also agree with Unzaga that it’s a lot of money. Maybe we need to focus it even more.

Senator Sexton: this bill is offering a framework to address the issue; rolling over all the money into contingency makes things more difficult for the student clubs.

Senator Bryce-Black: we have thought about rolling 20% of the unused funds into contingency, but leaving the rest of it for the clubs. Whatever the percentage, should keep it across the board. The real issue is that we can only withdraw 18% of contingency funds. Our jobs aren’t to nitpick every single thing a club does and whether it’s good or not; don’t lose sight of our jobs. We want to give our clubs and orgs the chance to flourish next year.

SRO Cunningham: not sure who said last meeting, but there were several members who said that we can’t grant the money to them. We aren’t taking money from ASMSUB if this bill goes through. We are letting the clubs keep money that they may have spent anyway. The contingency fund is for emergencies, but when are we actually using it? The reason our budget is limited this year is because enrollment went down, so why aren’t we using the reserve funds? Haven’t seen any real attempt at using the money in there. How do we want ASMSUB to function?

President Merritt: we did use money from reserve this year. Our enrollment this year actually wasn’t enough to cover what we had budgeted, so we had to pull from reserve. Examples: putting $20,000 toward the student lounge, putting in the water bottle fountains, as well as the armory. We need oversight on those funds, financial board can reconvene and reassess the line items. But the reason we need oversight is because this year, Erika and Chase (SAB) wanted to give one student a tuition waiver ($3,000+) at the end of the year in a raffle, and that would be financially irresponsible.

Senator Janney: what if we could give refunds for student fees, because the people from whom the money was derived won’t get the benefit of money held for whenever the next semester that makes use of the funds would receive it.

Kim: that would have to come from OCHE.

Senator Sexton: maybe we could have a special type of oversight for these funds; we could have each club provide an overview of how they would spend the money in the future. Hardly anything was allocated from contingency this year, this would be a nice way to give orgs the chance that had their budgets cut a lot an opportunity to have more money; this wouldn’t affect contingency that much.

VP Kurkoski: we would have had several requests from contingency this year because we usually get many more requests in the spring; oftentimes empty our 18% because there is that much of a need. Worry about not having enough if we roll everything over.

Senator Norris: point out that beginning of April, SAB had $37,000 left over because of the reasons financial board had to cut them in the first place. About refunding student fee refunds, don’t think that is applicable because the money has already been used. Would like to discuss more about line items in regard to the bill.

SRO Cunningham: appreciate the comments, it would be interesting to see what financial board would have suggestions in regard to oversight. The budget that has been passed, it was passed with no concern to contingency fund.

President Merritt: since this is a senate bill, it would move to an ad hoc committee, not financial board. It would move to financial board after it is passed. Looking forward, this is not sustainable; if we allocate everything out next year, the money would decrease drastically.

SRO Cunningham: we can’t spend all of our contingency because that is not sustainable, so thank you Savannah that provides more clarity.

President Merritt: the only way money can go into contingency is budgeted money that isn’t used.

Senator Janney: we already did oversight when allocating for budgets, if I understand James correctly. Not approving this bill will create no issues for student clubs moving forward. There are concerns for approving this bill, however.

Senator Bryce-Black: we have to do something. We can’t sit on our thumbs. We currently have almost $40,000 more in contingency on average than the last four years, so we have a pretty high contingency fund right now. We build enthusiasm on our campus by supporting our clubs – students have an opportunity to engage with these organizations and bring more people in. They can identify in this way. We can pass our passion for MSUB to other students in this way. I motion to move this bill to committee: could we submit this to financial committee because it falls similarly to their usual issues. I motion to fast-track this: would like to handle this before the end of the semester. Judy: do you have a current-standing ad hoc committee? Any committee charged with reviewing the bylaws?

VP Kurkoski: Had formed ad hoc committees earlier in the semester that never moved forward and won’t move forward due to the pandemic. Can appoint the financial board committee as the ad hoc committee to deal with this, or appoint a new one.

Senator Norris: can we make changes to the bill after moving it to the ad hoc committee?

Judy: the committee can propose changes and when the bill comes back to the senate, the senate can also propose more changes.

Senator Bryce-Black: hoping that financial committee would take a fine-tooth comb to this bill.

Motion to move the bill to financial board committee, seconded. Moved to a vote.

For: 9, Against: 3, Abstained: 0

Moved to financial board.

Laie: Move to fast-track that bill. Seconded.

Bill is moved to fast-track.

VP Kurkoski: can it all be in one meeting as ad-hoc and as financial board?

Judy: let everyone know when the meeting will be as an open meeting and allow open comment.

VP Kurkoski: the link will be put onto the senate Facebook page so it is accessible to anyone.

**X. EXECUTIVE & STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**President Savannah Merritt:**

* Hiring Freeze and EC Positions; put out a statement about the importance of assigning the EC positions. An email was sent to the chancellor and OCHE. It is not an option, so we have to wait it out. Once we are approved to do so, we can advertise for 2 weeks and then hold interviews. Currently the plan is for James to act both as vice-president and business manager, and Robin to act both as president and SRO.
* Please send out addresses so Savannah can send thank you’s out.
* So proud of the work put into the bill.

**Vice President Taylor Kurkoski:**

* Please send addresses so I can send out things to the senators.
* Will have senate meeting next week and that will be the last one of the year. If not everything is covered, senate summer session may be held.
* Not changing anything to bylaws to vote on and make changes, so Robin and James have the option to pursue that next year.

**Business Manager James Unzaga:**

* Having a financial board meeting this week.
* President Merritt: can we make sure that clubs and orgs are invited to next week’s senate meeting so they can voice their opinions?

**Student Resolution Officer Robin Cunningham:**

* Those that are part of the SSPR committee, let me know if we have anything to meet about. If there is anything to discuss about the rest of the semester.
* Haven’t had a lot of issues from students about the transition to online classes, but if anyone hears of this be sure to let them know Robin is available. Senator Davis: a student was told that she would not be able to pass after the last withdraw date, no way to increase grade. President Merritt: there is a state-wide push for a pass/fail grading system. There is a push-back at MSUB because our grading would have a pass be considered a C- which could affect future education opportunities. VP Kurkoski: there is an online form where students can register for a pass/fail grading system. Kim: the only two colleges that have adopted the pass/fail system is the College of Business and City College. Recommend reaching out to the dean of their college and also using Robin as a resource.

**XI. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Academic senate: recently changed bylaws to make them cleaner. SPA stuff regarding program alignment. Talked about pass/fail system; there has been a lot of discussion. Looking at different courses and how to make those courses more accessible to students and also make them across the board in the state.

**XII. SENATE & ACADEMIC CONCERNS**

**XIII. WORDS ON CAMPUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Merritt:SAB is doing all kinds of events: masked stinger, bingo, etc. Still trying to promote a friendly environment.

SRO Cunningham: ROTC has now a housing scholarship at the university. Students may apply; includes a free room, no meal plan included. Another incentive to join ROTC. Can refer interested students to Robin.

Judy: government issued a moratorium on evictions for not paying rent; this has been extended to April 24. These are not forgiven, but utilities can’t be shut off during this time and can’t be evicted. Judy will answer student questions and may email her about this, especially for students who are experiencing income disruptions at this time.

**XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**XV. ADJOURNMENT – 6:35pm**