1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
   a. November 5, 2003
      Under the Business Manager’s Report item d. should read: Philosophy Club’s Special Allocation request for $800 and approved for same by Budget and Finance passed. (Items originally noted as d., e., f., and g. should be renamed e., f., g., and h.).
   b. November 12, 2003
4. PUBLIC COMMENT
5. PRESIDENT’S REPORT
   a. Plus/Minus- Decision Approaching
   b. Money from Governor
   c. Financial Aid
   d. MAS Meeting
   e. MontPIRG Policy
   f. Regents Meeting
   g. Student Regent Position
   h. 24-Hour Student Lounge
   i. U-DASH Money
   j. Other
6. VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT
   a. Senator Removal
   b. KBGA
   c. Secret Santas
   d. T-Shirts
   e. Military Science
   f. Financial Aid
   g. Enforcement
   h. Winter Session Plans
   i. Other
7. BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT
   Special Allocation - $11,625
   Travel Special Allocation - $12,160
   STIP - $100,045.72
   Zero-Base Carryover - $62,000+ (FY03 amounts not finalized) less $478 and $1,564)
8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
To see a list of resolutions with the action taken on them noted and the resolutions currently being considered in their entirety, please go to http://www.umt.edu/asum/government/resolution.htm

a. SB24-03/04 Resolution Protecting Student Consumers from Fee Collection Abuse - Campus Finance Reform II
b. SB28-03/04 Resolution Supporting Tribal College Student Government Representation within The Montana Associated Students (MAS)
c. SB29-03/04 Resolution to Amend ASUM Bylaws
d. SB30-03/04 Resolution to Send +/- Grading to Student Initiative
e. SB31-03/04 A Resolution Endorsing The Proposal of The Coalition for Better Student Loans (CBSL) to Amend the Higher Education Act (HEA)
f. SB32-03/04 A Resolution Endorsing The Proposal of The United States Student Association (USSA) to Amend the Higher Education Act (HEA)
g. SB33-03/04 A Resolution Opposing the Affordability in Higher Education Act
h. SB34-03/04 Resolution to Abolish ASUM Progressive Network
i. SB35-03/04 Resolution to Send to Referendum a Constitutional Amendment
j. SB36-03/04 A Resolution Thanking Governor Martz for her Appropriation of $2,700,000 to the Montana University System, Urging the Board of Regents to Appropriate $1,000,000 to The University of Montana As Soon As Possible, and Urging The University of Montana to Use the Money Appropriated to Guarantee Need-Based Financial Assistance for Students

9. NEW BUSINESS
(To be addressed at next week’s Senate meeting.)
a. SB37-03/04 Resolution to Endorse An Increase in the Clinical Health Fee
b. SB38-03/04 Resolution to Endorse an Increase in the Campus Programs Health Fee

11. COMMENTS

12. ADJOURNMENT
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**ASUM OFFICERS**

- **AARON FLINT**
  - President
- **GALE PRICE**
  - Vice-President
- **AVERIEL WOLFF**
  - Business Manager

**FACULTY ADVISORS**

- **PROFESSOR ANDERSON**
- **PROFESSOR AUSLAND**
Chair Price called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Present: Flint, Price, Wolff, Alvarez, Bissell, Cossitt, Engebretson (6:08), Engelson, Green, Healow, Holmes, Jones, Kocher, Pappas, Pavlish, Reckord, Van Orden, Welsh, Windmueller, Winkle and Ziegler. Unexcused were Oliver and Rafferty, and Engebretson's 7:15 p.m. departure.

The meeting minutes for November 5, 2003, were approved as amended, and the meeting minutes for November 12, 2003, were approved as posted after an amendment offered by Jones regarding Unfinished Business D. failed when an objection to consideration by Healow passed.

The Chair recognized the presence of Engebretson.

**Public Comment**
*Ryan Stavnes of the Forensics Team reported on the team's successes at their recent tournament.*
*Curry Health Center's Director Bell and Administrator Curtis announced that there will be open forums on their budget next Monday from 12-1 and Tuesday from 2-3. Fee increase requests will be discussed at next week's Senate meeting, which they will attend.*
*Financial Aid Director Hanson talked about financial aid and the fact that it does not keep pace with cost increases. He thanked Executives and Senators for working with him on the resolutions that will be addressed tonight.*
*SPA Director Singer distributed changes to SB31, 32 and 36. He also reported on MontPIRG's visit to the MAS meeting. He felt the MAS President didn't properly handle agenda matters. He expressed MontPIRG's appreciation to Price for her actions at the MAS meeting.*
*Senator Engebretson confirmed his resignation from Senate effective after next week's meeting. He expressed his anger about the Military Science minor not being approved by ASCRC, and he and other veterans plan to protest the Committee's decision next February.*

**President's Report**
a. Flint encouraged Senators to submit a new resolution on +/- grading if they are interested in any more changes.
b. Flint expressed his pleasure at the Governor's allocation of $2.7 million to higher education.
c. Opportunities for financial aid need to be increased.
d. The MAS meeting was contentious with regard to the MontPIRG situation.
e. Flint was glad Senate did not support a specific action for MontPIRG, as many schools are against a statewide policy.
f. The Board of Regents tabled the MontPIRG issue until March.
g. Discussion has started about a 24-hr. study lounge on campus, and one suggestion was the La Peak area.
h. President Dennison donated $5,000 for the U-DASH bus purchase.
i. The Military Science issue arose at the David Horowitz reception. Regent Hur would like it on the Regent’s agenda, which Flint is not supporting.

Vice President’s Report
a. A motion by Bissell-Engelson to remove Stephen Kocher from Senate passed after a previous question call by Ziegler.

Five-minute recess
b. Holmes and Price will represent ASUM on KBGA tomorrow morning.
c. Senators who wished to participate drew for Secret Santas.
d. A sign-up sheet was circulated for a meeting with Senator Burns.
e. T-shirts will be available after the New Year for $11.
f. Senators were advised to talk to Price or other ASCRC members or attend ASCRC meetings for more information on the Military Science minor.
g. Proposals are being discussed with Vice-President Duringer, Director Hanson and others to discuss proposals for the Governor’s allocation to higher education.
h. Office hours, committee attendance, committee minutes submission will be enforced more rigorously next semester.

i. Flint will be out of the office for most of winter break. Price will be in occasionally and working on elections, COT Child Care, on-line elections and other issues. See her for input on any issues.
j. Group assignments will be e-mailed to Senators.
k. The MontPIRG fee issue will be discussed at the March Board of Regents meeting.
l. A motion to reconsider SB27 is expected tonight.

Business Manager’s Report
Special Allocation - $11,625
Travel Special Allocation - $12,160
STIP - $100,045.72
Zero-Base Carryover - $62,000+ (FY03 amounts not finalized) less $478 and $1,564.
a. Chinese Student Association’s Special Allocation request for $500, recommended for same by B & F, passed.
b. SPA’s Zero Base $150 request, recommended for same by B & F, passed.
c. A letter was sent out to funded groups about crediting ASUM on posters paid for by ASUM for events. Violations of the policy have occurred.
d. The tentative budgeting schedule was distributed. Attendance is mandatory.

Committee Reports
a. ASUM Affairs (Winkle) - A jar for the Campaign of Pennies for Poverello will be at the ASUM front desk for donations. ASUM’s ad was sent in on Monday, but it did not appear in the Kaimin. There will be a meeting of the committee at 6 p.m. Monday. Members’ spring semester schedules are needed.
b. IT (Cossitt) - They talked to Ray Ford about wireless access.
c. Board on Membership (Pappas) - The following slate of groups passed on a motion by **Pappas-Green**: African Students Association, Cutbank, Good Health Whole Food, Japan Club, Lambda Alliance, Le Group Francophone, Men's Soccer Club, Percussion Club, Phoenix Foundation, Taiwanese Student Association.

d. COT (Price) - There was no meeting, but they conferred on issues.

e. Housing (Price) - Price and Singer met with Director Spannagel.

f. Interview (Welsh) - Interviews with Student Regent applicants will proceed.

g. SPA (Jones) - SB31 received a "do not pass" recommendation, SB32 and 36 received "do pass" recommendations, and SB33 was withdrawn. They will meet next Monday at 4 p.m.

h. Transportation (Healow) - They discussed budget issues, a possible trail from the South Higgins housing to South Avenue and U-DASH routing to Buck's Club and the Elbow Room. VP Duringer, Directors Willett and McKiddy met about purchasing an additional bus. The next meeting is Tuesday from 3-5 p.m. in UC215.

i. UC Board (Engelson) - They will meet at 7 a.m. Monday and discuss the UC master space plan.

j. University Affairs (Holmes) - No meeting.

k. ASCRC (Welsh) - He apologized for his earlier harsh remarks and then discussed the reasons for the Military Science minor denial.

l. The suggestion box was empty.

**Unfinished Business**

To see a list of resolutions with the action taken on them noted and the resolutions currently being considered in their entirety, please go to: [http://www.umt.edu/asum/government/resolution.htm](http://www.umt.edu/asum/government/resolution.htm)

a. A motion by **Pavish-Welsh** to reconsider SB27-03/04 Resolution on behalf of Academic Freedom and Intellectual Diversity at The University of Montana (Exhibit A) passed after a previous question call by **Pavlish**. A motion by **Holmes-Ziegler** to postpone consideration until next week failed after a previous question call by **Pavlish**. A friendly amendment by **Engelson** to change "strive" to "continue" in the last paragraph was accepted after a compromise of "continue to strive." A motion by **Healow-Cossitt** to strike the last paragraph failed 9-10, with the Chair breaking the 9-9 tie. A friendly amendment by **Pavlish** to add a final paragraph to read "And Let It Be Further Resolved that this resolution neither supports Students for Academic Freedom nor its methods, ideas, or activities in any way" was accepted after a compromise to delete "ideas, or activities in any way." A friendly amendment by **Flint** to change "supports" to "endorses" in the last paragraph was accepted. The resolution passed 12-6 on a roll call vote (see Tally Sheet) after a previous question call by **Ziegler**.

b. SB24-03/04 Resolution Protecting Student Consumers from Fee Collection Abuse - Campus Finance Reform II was withdrawn.
c. SB28-03/04 Resolution Supporting Tribal College Student Government Representation within The Montana Associated Students (MAS) - tabled on motion by Flint-Welsh.
d. SB29-03/04 Resolution to Amend ASUM Bylaws - in committee.
e. SB30-03/04 Resolution to Send +/- Grading to Student Initiative - in committee.
f. SB31-03/04 A Resolution Endorsing Portions of The Proposal of The Coalition for Better Student Loans (CBSL) to Amend the Higher Education Act (HEA) (Exhibit B). A motion by Pavlish-Flint to accept the amendments in the newly distributed version passed. Friendly amendments by them to insert "Portions of" in the title after "Endorsing" and to re-number the points under "Therefore Let It Be Resolved That" were accepted. After a previous question call by Jones, the resolution passed.
g. SB32-03/04 A Resolution Endorsing Portions of The Proposal of The United States Student Association (USSA) to Amend the Higher Education Act (HEA) (exhibit C) passed after a friendly amendment by Pavlish to accept all of the changes made to the original document passed and a previous question call by Holmes.
h. SB33-03/04 A Resolution Opposing the Affordability in Higher Education Act - withdrawn.
i. SB34-03/04 Resolution to Abolish ASUM Progressive Network - in committee.
j. SB35-03/04 Resolution to Send to Referendum a Constitutional Amendment - in committee.
k. SB36-03/04 A Resolution Thanking Governor Martz for her Appropriation of $2,700,000 to the Montana University System, Urging the Board of Regents to Appropriate $1,000,000 to The University of Montana As Soon As Possible, and Urging The University of Montana to Use the Money Appropriated to Guarantee Need-Based Financial Assistance for Students (Exhibit D) passed after a friendly amendment by Flint to accept changes to the original document was accepted and a previous question call by Welsh.

New Business
a. Resolution on MAS
b. Resolution on HB3077
c. Resolution on Curry Health Center Clinical Health Fee
d. Resolution on Curry Health Center Campus Programs Health Fee
e. Resolution to adopt a Bill of Rights
f. Resolution on Higher Education Act

Comments

The meeting adjourned at 11:54 p.m.

Carol Hayes
ASUM Office Manager
Resolution On Behalf of Academic Freedom and Intellectual Diversity at The University of Montana

Whereas, learning is most likely to thrive in an environment of intellectual diversity and of academic freedom that protects and fosters independence of thought and speech,

Whereas, Section 6.1 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between The University Teachers' Union of The University of Montana and the Montana University System states, "The welfare and strength of the University and of society at large depend upon the free search for truth and its free expression."

Whereas, Section 6.2 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between The University Teachers' Union of The University of Montana and the Montana University System states, "The concept of academic freedom must be accompanied by an equally demanding concept of academic responsibility."

Whereas, The University of Montana is accordingly dedicated to promoting academic freedom and intellectual diversity on campus,

Therefore Let It Be Resolved that the Associated Students of The University of Montana urge the faculty to devote careful consideration to standards of professional ethics in the presentation of educational material as well as in the evaluation of students' academic work;

And Let It Be Further Resolved that the Associated Students of The University of Montana will strive, in the allocation of student activity funds and the selection of visiting speakers, to observe the principles of fairness, balance, and inclusion.

Authored By: Will Holmes, ASUM Senator; Christian Winkle, ASUM Senator

Sponsored By: Dan Windmueller, ASUM Senator

Reconsidered and Passed 12/03/03

Failed 11/12/03

Chair voted to make the vote roll call vote
A Resolution Endorsing The Proposal of The Coalition for Better Student Loans (CBSL) to Amend the Higher Education Act (HEA)

Whereas, the HEA, the law that determines federal policy on higher education, is up for reauthorization during this Congress, and,

Whereas, ASUM believes it is important to represent the students of The University of Montana, and,

Whereas, the Coalition for Better Student Loans is a coalition comprised of financial aid administrators, parents of college students, loan providers and organizations representing colleges and universities nationwide, and,

Whereas, federal student loans provide the best terms to students of any loans in the marketplace, and,

Whereas, borrowing limits on federal loans have not changed in over ten years and limits for freshman have remained virtually unchanged for over thirty years, and,

Whereas, students are increasingly taking out private sector loans that are less favorable for borrowers than federal loans, and,

Whereas, origination fees put a tax on student loans that students must pay for twice, once for the fee and once for the interest accrued on it, and,

Whereas, origination fees were created to help offset temporary federal budget problems in 1981, not to cover administrative expenses of student loans, and,

Whereas, the current repayment options, which typically includes a ten-year repayment plan, do not provide enough flexibility for new graduates just entering the job market, and,

Whereas, student loan consolidation exists to simplify the payment process for students, and,

Whereas, student loan consolidation should help borrowers in tough financial situations lower their monthly payments, and,

Whereas, many job opportunities are not realistic after college because they do not pay enough for students to get out of debt, and,

Whereas, providing meaningful loan forgiveness to students who enter fields that serve the public interest allows recent graduates to begin engaging their communities right away.
Therefore Let It Be Resolved That the Associated Students of The University of Montana hereby endorses the proposal of the Coalition for Better Student Loans to improve the Higher Education Act by:

1. Increasing Stafford Loan Limits while allowing individual schools to set lower limits based on individual conditions at the school, and,
2. Providing origination fee relief for low-income students by phasing in relief for subsidized Stafford borrowers, and,
3. Improving repayment options that would give students more freedom for students fresh out of college, especially students with modest income and large debt loads, and,
4. Reforming loan consolidation opportunities by retaining and clarifying the single holder rule, creating a consolidation interest rate structure that tracks the Stafford loan program, and charging a fee to consolidation borrowers, if necessary, to offset the cost of student loan improvements, and,
5. Providing $1 billion in funds for loan forgiveness;

And Let It Be Further Resolved That the Student Political Action Director is hereby authorized to work with the CBSL in order to promote this agenda.
A Resolution Endorsing The Proposal of The United States Student Association (USSA) to Amend the Higher Education Act (HEA)

Whereas, the HEA, the law that determines federal policy on higher education, is up for reauthorization during this Congress, and,

Whereas, ASUM believes it is important to represent the students of The University of Montana and to work with students across America, and,

Whereas, the United States Student Association is the recognized voice for students in Congress, the White House, and the Department of Education, and,

Whereas, only twice in the history of the Pell Grant has the appropriated maximum grant been equal to the authorized maximum grant, and,

Whereas, the current appropriated maximum of $4,000 for a Pell Grant is significantly less than the authorized maximum of $5,800, and,

Whereas, making Pell Grants into a true “entitlement” program would protect this worthwhile program from future cuts during the appropriation process, and,

Whereas, student debt is skyrocketing, especially in Montana, while tuition increases, and,

Whereas, students graduating with too much debt have to leave the state to find jobs that pay well enough for them to get out of debt, and,

Whereas, increasing federal student loan caps will give the Montana legislature further excuses to only partially fund higher education, and,

Whereas, origination fees put a tax on student loans that students must pay for twice, once for the fee and once for the interest accrued on it, and,

Whereas, origination fees were created to help offset federal budget problems, not to cover administrative expenses of student loans, and,

Whereas, many job opportunities are not realistic after college because they do not pay enough for students to get out of debt, and,

Whereas, providing meaningful loan forgiveness to students who enter fields that serve the public interest allows recent graduates to begin engaging their communities right away, and,

Whereas, the current HEA includes a provision denying federal aid to any student who has been convicted of a drug-related crime, and,

Whereas, 91,204 students have been denied aid as a result of this policy, and,

Whereas, no other students are similarly punished for past crimes, and,

Whereas, this policy disproportionately affects low-income students who rely on financial aid, and,

Whereas, this policy disproportionately affects students of color who are more likely to be arrested for a drug-related crime than white students who commit the same crime, and,

Whereas, this policy, in effect, punishes students after they have already paid their debts to society, and,

Whereas, a lack of affordable childcare is an impediment to education for non-traditional students, and,
Whereas, ASUM recognizes that child care for students requires flexibility in scheduling and poses unique challenges, and,

Whereas, campus safety is of critical importance to students, and,

Whereas, the HEA currently requires that campuses report which crimes were committed in dormitories, on-campus, and on public property, and,

Whereas, the current HEA provisions were a step in the right direction in protecting student safety, and,

Whereas, Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) provides low-income students with access to mentors and other critical support services, and,

Whereas, the HEA currently requires colleges and universities to distribute widely and make available voter registration forms to students.

Therefore Let It Be Resolved That the Associated Students of The University of Montana hereby endorses the proposal of the United States Student Association to improve the Higher Education Act by:

1. Making the Pell Grant program an entitlement, and,
2. Strengthening grant support for graduate education, and,
3. Maintaining the current annual and aggregate loan limits, and,
4. Eliminating all origination fees and insurance premiums, and,
5. Truly expanding loan forgiveness opportunities, and,
6. Fully repealing the drug provision, and,
7. Supporting access to childcare for non-traditional students, and,
8. Maintaining the campus safety, GEAR UP, and voter registration provisions currently in the HEA;

And Let It Be Further Resolved That the Student Political Action Director is hereby authorized to work with the USS in order to promote this agenda.
A Resolution Thanking Governor Martz for her Appropriation of $2,700,000 to the Montana University System, Urging the Board of Regents to Appropriate $1,000,000 to The University of Montana As Soon As Possible, and Urging The University of Montana to Use the Money Appropriated to Guarantee Need-Based Financial Assistance for Students

Whereas, on November 21, 2003, Governor Judy Martz announced that she was allocating $2.7 million in federal money to the Montana University System;

Whereas, in her announcement, Governor Martz requested that $700,000 be allocated to community colleges and distance learning programs, which would leave $2,000,000 for the Regents to allocate;

Whereas, historically, money received by the Montana University System has been split evenly between The University of Montana and Montana State University;

Whereas, The University of Montana-Missoula has already given over $4,000,000 to its sister campuses over the biennium to alleviate their costs;

Whereas, students at The University of Montana-Missoula need financial assistance in order to remain in school;

Whereas, aid to students that keeps students enrolled also improves the financial situation of The University of Montana;

Whereas, The University of Montana’s Perkins Loan program could be expanded, since the loan pool is currently under-funded in order to make more low-cost, subsidized loans available to students;

Whereas, short-term loans to students, such as the Presidential Loan program, are essential sources of aid for students who are in dire situations;

Whereas, grant programs are an effective way of helping resident students without overburdening them with debt;

Whereas, if aid is to effectively increase retention rates for the Spring 2004 semester, students must know about increases in aid before they leave for winter break;

Whereas, if aid is to be effective, students must be aware of it before they leave for winter break;

Whereas, this is the last infusion of money from the state government that The University of Montana is likely to receive this biennium;

Whereas, if The University of Montana is going to have a chance to make increased aid available to students, the Board of Regents should act as soon as possible; has to act now, and cannot wait until the regularly scheduled January meeting.

Therefore Let It Be Resolved that the Associated Students of The University of Montana:

(1) Thank Governor Judy Martz for her generous appropriation to higher education in the State of Montana,
(2) Urge the Board of Regents to schedule a conference call meeting as soon as possible in order to allocate $1 million to The University of Montana for the purpose of need-based financial aid, and
(3) Urge The University of Montana-Missoula to direct money received from a Board of Regents allocation into need-based financial aid programs including, but not limited to the Perkins Loan pool, the Presidential loan program, if possible, and the Montana Higher Education Grant program and/or other need-based financial aid sources.

And Let It Be Further Resolved that this resolution is the most current statement of ASUM policy regarding tuition relief. Policies endorsed previously that contradict or undermine this resolution should be ignored;

And Let It Be Further Resolved that copies of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Judy Martz, the Regents of the Montana University System, the Commissioner of Higher Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the President of The University of Montana, The University of Montana Vice President of Administration and Finance, and The University of Montana Director of Financial Aid.

Authored by:
Matt Singer, Student Political Action
Gale Price, Vice President