ASUM SENATE AGENDA
Mt. Sentinel Rooms
October 10, 1990
6:00 p.m.

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes
4. President's Report
   a. Appointment of New Senators
   b. Student Health Insurance Briefing
   c. Discussion on MSU/UM Funding Disparity
   d. Guest Introduction
5. Vice President's Report
   a. Committee Appointments
   b. Meeting Structure Discussion
   c. Office Space
   d. Senate Meeting Location Change
6. Business Manager's Report
7. Committee Reports
8. Public Comment Period
9. Old Business
10. New Business
11. Comments
12. Adjournment
Chairman Hinshaw called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. Members present were Astle, Berg, Crocker, Dahlberg (6:12), Fisher, Hummel, McMaster, Nelson (6:18), Parish, Pelletier, Price, Rapp, Rhodes, Stevens, Thompson, Thorgrimson, Tinsley, Young and Zink. Excused was Vessar.

Price - Rapp moved to approve the minutes of the October 3, 1990, meeting as written. Motion passed.

President's Report
(Order change from agenda)

b. Warden distributed the "ASUM Senate Briefing - Self-Funded Health Insurance" (Exhibit A) to help clarify the differences in the two plans being considered.

Warden and Senator Hummel plan to attend a meeting November 1 in Helena at the Commissioner's office, along with the Student Health Service Advisory Board and Health Service officials, to discuss the state self-funded insurance proposal for students.

c. Warden distributed copies of "Formula Components FY91" and "Overview of Current Formula Values and Equalized Values" to illustrate the MSU/UM Funding Disparity (Exhibit B). The handout compared MSU and UM with a further comparison to a peer '87 figure. Warden yielded the floor to Greg Fine, SLA Director, who stated the commitment to closing the gap between Montana schools and between them and peer institutions. Fine said MSU justifies their need for more funds because of several technical programs.

Fine introduced John Mudd, new assistant SLA Director.

d. Warden introduced Brad Johnson, Republican candidate for the U.S. House running against Pat Williams. Johnson made a short presentation to the Senate.

a. Warden introduced the following slate of nominees to fill the three Senate vacancies:

Ed Tinsley, a junior pursuing a BA in political science: Price - Zink moved to approve. Motion passed.

John Crocker, former SLA Director: Zink - Price moved to approve. Motion passed.

Amy Jo Fisher, former ASUM Senator: Rapp - Zink moved to approve. Motion passed.
Warden, Pelletier and Hummel praised the quality of candidates for the Senate seats and indicated the difficulty of the choice.

Warden invited the newly approved senators to join the rest of the senators at the table to participate in the remainder of the meeting.

Vice President's Report

a. Hinshaw offered the following committee appointments to the Senate for confirmation:

Matthew Cook - Health Service
Brian Dailey - Dean of Library Search
Aux. Services - Tim Dahlberg
Bylaws - Eric Hummel
Student Union Board - Dan Astle

Zink - Price moved to confirm the appointments. Motion passed.

b. Hinshaw initiated a discussion on Senate meeting structure, as requested by some senators.

Hummel stated his concern over lack of senator input and the fact that the agenda involved only the officers and their announcements.

Fisher felt that as issues come up there will be more interaction.

Price felt senators should take responsibility for punctuality and better attendance.

Pelletier voiced her frustrations over lack of attendance and late arrivals, also, and stated her concern that possibly senators are not taking their responsibilities seriously.

Crocker felt the role of student government is changing rapidly and stated the necessity to act as a unit so as to be taken seriously. He said a change of attitude is necessary for better meeting activity.

In conjunction with this, Hinshaw stated that one senator had three unexcused absences last quarter - the maximum allowed. She warned the senators that four of them had two unexcused absences and encouraged anyone in doubt about their status to see her.
c. Hinshaw cited the problem of an expanding SLA office due to the legislative year and suggested the incorporation of someone into the senate office, since it gets little use. She suggested they sign up for hours and determine when it would be free.

d. Hinshaw announced that the location of the Senate meeting for Oct. 17 has been changed from the Gold Oak Room to the Montana Rooms.

Hinshaw asked for volunteers to renew the Senate table in the UC. Zink said he would oversee it. Prior notice of the table set-up is necessary so that it can be publicized.

Business Manager's Report

The Budget and Finance Committee held its first meeting October 5. The Kaimin will be appearing before the Committee Oct. 12.

Committee Reports

Berg announced that a meeting of the Bylaws Committee will be held Thursday, October 18, at 7 a.m.

Thompson requested the help of an alternate to attend any scheduled afternoon meetings of the Computers Users Advisory Committee. This person would work with him, not replace him.

Warden needs volunteers for a table in the UC tomorrow where students can sign a banner for a long-time UM student who is seriously ill. Coverage is needed from 9-2.

Hummel announced that the Reorganization Committee will be meeting soon.

Public Comment Period - None

Old Business - None

New Business

Astle - Fisher proposed that the November 21 meeting be changed to November 20 to accommodate Thanksgiving travel.

Astle - Thorgrimson moved to suspend bylaws for immediate vote. Motion Carried.

Following discussion, proposal was voted upon and passed.
Astle - Hummel proposed that the October 31 meeting be changed to October 31 to accommodate Halloween.

Warden - Thorgrimson moved to suspend bylaws for immediate vote. Motion Carried.

Following discussion, proposal was voted upon and failed.

Pelletier - Thorgrimson moved that the Senate issue a rebuttal concerning Terri Howell's position on polystyrene vs. paper. (Exhibit C)

Warden - Price proposed a statement on the UM/MSU funding disparity.

Thorgrimson - Price proposed that the Senators keep office hours and arrange for sharing.

Comments

Price - Fisher moved to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Hayes
ASUM Office Manager
ASUM Senate Briefing
Self-Funded Health Insurance

In order to help you all sort through the material on the two self-funded insurance programs, we have put together this handout to help! Following are brief summaries of the two proposals and the highlights of why we are in support or in opposition to these proposals.

UM Self-Funded Plan

This self-funded plan is the same one that we worked on last Spring. The plan requires mandatory participation, although it does waive participation if your already have coverage under another plan. Most likely, we will see very little of an increase in the insurance fee when we convert to this system. Increases in this fee will be determined by local interests (a.k.a- Student Health Service Committee with help of HS Administrators). We hope that we can off-set future increases by insuring ourselves under this plan. The monetary reserves of this system could be used to do this, or we could use these funds to expand coverage offered to students. We feel this plan would make our Health Service a fore-runner in providing student care. ASUM has voted that it is in support of this plan.

State Self-Funded Plan

This plan, similar in ways to our local plan, is currently being studied by the Commissioner’s Office of Higher Education as an option for the entire University System. Unfortunately, guarantees provided in our local plan look like they won’t be provided in this state-wide plan. Although they are only in the planning and consideration stage of this proposal, we have determined a number of disturbing facts. First, we would probably have a large insurance fee increase. Because of our excellent facilities, coverage and claims process, we are able to keep a better handle on insurance fees here at UM than they are at other campuses. For example, MSU charges a insurance fee that is about $100 per year more than ours. (This fee makes up for their lack of facilities and messy claims process). UM would be pooled with these schools, thus raising our fee to meet the state-wide liability. Also, control of fee increases would be no longer in the hands of local interests. This plan defeats our reasons for endorsing a self-funded plan. We will watch the developments of this plan very closely.
ASUM to discuss executive goals at meeting

By Gina Boysun
Kaimin Reporter

The focus of Wednesday’s ASUM Senate meeting will be a discussion of the executive goals for the quarter, ASUM President Chris Warden said Tuesday.

Warden, Vice President Alice Hinshaw and Business Manager Doug Wagner worked during the summer, preparing two drafts of the goal sheet.

Warden said he would like to see the senate come up with their own list so the goals of the senators and the executives can be coordinated.

If the senate and the executive goals are somewhat similar, ASUM can work together to build a good working relationship with the administration, he said.

Since the Sept. 26 meeting, Warden also canceled the informational retreat for senators. Though he had promised "hellishly long" meetings last week if senators didn’t sign up for the retreat, Warden said he’s decided to make that a last resort. Instead, Warden said, he will use his executive power to call special senate sessions.

Warden said he will present two tentative dates for special sessions so that ASUM can discuss their goals. He said he was disappointed about having to cancel the retreat, but he added that it doesn’t mean they won’t get the work done.

In other ASUM business, the budget and finance committee will begin discussing the Kaimin debt and the Students Tutoring Students debt at their meeting Friday. There is not an immediate rush to resolve the two issues, Warden said, adding that the problems do need to be solved this quarter.

The senate replacement committee worked Monday and Tuesday to narrow the list of applicants for vacant senate seats from 17 to about 10, Warden said, adding they will then interview the 10-12 applicants next week and submit a recommendation for approval at the Oct. 10 meeting.

Student health insurance may be mandatory

By Karen Coates
Kaimin Reporter

Supplemental health insurance could become mandatory for students in the Montana University System.

Dave Evenson, director of benefits for the state university system, said he is investigating a system-wide policy that would require all students to have health insurance to eliminate the problem of uninsured students.

A fully voluntary health insurance system does not work, Evenson said, adding that students without health insurance have “difficult access to health care, and that’s not good.”

A class survey taken last December reported that 51 percent of UM students did not have health insurance, although some of those students may have been covered without their knowledge.

The national average of uninsured college-age people is about 20 percent, Evenson said. UM is currently investigating a similar self-funded program that would also mandate student health insurance but would not include other Montana universities in the policy.

Under a self-funded program, students would automatically be charged for health insurance, ASUM President Chris Warden said, adding that a refund would be given to students only if they could prove alternate coverage by showing an insurance card.

A recent Missoulian article pointed out the possibility that a system-wide policy could require all students to purchase health insurance, including those already covered under another insurance policy.

However, Evenson said he would not recommend such a proposal. “It seems unrealistic to have people carry dual coverage,” he said. “We would not be in support of dual coverage,” Warden said, adding that it is a matter of simple economics.

Warden said his main concerns are to make sure that all students have some form of insurance, while attempting to lower the costs of student health insurance, which have been increasing between 5 and 10 percent each year.

Under the proposed system-wide insurance plan, students at all Montana colleges and universities would pay the same rate. However, Evenson said, UM students may be charged less than other Montana students. The health service at UM is the most extensive in the state, he said, adding that UM students don’t use insurance as frequently as other Montana students.

A meeting regarding a system-wide health insurance policy will be held on Nov. 1 in the Board of Regents Conference Room in Helena, Evenson said.
Mandatory health insurance policy considered for U-system students

By PATRICIA SULLIVAN
of the Missoulian

When University of Montana students register for classes each quarter, they are told they don't have to buy the $63 student health insurance plan if they can show they're covered under another policy.

About 45 percent of the students sign up for the insurance.

"I've had students tell me the reason they took classes was to get the health insurance," said Dave Evenson, the director of benefits for the state university system.

But students at the other five state college and university campuses in Montana don't flock to the insurance plan in the same numbers as they do in Missoula. In fact, the 4,500 UM students make up more than half of the students across the state who use the school-sponsored insurance programs.

That may change. The university system is studying a proposal that could require all students — even those covered by their parents', their spouse's or their own insurance policies — to sign up for a system-wide insurance policy.

When last examined, that proposal would have ended up costing UM students almost twice as much as they then paid.

Evenson said he will sponsor a seminar Nov. 1 in Helena for students, administrators and deans to re-examine if "we can provide something more uniform" for all the campuses in the university system.

"The basic threshold question is should we have a mandatory insurance policy for students," said Evenson.

Currently, each school finds an insurance carrier for its own student body. The costs and benefits at each campus now vary greatly. At some campuses in Montana, the percentage of uninsured students may exceed 50 percent, Evenson said, in contrast to the national average of 20 percent.

In a study he completed last February, Evenson advised a multi-campus student health insurance policy only if it's mandatory. Allowing students to opt out results in a pool of policyholders who are, on average, less healthy and more likely to use the benefits, which drives costs up.

But Evenson found that if the system adopted a required policy, the plan would cost about $300 per year. At UM, the annual price at the time was $159. It's gone up to $189 this year.

At the time, the presidents and directors nixed the idea of a mandatory program, and without their support, Evenson said he doubts whether the regents would OK it. But the regents have now asked him to re-examine whether such a policy is needed.

Apart from the optional Blue Cross/Blue Shield insurance, UM students all pay a fee for the campus health service. The service provides routine medical services during the academic term.

Marlenee takes frustrations out on smaller Puerto Rico

By ALICE GREENWAY
State News Service

WASHINGTON — Bemoaning the likelihood that Montana will lose a congressional seat in 1992, Rep. Ron Marlenee took a lone stand this week against statehood for Puerto Rico.

In a 37-10 vote, Marlenee was the only member on the House Interior Committee this week to oppose holding a referendum in the Caribbean Commonwealth to see if the majority of its citizens favor statehood.

Marlenee takes frustrations out on smaller Puerto Rico has a smaller population, it is more than 100 times the size of Puerto Rico.

Meanwhile, Rep. Pat Williams voted for the referendum. "I have great reservations about Puerto Rico becoming a state," he said. "But I think it is reasonable and rational to vote always to allow citizens to decide such matters."

Williams said Montana would not lose representation because of Puerto Rico becoming a state but that new seats would probably be temporarily

Arthur J. Ortiz

VICTOR — Arthur J. Ortiz, 80, of Victor, died of natural causes Thursday, Sept. 20, at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula.

He was born Dec. 28, 1909, to John and Ines Orego Ortiz in San Francisco, where he was raised and educated.

During World War II he served with the U.S. Navy. After his discharge he returned to San Francisco, where on Sept. 3, 1948, he married Maude Winter.

Mr. Ortiz worked as a carrier for the U.S. Postal Service until retiring in 1971. The couple moved to the Bitterroot Valley, where they had vacationed each summer for 14 years.

OBITUARIES

Mrs. Allport, 81, of Clinton, died of natural causes Friday, Sept. 21, in Missoula.

The family suggests memorials to the St. Patrick Hospital cardiac care unit in Missoula.

Celebrate Something!

New Baby, New Job, Promotion, Anything With Quality Cigars
Let's Talk Insurance

A lot of students have been in to talk to us about the Self-Insured Health Insurance proposals that are being discussed by UM administrators. We would like to help clear some things up about the two proposals.

Our UM Self-Funded Insurance proposal, which is being proposed by UM Health Service officials and UM student leaders, is the better proposal of the two. Although it includes mandatory participation, it is competitive in price with our current insurance. In addition to being competitive, this program would give our campus control of future insurance increases. We would no longer be at the mercy of large insurance companies. Lastly, we will probably we able to increase the coverage we offer to students under this proposal.

The second Self-Insurance proposal, which is being looked into by the Commissioner's Office, places UM students on an insurance plan that would be given to all Montana University Students. Because of the way in which we process claims here at UM and the quality and variety of services we provide, we have been successful in keeping insurance increases under control. This is not the fact at MSU, a school which would effect the price of our insurance under this plan. We would pay more, approximately $100 - $150 per student. In essence, UM students would be providing health insurance to students on other campuses.

Attention Graduates!

If you are planning to graduate this June, we advise that you contact your advisor and make sure all of your requirements are met before you leave UM. 

The Student Activities and Registration Office will be registering students through October 30th. Congratulations to all of the students who have completed their registration.

Chris Wagoner
Alice Hinspeter
Doug Wagner
## FORMULA COMPONENTS
### FY 91

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<th>UM</th>
<th>MSU</th>
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### FY 92 (PROPOSED)

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<td>SUPPORT (GENERAL)</td>
<td>$1,424</td>
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OVERVIEW OF CURRENT FORMULA VALUES
AND EQUALIZED VALUES

CURRENT IF EQUAL

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<th>Student Faculty Ratio: 18.38</th>
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<tr>
<td>7,759/18.38 = 422.14</td>
<td>7,759/17.63 = 440.10</td>
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<td>422.14 X $35,086 = $14,811,204</td>
<td>440.10 X $35,086 = $15,441,349</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instructional Support: $428</td>
<td>$514</td>
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<tr>
<td>$428 X 7,759 = $3,320,852</td>
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<td>3,320,852</td>
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<td>- 3,988,126</td>
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<td>(667,274)</td>
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<td>- 11,141,924</td>
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<td>(93,108)</td>
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Total Difference In All Three Areas:

$(630,145)
(667,274)
+ (93,108)
$(1,390,527)

These figures reflect only equalization between The University of Montana and Montana State University, not equalization with our peer institutions.

Completed by: Gregory J. Fine
Student Legislative Action Director
ASUM
Paper or polystyrene?

Economics wins out in U-Center cup clash

By PATRICIA SULLIVAN
of the Missoulian

Last spring, hundreds of University of Montana students signed petitions asking the University Center food establishments to substitute paper for polystyrene foam plates and cups.

This fall, polystyrene is still to be found in the Copper-Commons cafeteria, and the outlook for the future is more petroleum-based food containers.

Because paper costs more, and because Styrofoam takes up less room in landfills, the state's chief buyer of supplies said it's unlikely she will switch to paper cups.

Terry Howell, chief of the state Property and Supply Bureau, said Friday that she's open to persuasion, but "what we have said is we would not automatically buy paper because kids asked us to."

Paper cups bought in bulk with the usual government discounts cost, on average, 45.3 percent more than polystyrene cups, Howell said. Because of limited state warehouse space, all state facilities have to use the same products, she said, and switching to paper would cost the state $50,000 more each year.

Furthermore, "the information we have pointed to the idea it's more environmentally sound to purchase (polystyrene) cups," she said. "It never makes sense to go from one disposable to another."

Howell's information comes from Mike Lightle, executive director of Keep Montana Clean and Beautiful, a 1½-year-old chapter of Keep America Beautiful. Lightle said his 2,000-member organization, which includes corporations in the beverage, grocery, recycling, wood-products and clothing industries, gets no money from makers of polystyrene.

"If you're going to switch, switch to reusable containers," Lightle said. "The environmental degradation caused by waxed paper cups is probably worse" than what's caused by polystyrene.

Polystyrene, he noted, can be recycled, although Montana recyclers aren't yet accepting it. It's more compact and weighs less in landfills and it's made from a by-product of petroleum.

"They're cutting down trees to make paper cups," Lightle said.

Nevertheless, Glenda Skillen, director of the UM Student Action Center — a leader of the drive to switch last spring — is not convinced. Many students already tote their own cups to campus, she said, but they also don't want Styrofoam in a building that's paid for with their fees.

"We want paper products in the Copper Commons and I don't think too many people are taking us seriously," she said. "I think because it's our building, we ought to have a say. Students have said they want paper and they're willing to pay more for paper."

The University Center administration has scheduled a forum to debate the merits of foam vs. paper next Friday. Howell said she'll be there and Skillen said she's looking for someone to counter the pro-polystyrene argument.