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Documents from the April 7, 2010 meeting of the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM)

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ASUM SENATE AGENDA
April 7, 2010
UC 326/327 - 6 P.M.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 24, 2010

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

a. Mountainside Chat:

1. Royce Engstrom, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Teresa Branch, Vice President for Student Affairs
2. Sharon O'Hare, Interim Executive Director, Provost Office

b. Senator Jon Tester visit

c. MAS survey

d. ReEnergyze endorsement letter

e. Ads for job vacancies

f. Event:

1. BFA Senior Thesis Exhibition opening reception April 8

g. Other

6. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

a. Committee Appointments/Removals

b. KBGA

c. Soup Friday, April 23

d. Special meeting April 13, with the Accreditation Committee

e. Other

7. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

SPECIAL ALLOCATION - \$9,945.60

STIP - \$215,944.83

TRAVEL SPECIAL ALLOCATION - \$806.72

ZERO-BASE CARRYOVER - \$164,209.43

a. Other

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

10. NEW BUSINESS

11. COMMENTS

12. ADJOURNMENT

ASUM SENATE MINUTES
Wednesday, April 7, 2010
UC 326/327 - 6 p.m.

Chair May called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Present: President Fennell, Vice President May, Business Manager Armstrong; and Senators Barhaugh, Berry, Carson (6:23), Davis, Dusek, Guilhemotonia, Hanson, James, Jokisch, Kilts, Mariani, Rhea, Rose, Selph, Smartt, Stovall, Summers, Wilke and Williams. Excused: Senator Boeey.

The minutes from the March 24, 2010 meeting were approved.

Public Comment

- o Jared Trilling, Board Chair of Students for MontPIRG (SMPIRG), and members, Neil Bennett and Meg Keighley, reported on the April 6, rally in support of higher education funding. This week the group will be distributing a consumer guide to students. Next week the Senate will be considering two MontPIRG resolutions which SMPIRG hopes will pass. One of the resolutions regards the wording of the upcoming ballot referendum regarding the reinstatement of a MontPIRG student fee. The second resolution regards ASUM Senate support for passage of the referendum.
- o J. J. Blood, provided the update of upcoming events at the University Center (UC). The opening reception for the BFA Senior Thesis Exhibition is April 8, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the UC Gallery. Nominations for Outstanding Student Leader are due April 9. Tyler Bryant, guitar prodigy, will be performing in concert April 11, in the UC Ballroom. The 8th Annual Native American Youth Conference will take place on the third floor of the UC all day, April 14.
- o Molly Collins, Assistant Director for the UC office of Student Involvement and Leadership Development, reminded the Senate that nominations for the Sentinel Service Award are due April 9.

President's Report

a. Mountainside Chat:

1. Royce Engstrom, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Teresa Branch, Vice President for Student Affairs, addressed the Senate regarding several important topics:

- a. Next week the UM campus will be visited by an accreditation committee. The University is reaccredited every ten years and has been preparing for this visit for two years. The committee of thirteen will spend three days on campus and then prepare a report. There is virtually no danger that The UM will not be reaccredited and any recommendations will be viewed as helpful feedback. On April 13, there will be a session for students to spend time with the committee. It is important because the committee wants to hear from students and Provost Engstrom asked the senators to please participate.
- b. Also taking place next week is the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR). ASUM Advisor, Garon Smith, has been the driving force behind the conference which features presentations by 2835 students from around the country and overseas, 205 of them from The UM. Classes have been cancelled April 15 and 16, so that UM students can attend the conference.
- c. Provost Engstrom handed out copies of the April 2010 revision of the proposed change in the UM admissions model. (Exhibit A) The purpose of the new model is to improve the retention rate at The UM. Currently, the retention rate for freshmen and sophomores is 72 - 73%. The goal is to improve this rate over the next 5 to 6 years to 80%. Also, the six year graduation rate is 42 - 43% and the university would like to increase this to the mid-fifties range. High school preparedness is an important aspect of college success and, as a result, the new model shifts focus to applicants' level of preparedness prior to coming to The UM and incorporates enhancement of criteria for acceptance. The new model will be implemented in 2013.

The chair recognized the presence of Senator Carson.

- d. As promised last October, Provost Engstrom provided an update on the Course Repeat Instruction fee. (Exhibit B) The University has done away with the Change of Grade Fee and replaced it with the less expensive mandatory Course Repeat Fee. Last fall it was estimated that the switch would generate an estimated \$50,000. Instead, \$128,096 has been

collected. The agreement was that revenue resulting from the fee would be spent on student success/retention initiatives. So far, \$52,000 has been spent and the balance will be rolled over to next year.

2. Sharon O'Hare was unable to attend and will present at a later date.
- b. President Fennell asked senators and senate candidates to attend the press conference held earlier in the day with U. S. Senator Jon Tester. Few did and the audience was dominated by members of the community. In addition to answering questions and accusations regarding the recently passed health care legislation, Senator Tester spoke to the student loan reform that was part of the legislation and which will create \$61 billion in savings by streamlining the loan program.
- c. Formulation of the survey to assess UM students' higher education priorities is moving forward. President Fennell handed out an initial draft. (Exhibit C) This survey is geared specifically to UM students. All Montana University System campuses are developing their own surveys as part of a collaborative effort of the Montana Associated Students member schools.
- d. A letter in support of RE-ENERGYSE, a proposal of the Obama administration to allocate tens of millions of dollars for energy-related programs at universities, community and technical colleges, and K-12 schools (Exhibit D) is being sent to student body presidents all over the country. President Fennell added his signature in support of the program.
- e. There are three vacancies for ASUM student employee positions: Sustainability Coordinator, Student Resolution Officer and Student Political Action (SPA) Coordinator. President Fennell would like to collect applications for the SPA position and leave the decision to the incoming administration.
- f. Event:
 1. As previously mentioned during public comment, the annual BFA Senior Thesis Exhibit can be viewed beginning April 8, in both the UC Art Gallery and the Gallery of Visual Arts in the Social Science Building.

Vice President's Report

- a. Committee Appointments/Removals - Senator Mariani has been appointed to the Academic Standards and Curriculum

Review Writing Subcommittee. **Rhea-Rose** moved to accept the appointment. The motion passed unanimously on a motion by **Selph**.

- b. Senator James will speak on behalf of ASUM during the KBGA radio Thursday morning program.
- c. A signup sheet was passed around for those interested in planning for the rescheduled April 23, Soup Friday with American Indian Student Services.
- d. Senators are required to attend the April 13, meeting for students with the visiting accreditation committee. The meeting is at noon in CE210.
- e. Vice President May turned the floor over to Dean Charles Couture so that he could speak to the senate about the 2010 Diversity Advisory Council Student Achievement Awards. Each year 25 to 40 students are honored for substantailly contributing to cultural diversity at The UM. Awards will be presented at a ceremony in the UC Ballroom April 27. Please submit nominations to Dean Couture by 5 p.m. April 9.

Business Manager's Report- none

SPECIAL ALLOCATION - \$9,945.60

STIP - \$215,944.83

TRAVEL SPECIAL ALLOCATION - \$806.72

ZERO-BASE CARRYOVER - \$164,209.43

Committee Reports

- a. Off-Campus Renter Center (Smartt) - A Housing Fair took place today in the UC atrium.
- b. Board on Members (Wilke) - Five student groups were approved for recognition by the committee. (Exhibit E) **Selph-Rose** moved to approve the groups as a slate and the motion passed unanimously.
- c. Elections (Selph) - The committee is working on the ballot.
- d. Publications Board (Armstrong) - The board will be meeting April 14, at 3:30 p.m. to consider the candidates for the Kaimin editor and business manager. Business Manager Armstrong hopes to have the names of the new editor and business manager to announce at next week's senate meeting.

- e. Budget and Finance (Armstrong) - The committee will be meeting April 11, at 7 p.m.
- f. Transportation (Rhea) - The Montana State University bus manager visited The UM campus and attended a board meeting in order to learn about ASUM's transportation program.

Unfinished Business - none

New Business

- a. Resolution regarding pay day lending
- b. Resolution regarding gas cards
- c. Resolutions amending Elections Bylaws (3)
- d. Resolution regarding MontPIRG referendum language
- e. Resolution regarding support of MontPIRG referendum
- f. Resolutions amending Bylaws (2)
- g. Resolution amending Fiscal Policy

Comments

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Phoebe Hunter
ASUM Office Manager