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Documents from the December 2, 2015 meeting of the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM)

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ASUM SENATE AGENDA
Wednesday, December 2nd, 2015
UC 326/327, 6 P.M.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 12th, 2015

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- a. Jen Zellmer-Cuaresma and Maria Mangold, President and Vice President of Staff Senate
- b. Budget Situation
- c. Student Feedback
- d. Other

6. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- a. Graduate Outreach Committee
- b. Committees
- c. Other

7. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

ZERO-BASE CARRYOVER - \$131,099.48

STIP - \$120,892.42

SPECIAL ALLOCATION - \$13,517.78

TRAVEL ALLOCATION - \$25,737.29

- a. Zero-Base: Sunday Sweepers 300/300
- b. STIP: ASUM Legal 1996.22/1996.22
- c. STIP: Kaimin ---/500
- d. Budgeting
- e. Birthdays
- f. Other

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. SB28-15/16: Resolution Amending ASUM Legal Services Rules and Regulations

10. NEW BUSINESS

11. COMMENTS

12. ADJOURNMENT

ASUM Senate Minutes
Wednesday, December 2, 2015
UC 330/331 6 p.m.

Chair Story called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Present: President Meixner, Vice President Story, Business Manager Smith; and Senators Ammons, Bundy, Carlson (6:05PM), Engebretson, Fetting, Folsom (6:09PM), Forstag (6:05PM), Frazier, Greenfield, Halvorson, Hannifin, Hopingardner, Kronenberg, McDermott, Morsette, Nelson, O'Malley, Orr, Scott, C. Smith, W. Smith, and Widmyer. Excused: Senator Hannifin Unexcused: Senators Fossen, Keller, La'a, and Metz.

Public Comment

- Emily Cohen-Curry Health Center is putting on "Stress Less Week" next Tuesday-Wednesday from 10am-2pm in the UC Atrium, and Thursday from 10am-1pm at the Missoula College. There will be chair massages, aromatherapy, puppies, tea, crafts, information about Curry, meditation, and a photo booth. Free for students.
- Matt Cyprian-Graduating senior in political science, non-traditional student. Would like to begin a food security initiative. Will leave email for anybody interested in helping him. Interested in food security as it impacts academic performance and retention rates.

The minutes from November 12, 2015 were approved.

President's Report

- a. Jen Zellmer-Cuaresma and Maria Mangold, Staff Senate President and Vice President-Working on professional development. Initiative to focus on good training, support, and customer services on campus. "Lunch and Learn" format being discussed in the Professional Development Committee. The first topic will be about being transgender at UM. Also planning on doing a fundraising run to raise money for student scholarships in March. Would love participation and support of Senators. Going through budget comments from the staff comment email.
 - a. Sen. Forstag-Has the staff senate considered the furlough, or unpaid leave, proposal?
 - b. Ms. Mangold-That is definitely something that we are considering, and will present to the President.
 - c. Sen. Nelson-Furloughs are nothing new in USA. When does staff senate meet?
 - d. Ms. Mangold-Once a month. Second Wednesday of the month from 10am-12pm in various locations. Posted on the website.
 - e. Sen. Frazier-What is the transgender population on campus?
 - f. Ms. Mangold-Not sure on the exact number.
- b. Budget Situation-Pres. Meixner wanted to provide the accurate numbers to the Senate and answer any questions. Pres. Engstrom and Provost Brown will attend the December 9th meeting. Decreasing 201 full time positions. 52 will be faculty lines, 149 will be non-faculty lines. Potential for that to change based on feedback. 25 of the faculty lines are currently open positions that will be eliminated. 28 of the non-faculty lines are currently open. Cutting 17 faculty lines in Journalism, Anthropology, English, Geography, Liberal Studies, Art, Political Science, Forestry, Electronics Technology, and Energy Technology

based on enrollment. Most of this information is on the website as well. Since the decline in enrollment, cuts have been made every year. Previously there have been non-academic cuts of 7-8%, and academic cuts of 1%. First year that academics is being substantially cut. Goal is a 18 students to one faculty member ratio. 50% of the budget will still be spent on academics.

- a. Sen. W. Smith-What's the current ratio of faculty to students?
- b. Sen. Scott-16 to 1.
- c. Sen. Greenfield-What was the relevancy of the Academic Alignment and Innovation Program (AAIP) in these cuts?
- d. Pres. Meixner-You should direct that to Pres. Engstrom who has said multiple times that AAIP was never intended to be used for cuts. However, when the time came to make cuts, he had the study available and wanted to make an informed decision.
- e. Sen. Folsom-What does 17 faculty line enrollment based cuts mean? What are the other faculty cuts being based on?
- f. Pres. Meixner-The faculty lines we're cutting from specific programs are based on enrollments. 25 are open lines, 17 are actual faculty members, 10 lines are from program consolidation.
- g. Sen. Nelson-We don't know which open lines will not be renewed?
- h. Pres. Meixner-No.
- i. Sen. Hopingardner-How are they deciding which faculty will be cut?
- j. Pres. Meixner-They have not been pre-determined. Obviously tenure and union contracts will play a role. With the Senate's permission, I will advocate for it to be based on student evaluations
- k. Sen. Frazier-For those who might be unable to fulfill majors due to cuts, what can they do?
- l. Pres. Meixner-Most of these majors are not being eliminated. Graduate level foreign language and two programs in Electronics Technology and Energy Technology at Missoula College are the only ones up for elimination and consolidation.
- m. BM Smith-Pres. Engstrom has said that it is their mission to avoid that situation.
- n. Sen. W. Smith-My understanding is that these won't happen until July 2016?
- o. Pres. Meixner-Information won't be released until January. None of these are for the current fiscal year.
- p. Sen. Greenfield-Are there still alternatives to cuts? Many people are against cuts. How were these decisions made?
- q. Pres. Meixner-The President and his cabinet made the decisions. Not aware of any alternatives that the President considered viable.
- r. Sen. Greenfield-How much student, faculty, and staff involvement was in the decisions?
- s. Pres. Meixner-Little to none.
- t. Sen. Hopingardner-At the first UM United meeting there was talk of a faculty hunger strike?
- u. Pres. Meixner-Not aware of that.
- v. Sen. Engebretson-How are we going about making recommendations?

- w. Pres. Meixner-After question and answer, and discussion the body should go over student feedback. Recommend resolution format for next week, but the Senate can task Pres. Meixner tonight.
- x. Sen. Forstag-What is the administration's timeline with coming out with specifics?
- y. Pres. Meixner-January 31st
- z. Sen. W. Smith-Can we open up discussion on this later?
- aa. Pres. Meixner-Yes.
- bb. Sen. Fettig-Is this going to change who teaches intro level courses or graduate programs?
- cc. Pres. Meixner-Some graduate students assistantships are being cut. 28 graduate teaching assistants (TAs) are being cut. It often costs more money to have TAs teach than professors.
- dd. Sen. Fettig-How many TAs do we have total?
- ee. Pres. Meixner-Thinks it's somewhere around 78 pre-recession, but now somewhere around 120, but will forward information later.
- ff. Sen. Greenfield-The report detailed that more senior level faculty will teach intro level courses.
- gg. Sen. Hopingardner-How will this affect graduate student enrollment?
- hh. Pres. Meixner-There has been discussion, particularly in student comments.
- ii. Sen. Morsette-Any information about tuition waivers for students?
- jj. Pres. Meixner-No cutting of tuition waivers outside of TA positions to his knowledge.
- kk. Sen. Fettig-How much money is this supposed to save in the long run?
- ll. Pres. Meixner-The process has been every year that enrollment is lower than expected and we have a deficit. The goal is a range from 10 to 12 million dollars to "rightsize" based on our current enrollment.
- mm. VP Story-For Graduate TAs, not just cutting positions but sections of intro level courses. TA positions in 2014-2015 more than doubled, so now bringing the number back down.
- nn. Pres. Meixner-With these proposed cuts, we will still have more faculty and staff than the ratios pre-recession.
- oo. Sen. Forstag-How many faculty positions were lost prior to these cuts because of lines left open?
- pp. Bill Borrie-There are currently 50 open faculty lines. There are 10-15 ongoing searches that mostly will continue. The Provost recommended that 50% of the open lines be cut. The question is which 25 open lines are the most strategic to cut.
- qq. Sen. Nelson-(to Mr. Borrie) Pres. Engstrom said that the intention of the AAIP was not to cut programs. Is that accurate? Where you aware of the cuts?
- rr. Mr. Borrie-Takes Pres. Engstrom at his word. The goal of AAIP was to identify ways to strengthen programs that are ready to grow. Campus-wide reviews like AAIP are common across the country.
- ss. Ms. Zellmer-Cuaresma-Was on the AAIP committee. Firmly believes that Pres. Engstrom never had any intention of using it for cuts. He would have been remiss in not using the data available to make cuts.

- tt. Sen. Nelson-Concerned that a precedent was set that faculty will not trust administration in further reviews out of fear of cuts.
 - uu. Sen. Forstag-Why aren't business school programs being cut even though their drop in enrollment is 20% and the humanities is 17%?
 - vv. Pres. Meixner-Will send along enrollment per program data. Business may have a higher return on investment. All business students must take 50% of their classes outside of the business major. We're all in this together as far as cuts go.
 - ww. Mr. Borrie-The cuts weren't just made based on data, there were other considerations.
 - xx. Sen. Hopingardner-Implore Senators to be thoughtful about faculty evaluations because they have large effects.
 - yy. Sen. Forstag (to Mr. Borrie)-What is your perception of the reasoning behind not cutting the Business school? What is return on investment?
 - zz. Mr. Borrie-Return on investment is based on how many students we can graduate from a program. Better to hire professors in programs with more need.
 - aaa. Sen. McDermott-What might other reasons be for the cuts?
 - bbb. Pres. Meixner-Good question for the President next week.
 - ccc. Sen. W. Smith-Has there been any pressure from the Board of Regents (BOR) and Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE)?
 - ddd. Pres. Meixner-They are supportive of efforts to balance the budget.
- c. Student Feedback-Open up to discussion. Shared Governance leadership will meet tomorrow, December 3rd, to discuss feedback. Meeting with the President and his cabinet next week.
- a. Sen. Greenfield-Trends seemed to be about specific professors and programs to be spared. The departments that are being cut are not solely responsible for the decline in enrollment but they're suffering blame. Cuts in these areas aren't going to solve all our problems. Ultimately, cuts in specific areas are not beneficial. The whole university needs to be held responsible instead of specific departments. Cutting professors weakens programs, doesn't strengthen them. UM needs to champion the liberal arts because they make us unique.
 - b. Sen. Forstag-Many people were writing with a lot of emotion without any real alternative. There are alternatives out there. Avoid being too specific in a resolution, but should take the time to draft with concrete solutions. Echo sentiments of students.
 - c. BM Smith-Encourage Senators to keep an open mind. Specific programs may be taking a hit, but this is a collaborative, community effort. We have to adjust spending. There are probably alternatives to explore, but we cannot continue to operate with such high expenses. We have been putting this off hoping that enrollment will increase, but needs to be corrected now.
 - d. Sen. W. Smith-There has to be cuts, but need to consider where they'll be felt the least. Been hearing the argument that we're a liberal arts university and shouldn't make cuts in those programs. But actually we're a public research university. There's a lot of anger surrounding this, and it's hard to cut things. But it's up to the Senate as students to decide what the most important things are.

- e. Sen. Hopingardner-While liberal arts aren't the only programs responsible for dropping enrollments, there has been a decline in incoming students in those programs. Should consider how we can bolster interest in liberal arts programs. Without students, there's no program.
- f. Sen. C. Smith-Heard the argument over and over about being a liberal arts university in the state, that we have a responsibility to serve the people in Montana. WE are drifting away from our mission to try and compete with the Montana State University (MSU).
- g. Sen. Engebretson-Would like to see the entire university's budget. Would also like to look at money being paid out for bonuses. Look at pay cuts instead of cutting positions. Particularly looking at administration versus faculty.
- h. Pres. Meixner-All of that information is available online. Can be difficult to sift through, but can ask the cabinet about more consolidated information.
- i. Sen. McDermott-We aren't only cutting in the liberal arts. Many Journalism students writing concerned about their faculty members. We as a university are proud of that program. We should be looking for a collaborative approach. Level of reality that we have to make cuts. This is a Band-Aid and we should be finding more lasting solutions and focus on what we're good at. A good boss won't cut his employees before cutting his own pay. There are a lot of avenues to be explored.
- j. Pres. Meixner-President Engstrom's pay is pretty tied to the President of MSU's pay and the Commissioner of Higher Education's pay.
- k. Sen. Frazier-We haven't exhausted all of our options for being fiscally responsible. Loves the liberal arts. If you're good at something, you should invest in it. Should maintain current programs. Can find a solution that doesn't include cutting faculty.
- l. Sen. Halvorson-Cuts obviously need to be made, and this is probably the most effective way to do this. Last year ASUM lobbied for a tuition freeze, and maybe that shouldn't be done again. Increasing tuition could fix a lot of this. We overcharge out of state students and lose our competitive advantages.
- m. Sen. Nelson-This it's a stupid idea to have faculty cuts decided by student evaluations because it encourages faculty to not really teach. Concerned that liberal arts is getting a reputation for being easy because they use student evaluations to measure outcomes.
- n. Sen. Hopingardner-Other programs use student evaluations as well.
- o. BM Smith-Evaluations are summarized and cumulative. One bad review won't necessarily effect a professor.
- p. Sen. Forstag-Not comfortable cutting programs where enrollment is up. Not sure that a focus on liberal arts is good. Should focus on programs that are struggling with enrollment. Cuts should be more even handed.
- q. VP Story-Disillusioned with the fear that some faculty members are instilling in students. There has to be so many cuts this time because previous outrage has prevented necessary cuts from happening. Difficult to know that professors who work the hardest may not get paid the most. MSU has a \$700 higher in state tuition than us. ASUM needs to lobby against a tuition freeze next legislative session.

- r. BM Smith-This has been an ongoing situation that hasn't been really fixed over the last several years. Now instead of being a \$3 million dollar deficit it's \$12 million. Something needs to happen. There are several different unions that make it difficult to enact pay cuts, especially for tenured teachers.
- s. Sen. Greenfield-We need to break the repetitive cycle of hiring too many people and cutting them when enrollment drops. Maybe create an ad hoc committee regarding the budget to brainstorm long term solutions.
- t. Sen. Folsom-We have a lot of liberal arts programs, so they will obviously be a part of cuts. Maybe not true that liberal arts are being targeted. Should consider that there are some things that are unchangeable, such as unions. Should focus on recommendations that we can make on priorities for the administration. There has to be cuts and recommendations should be doable. The body has power to make recommendations on how cuts should be prioritized.
- u. Sen. W. Smith-We're a public research university, not a liberal arts university. The reason the liberal arts are being cut is because of enrollment, they're not being targeted. Need to refute the argument that liberal arts are targeted. You don't need faculty members when there's not enough students.
- v. Sen. Frazier-Doesn't feel like the conversation is going anywhere. As a body, support your own programs and talk to other people. This debate isn't offering any solutions. Should move on with this meeting.
- w. BM Smith-This has been a valuable conversation. Happy that students get the chance to contribute to this conversation.
- x. Sen. Forstag-Doesn't think that Pres. Engstrom was trying to target the liberal arts, but seven out of the ten programs being cut are liberal arts. No liberal arts programs are slated for growth. Legitimate for ASUM to have different growth targets.
- y. Sen. Carlson-Most of the comments came from students in the Forestry, Art, and Journalism programs and were uninformed. Important to go to those programs, attend UM United meetings, or hold an open forum to inform students and make them feel heard.
- d. BOR Meeting Feedback
 - a. Sen. Forstag-Would any administrative pay cut go through BOR?
 - b. Pres. Meixner-Yes

Vice President's Report

- a. Graduate Student Outreach Committee-Interest from graduate students to be involved with ASUM. Need to change make up of ad hoc committee to be more graduate student oriented. Asked for volunteers to help with that.
- b. Committees-Need chairs to send recommendations for committee rosters by the end of next week.

Business Manager's Report

- a. A motion was made by **W. Smith-Halvorson** to approve the Sunday Sweepers request in the amount recommended of \$300. Unanimous Consent (UC) was called by **Widmyer**, and with no objections the motion passed.

- b. A motion was made by **W. Smith-Ammons** to approve the ASUM Legal request in the board recommended amount of \$1996.22. UC was called by **Nelson**, and with no objections the motion was passed.
- c. A motion was made by **Forstag-VP Story** to suspend house rules in order to consider a STIP request from the Kaimin that was not passed through the Budget and Finance (B&F) Committee. This motion passed by placard vote.
- d. A motion was made by **Hopingardner-Widmyer** to approve the Kaimin STIP request in the amount of \$405.30. This motion was passed by placard vote.
- e. Budgeting-Current budgeting form is on the website, along with corrected dates. Final budgeting will be February 27th-28th.

A motion was made by **Greenfield-Pres. Meixner** for a five minute break. This motion was passed by placard vote.

Committee Reports

- Greenfield, Website Upkeep Committee-Provided list of proposed changes for Senate approval. A motion was made by **Morsette-Nelson** to approve the list of proposed changes. UC was called by **Ammons**, and with no objection the motion was passed.
- A motion was made by **Halvorson-Ammons** to give the Website Upkeep Committee authority to make minor updates and changes to the website. UC was called by **Widmyer** and with no objections the motion was passed.
- Greenfield, Housing Board-Preparing resources for presentations in residence halls about moving off campus.
- Gen Ed-Revising general education perspective titles.
- Hopingardner-Only one resolution this week.
- BM Smith-B&F met.
- Morsette-Working with Dr. Branch to set up Tunnel of Oppression event.
- W. Smith, Student Computer Fee-Looking to cut 40-50 positions because they're \$87,000 in debt. Won't be able to fund technology without cuts. Needs to pass through the committee and then will be passed onto Board of Regents. Would like to have it through the BOR by the end of February. Meeting tomorrow, December 3rd to discuss the proposal to cut 18.1% right now and 20% in FY17.
- Pres. Meixner, Parking and Integrated Transportation-Consolidating information about parking on campus and looking to implement some initiatives. Maybe a change in the transportation system.
- Pres. Meixner, Faculty Senate-Grilled Pres. Engstrom.
- Pres. Meixner, Search Committee for VP for Student Affairs-Talked about human resources issues. Concerned about focus on enrollment management and not about student affairs.
- Pres. Meixner, Meeting with Pres. Engstrom-Touched base about status of electric bus request before BOR. They don't like action items on January agenda, so might get pushed to March.
- Pres. Meixner, Cabinet Meeting-Possibility of a White Student Union at UM. Currently a Facebook page, but doesn't seem to be affiliated with UM students. Spoke about diversity issues generally.

- Halvorson, Childcare-The drain in the yard is going to be fixed. Disappointed that Senators didn't show up to the walkthrough.
- Carlson, City Council Meeting-Bridge being built over Reserve Street at the intersection of old Highway 93. Will connect the bike path that goes down the Bitterroot Valley. Fixing and building sidewalks around town. Townhouses are exploiting subdivision regulations. Added 0.5% to the Art Committee budget to maintain art around Missoula.
- Carlson-Undergraduate Advising is hiring this spring. Wondering if ASUM would like some kind of role in that interview process.
- Carlson, UM Productions-Met with Brad Murphy, and the meeting went very well.
- Frazier, University Athletic-Discussed mission statement with an emphasis on community involvement. Read new wording the statement to the body. Power equipment in the stadium dates back to the 1950s, large physical liability to workers. The entire power of the university has to be routed around the West side of the stadium. Spoke about punitive measures following most recent football player burglary arrests. Tightening the budget and exploring fiscally responsible recruiting measures. Recruiting more female head coaches.
- Frazier, Sports Union-Possible disbandment and rebuilding of the union.
- O'Malley, Transportation-Talked about issues with the Gold Line or the "Drunk Bus."
- O'Malley, International-Approved Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with abroad universities and faculty experiences abroad.
- Forstag, Sustainability-A company built a covered parking structure in East Missoula that is similar to the one proposed on campus. Could be a promising investor. If any students are interested in being involved with the Climate Action Plan, the meeting will be on December 11th.
- Nelson, ASCRC-Discussed a proposal from general education committee.
- Nelson, Legal Board-Will be appearing at Housing Board meeting to collaborate at the residence life presentations about preventative renter measures.
- Nelson, Mentorship-Working with SpectrUM to write grants about education programs in places like food banks.
- Engebretson, Prior Learning Assessments-Looking to pay a veteran student for their outlook on their experience.

Unfinished Business

- a. After an authorship by Sen. Nelson, a motion was made by **Folsom-Engebretson** to pass SB28-15/16. This motion passed by roll call vote (RCV) by 22Y-0N-1A.

New Business

Resolutions Amending Bylaws (10)
 Resolutions Regarding Parking (2)
 Resolution Amending House Rules
 Resolutions Amending Fiscal Policy (6)
 Resolution Regarding the Human Condition
 Resolution Regarding the ASUM Condom Chalice
 Resolutions Amending Personnel Policy (3)
 Resolutions Regarding Constitutional Referenda (2)

Resolution Regarding the Tuition Freeze
Resolutions Regarding the UM Budget Situation (2)

Comments

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

Mackenzie Lombardi
ASUM Senate Secretary

ASUM SENATE TALLY SHEET		Time	SB28-15/16
Date: December 2, 2015			
SENATE MEMBERS	ROLL CALL		
Ammons, Andy	P		Y
Bundy, Trail	P		Y
Carlson, Ryann	P	6:05	Y
Engebretson, Elizabeth	P		Y
Fettig, Elle	P		Y
Folsom, Aaron	P	6:09	Y
Forstag, Samuel	P	6:05	Y
Fossen, Evan	UA		
Frazier, Pierce	P		A
Greenfield, Chase	P		Y
Halvorson, Jared	P		Y
Hannifin, Nick	EA		
Hopingardner, Kaitlin	P		Y
Keller, Tina	UA		
Kronenberg, Jordan	P		Y
La'a, Isaac	UA		
McDermott, Taylor	P		Y
Metz, Blayne	UA		
Morsette, Tony	P		Y
Nelson, Max	P		Y
O'Malley, Mary	P		Y
Orr, Sam	P		Y
Scott, Samuel	P		Y
Smith, Chris	P		Y
Smith, Wyatt	P		Y
Widmyer, Jackson	P		Y
ASUM OFFICERS			
Meixner, Cody-President	P		Y
Story, Betsy-Vice President	P		
Smith, Sarah-Business Manager	P		Y
FACULTY ADVISOR			
Professor Stark	UA		