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ASUM Student Government

Fall 9-1-2021

Documents from the September 1, 2021 meeting of the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM)

University of Montana–Missoula. Associated Students

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**ASUM SENATE MINUTES
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 2021
University Center (UC) 225 – 6:00 P.M.**

[To View a Zoom Recording of this meeting, please click here.](#)

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting Called to Order at 6:00 pm

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Senators Bell, Berget*, Bowles, Feeley, Glueckert, Gudmundsson, Hawthorne, Jolly, Kayne, Keller, Kiefer, Kuney, La'a, McKenzie, Shaver, Vanderkar, Ververis, Williams; President Durnell, Vice President Lock, Business Manager Rinck; Advisors Reed, LeBihan

Unexcused Tardy: Senator Crisp

Senator Berget was sworn-in to the 2021-2022 body by Liaison Reed

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to Approve April 21: 2020-2021 Body Minutes, April 21: 2021-2022 Body Minutes, and May 21: Emergency Meeting Minutes by **Ververis-BM Rinck**; UC Called

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Marie Watson: I am part of the Executive team of the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA), and I want to get acquainted with your processes and make sure we are in communication.
- b. Nevin Graves (MontPIRG Campus Organizer, Student at Large): I am here to introduce myself to who I have not met, though I have worked with many of you officially. I want to give a couple of notes. We have a municipal election coming up and we are working on turning out the vote, so anything you can do to encourage students to vote and get registered, please do. We table outside of the UC most mornings. Beyond that, I know we are working on making sure public comment is

- accessible. At the MPTV commission, we can help broadcast public meetings and can help with accessibility. I am also taking classes, so I am a student as large on R&A and am always happy to talk with you and be helpful.
- c. Brian Reed (ASUM Advisor, Associate Vice Provost for Student Success): I am an administrative liaison and I work to support all of the Senators, so if you have questions or concerns about anything, I usually work closely with Vice President Lock. If you have questions about things happening at the institution, I can be a resource as well. My office is in the lower level of University Hall, Office 22 and #6413 is my direct line. I appreciate being able to serve in this role and look forward to working with you all as well.
 - a. BM Rinck: To the Senators, Brian is a great resource, especially for Senators who have issues with the Executives or another Senator. He can mitigate conflict and act as an advisor.
 - d. Dr. Le Bihan: I am a philosophy professor, director of pre-law program on campus and I am a faculty advisor. I am honored to be in the role because ASUM plays a great role on this campus. Over the years I served in this community, I can say students have more power than they think they do, so I am happy to be a part of this endeavor. If you have any questions about the functioning of the Senate or want to chat, please get in touch with me. If you want to go to law school, talk to me.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- a. Swearing in of New Senators: Brian Reed – ASUM Advisor
 - a. Sworn In: Senator Berget
- b. Designated Speaker: Seth Bodnar, President of the University of Montana
 - a. President Bodnar: I am so excited to see all of you here in person. I appreciate your leadership and wearing masks and keeping safe. This is far from a normal time in our country and society, but we want to work to have as close to a normal student experience as we can. The most important thing we can do is get vaccinated. Thank you all for your leadership in talking with your fellow students and working to make sure we have peer-to-peer discussion to ensure more vaccinations. For those who have not chosen to get vaccinated, I am finding that messages from people like me are far less effective than messages from peers. We had a great discussion this morning with executive leadership to target this discussion, so this is something I want to continue working on with you. Campus experience is such an important part of your educational journey, and we are trying to make that possible, and vaccinations are a big component of that. The vibrancy of our campus is very important so you will see a lot of events to wake our campus back up. We will have a special welcome feast next Thursday. Student clubs and athletic events are a great way to implement this vibrancy. We hired Dr. Selena Beaumont- Hill and she is a phenomenal leader and a great resource. Our UC team has done a phenomenal job in keeping UM connected. Small steps make a big difference, and we want to hear your feedback and hear about what we can do to make the out of classroom experience as vibrant and enriching as it can be. My final message is one of thanks to all of you. Thank you for your service. We do rely

on you as leaders and partners in leading this university. We count on you, we listen to you, and your perspective informs the direction of this university. You made the decision to step up and serve your community and that is a habit that will serve you and our society well. Thank you to Marie and Nevin as well for your service and leadership.

- i. Bowles: Thank you for coming in. Are we keeping Lewis and Clark villages and Aber Hall quarantine areas?
 - ii. President Bodnar: Not Aber Hall, but we have quarantine space in different buildings around campus. Aber Hall has been taken offline as a residence hall because it will become a student services center. In January some services will start moving to Aber Hall and we will start breaking ground on the new dining facility in Spring 22'. As a guest another time, I could offer to have the facilities folks come in and walk you through it. We refinanced the university debt structure and thought about what we need to do to enrich the student experience through an infrastructure perspective. Multiple places and dorms will be refurbished. A lot of exciting renewal is taking place on our campus. We do still have quarantine space in multiple areas around campus. Emphasize this with peers- when you are vaccinated and are a close contact, you are not going to be quarantined, but the opposite is often true if you are unvaccinated.
 - iii. Glueckert: I know there was a discussion about if Pantzer Hall needed to be updated in reference to other dorms that may need more urgent upgrades. Is some of that money going to be dispersed for other dorms?
 - iv. President Bodnar: Absolutely, it is a phased process. Next year is the crunch point because we have more students in residence halls, and it is a good challenge for us to improve. Pantzer and Knowles are where we started but we will look at the next phase, and perhaps an expansion of apartment-based housing. It will take us several years to work through that. Pantzer is our newest residence hall and we wanted to refurbish the life in it, but others may make sense to build new. We will make steady upgrades as we move along in these phases.
- c. Summer Updates
- a. A lot of legal discussion has happened this summer around legislative bills that impact students, and we looked at how things related to ASUM. You all participated in the emergency meeting, but I will update you that we did not join a lawsuit following that decision. We concluded that not joining was the best decision, but we are still observing the bill and how it effects students. We lobbied the Board of Regents (BOR) to litigate HB102 after passing a resolution last year that allows us to do so. We also lobbied the BOR to allow MontPIRG to collect their fee despite what HB319 was providing. Thank you to Lou Villemez and Lauren O'Neill who worked very hard to provide their legal services. We discussed housing and are creating a basic needs agency for ASUM and want to implement a housing center through that by adjusting to logistical problems. Through survey information, I identified that the biggest

basic need for students is housing, of which 50% of students were/are affected by housing issues. We met with UM Housing and came up with a MOU draft and will follow-up when we hire a Director in the Fall. We are still discussing what this will look like. There was a lot of help drafting the UM Strategic Plan, which is revised each year to make sure leadership is united and the shared vision is clear, so leadership has been working to make it more actionable so it is not just a strategy when implemented. We did a ton of work overhauling the Bylaws and created a standardized reformatting template, which you will see in a resolution tonight. A lot of changes happened in the office, such as new paint and furniture, because we want our office to be a place where students can come and ask for help. An MOU was created between the Student Involvement Network (SIN), now SLAC, who are located in the Student Group Resource Center (SGRC). We have a new storage space in Todd, so no more boxes around the office. We have also explored Senator compensation and lobbied officials on things like the recent Title IX changes. Thank you to the Committee on Equitable Education for helping us maneuver deficits we experienced due to COVID. We are looking into CARES Act funding and advocated on that spending. We made plans to raise the baseline rates for all ASUM employees in the future and encouraged budgeting for that. We updated Griz Hub, thank you again to BM Rinck for that. We hired a lot of people and made many informational videos recently. COVID is still very prevalent on campus right now and the Executives and I are still monitoring closely- it will not fall out of our priorities. Thank you to Alex Akmal, our Marketing Director. Our marketing engagement is higher than it has ever been and student outreach is still a huge priority for us.

i. Glueckert: What does SLAC refer to versus SIN?

ii. President Durnell: Student life activity coordinator (SLAC).

d. Committee Reports

a. I would like to let you all know what committees I am serving on: Campus Response Group, Instructional Planning Group, University Leadership Council, Student Affairs Officers, University Leadership Council, University Accreditation and Assessment, and Campus Lighting. I also Chair ASUM Staff meetings and will be a part of the forming Basic Needs Agency.

e. Office Hours

a. Mondays at noon, Tuesdays at 11:00 am, Thursdays from 1:30-3:00 pm, and Fridays from 11:00-1:00 pm.

b. 5 Minute Recess Called; Meeting Reconvened at 6:43 pm

f. SB3-21/22: Resolution Commending the Service of Marlene Hendrickson

a. Authorship (VP Lock): This is standard for ASUM Senates when someone who has committed a number of years to students decides to retire. Marlene retired on August 27 after serving ASUM for over 30 years. She has an amazing amount of institutional knowledge, and we are very grateful for her time.

b. La'a: Marlene has been somewhat of an awful person to some people, but I will vote yes on this. It was not perfect these last couple of years and I am kind of happy that she retired.

- c. **SB3-21/22: Passed Unanimously**
- g. Other
 - a. We presented on COVID-19 at Cabinet today and had a great conversation. If you have any topics that you think we should talk about in Cabinet, please let us know. We often invite Senators to present to Cabinet as well

6. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- a. Committee Assignments
 - a. The average for this body is four committees per Senator.
 - i. Kuney: Is there any rhyme or reason to the colors on the document?
 - ii. VP Lock: Green means committees are filled out, blue means change was made after I sent out emails with this information, and yellow means committees are yet to be filled out because there may be changed. Purple committees have changes proposed to them.
 - iii. Motion by **Vanderkar-Williams** to replace Vice Chair of Marketing and Outreach to be filled by Senator Williams
 - 1. Authorship (Vanderkar): Based on previous discussions, I feel that Senator Williams has the best experience to serve as Vice Chair and has gone through the appropriate meetings and discussions to be in this position. I feel she is the best prepared for the role and I feel she would serve best there.
 - 2. Authorship (Williams): When we drafted assignments, I was assigned as the Chair. After discussing with Senator Vanderkar, I wanted to see him in the Chair position and step down to be the Vice Chair.
 - 3. *Motion Passed on a Placard Vote*
 - iv. Kiefer: I would appreciate anyone to join the Committee on Equitable Education.
 - 1. Ververis: What time do they meet?
 - 2. Kiefer: We have not set up a consistent time yet, but we are doing hybrid.
 - 3. Motion by **McKenzie-Kuney** to add Senator Bell to Equitable Education; Motion passed unanimously
 - v. President Durnell: I do not think this is the appropriate time to make changes, so if you are on the list to make changes, I encourage you to wait and speak with Vice President Lock after the meeting.
 - vi. Glueckert: The list here is not updated to Box.
 - vii. Motion by **Ververis-Vanderkar** to approve committee assignments; UC Called
 - b. **SB4-21/22: Resolution Offering an Opt-In Option for Printing Required Senate Materials**
 - a. Authorship (Glueckert): A former Vice President passed a resolution to make a paperless Senate to help with our carbon footprint. Although I personally agree with this change, many environmental movements do not always take everyone's wellbeing into consideration. For example, with the Save the

Turtles movement- many people who have disabilities rely on plastic straws. As for Senate- there are challenges that allow for certain exception. A digital format can be great for many, but this format is not always accessible. Some understand text better on paper. Older students do not always have the same skillsets as those of us who grew up on the computer. Although ASUM Administration is to provide an electronic device for those who cannot provide their own, I do not think students should have to talk to administration to receive materials or pay printing costs on their own. ASUM is already a bit of a classist system, and a paperless system can add a financial barrier that is already in place here.

- b. Motion by **Glueckert-Ververis** to add Vice President Lock to the sponsor line; UC Called
- c. Kuney: For clarification, when you say, “all required Senate materials”, are you referring to governing documents, resolutions, and the like?
- d. Glueckert: Yes.
- e. Kuney: Do you know anyone personally who requires paper, or is it mostly based on personal preference?
 - i. Glueckert: I know of people outside of Senate who do, but others do find it easier to read on paper.
- f. President Durnell: I think that this is a great resolution that balances our values of sustainability and accessibility. I will be voting yes on this.
- g. Ververis: Thank you to Senator Glueckert, and I will be voting yes.
- h. Motion by **Ververis** move to capitalize the “E” in “executives”; Ruled Friendly by Author
- i. Gudmundsson: I sympathize with the previous statements and want to address the usage of “ASUM members” starting on Line 47. To Senator Glueckert- Is “ASUM members” intended to cover all students, or specifically the officers of the Senate?
 - i. Glueckert: I used the language “ASUM members” because that is original language from the original resolution referenced. I was trying to change as little as possible to preserve consistency, but I would be open to changing this language.
- j. Motion by **Gudmundsson** to replace all instances of “ASUM members”: in L47-54 with “officers”; Ruled Friendly by Author
- k. Motion by **Ververis** to remove the extra space following L70; Ruled Friendly by Author
 - 1. **SB4-21/22: Passed on a 17Y-0N-3A Vote**
- c. SB5-21/22: Resolution Standardizing the ASUM Bylaws and House Rules for Proper Formatting and Clarity
 - a. Authorship (President Durnell): I knew the Bylaws like the back of my hand, but I could not stand them because there were so many issues in understanding the language, a lack of common language, and incorrect formatting. We held a Bylaw working group over the Summer and some great Senators joined. We amended the entirety of the Bylaws to create consistent formatting and a result from that was a standardized formatting template. When amending the Bylaws constantly, the formatting can get lost and

inconsistent across different governing documents. We made phrasing consistent and created a workable template. We want to make these changes sustainable so we do not have to constantly create working groups so the template document will be a part of personnel policy that will allow the Senate Secretary and Office Manager to fix these changes on the backend to ensure correct formatting and consistency. This allows us to talk more about content on the floor, rather than line-level amendments. House Rules were updated in the same way, and I believe this standardized document will be very helpful. The Bylaws look very clean and understandable now, and I hope this produced a product we can use to sustain our student government going forward.

- b. Authorship (Ververis): Please approve this resolution. Many hours were spent on this, and it is very important that these governing documents are easily referenced to... I put a lot of blood, sweat, and tears in this.
 - c. Motion to make a slate of amendments by **Ververis**- L25 to read “contain” instead of “contained”; L36-change “upkeep” to “preserve”; L44- “for” to “by the Senate”; Slate Ruled Friendly by Authors
 - d. Kuney: I would like to see the standardized formatting document.
 - e. Bell: Thank you to everyone in this group for all of your time and effort.
 - f. Gudmundsson: This will make everything easier and allow future Senates to pick up from where we left off. Thank you to everyone who served in this group.
 - g. Kuney: Does this template encompass House Rules as well?
 - h. Durnell: Yes, it does, and the document title has been changed to reflect that.
 - i. ***SB5-21/22: Passed unanimously***
- d. Office Hours
- a. These hours are subject to change and remember that you are welcome to schedule an appointment with me as well. Mondays 9:00-10:00 am, 3:00-5:00 pm; Tuesdays 9:00-10:00 am, 11:00-12:00 pm; Wednesdays 9:00-10:00 am, 3:00-5:00 pm; Thursdays 9:00-1:30 pm; Fridays 9:00-10:00 am, 3:00-5:00 pm.
 - b. Office hours are a required part of Senate service, an hour each week. You can talk to Gwen and ask us as well should you need ideas for what to do during your time. Meeting with students count toward office hours. You can write resolutions during office hours but show it to me at the end of your service time. Please let me know what you are planning on doing during office hours.
 - c. BM Rinck: How do Senators log hours if you are not in the office?
 - d. VP Lock: They may check in with another Executive, or Gwen.
 - e. Vanderkar: Does that mean we are not utilizing the whiteboard system?
 - f. VP Lock: No, just send me an email.
- e. Other
- a. The Board of Regents (BOR) meeting is in Butte from September 15-16, so if you want to attend, please let me know immediately. These are great to attend.
 - i. Kuney: How early of a notice do you need to get an excused absence from class?

- ii. President Durnell: I can give you excused absences for doing ASUM related work, so you can show the excusal to your professor the day of, though you should use discretion with your professors. We are already pushing it because the meeting is soon, but two weeks is a great warning to us to make sure we can plan for all of you. I highly recommend the BOR meeting because it is a great way to lobby.
- b. Please CC me on all committee correspondence, especially anything going to a Chair. Most committees have access on Box.
 - i. Many Senators turnover within a year, but it is a priority of mine to keep you all on the body. This is a fantastic group and I want to see all of you here if possible for the year. Please talk to me if you need anything at all.

7. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Zero Base Carryover: \$283,465.05

S.T.I.P.: \$247,003.30

Special Allocation: \$20,039.04

Travel Allocation: \$51,338.68

Research & Creative Scholarship: \$15,791.89

Contingency Fund: \$108,053.57

Union Emergency: \$6,000.00

- a. Zero Base Request: Women's Resource Center (WRC)
 - a. BM Rinck: This is a student group on campus and ASUM budgets for the Director's salary and wages. The previous ASUM body budgeted \$1,068 for a work-study position. A work study position splits wages between the government and the institution, 75% from the government and 25% from the institution. In hiring this position, ASUM did not require or clearly advertise that this was to be a work-study position, so the applicant hired is not work study eligible. The need for wages is \$3,026 short. The position is already hired so this mistake on ASUM's behalf should be rectified. Not passing this request will result in the WRC Director being let go, or having their wages run out quickly. You can see additional information on the request.
 - b. President Durnell: This is an unfortunate circumstance and mistakes were made here. To correct it, Zero Base can be a line item and fund the WRC Director. This is not an increase to pay, but instead acknowledges that only 25% of wages for this position are accounted for in the budget, but there needs to be 100% available to adjust.
 - c. Motion by **Ververis-Durnell** to increase line item #61225 to \$3,027.00; UC Called
 - d. Motion by **Ververis-Glueckert** to approve the request in full; UC Called
- b. Summer Updates
 - a. The Bylaws working group is very important and I thank them for their work. I did a lot of revisions to Fiscal Policy, so expect a resolution next week generally revising fiscal policy. The entire recognition process for student

groups has been transitioned from Qualtrics to GrizHub. I served with the Orientation Committee and they do so much great work, and it was very successful and rewarding to serve on.

- c. Committee Reports
- d. Office Hours
 - a. Not scheduled yet. They will be consistently subject to change, but the best way is often by appointment.
 - b. Gudmundsson: Can we just walk in the office and check on you all?
 - c. Rinck: Yes.
 - d. President Durnell: I encourage that.
 - e. Lock: I also encourage that, feel free.
- e. Birthdays
 - a. None.
- f. Other
 - a. None.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Committee on Equitable Education – Summer 2021 Report
 - a. Kiefer: I encourage you all to read our report in full. On page six, you can see how we provided written public comment and President Durnell provided spoken comment where the transcript is provided. An anonymous survey will allow students to voice what they want to see from this committee, and I would be happy to answer any questions. We are working on ways to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Title IX. We need another Senator on the committee, and if you know anyone who wants to be a SAL, please let me know so we can fill more of these spots.
 - i. President Durnell: I want to restate that this committee created a list of concerns, needs, and demands, which I was tasked to send to many federal offices. It was very impressive, one of the most impressive acts I have seen through ASUM, and they went on to write another report. This is giving me way too much credit, as my testimony was drafted by the committee for me to give. I want to commend SAL Pease for her chair ship, and I encourage you all to join this committee because it truly elevates what ASUM is doing.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Kiefer: One Resolution Establishing the Excellence in Access to Education Award; Sent to R&A and the Committee on Equitable Education
 - a. Description: This is a resolution authored by SAL Danielle Pease and it is an award we are trying to establish to recognize the difference people have made as they go out of their way and above and beyond to support student survivors of sexual and domestic violence on our campus in continuing their education.
- b. President Durnell: One Resolution Establishing ASUM's Stance on COVID-19 Vaccines; Sent to R&A

- a. Description: This conversation has gone on for a long time and I want to make sure that this resolution is consolidated and people are aware of our stance as an organization, which is very important to be made known.
- c. Rinck: One Resolution Generally Revising Fiscal Policy; Sent to R&A
 - a. Description: This is similar to the resolution that revised the Bylaws and House Rules but follows the formatting of Fiscal Policy.

10. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Motion to Adjourn by **Ververis-Feeley**; UC Called; Objections noted by BM Rinck and President Durnell
- b. Meeting Adjourned at 7:46 pm