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Senate Meeting Agendas and Minutes,
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ASUM Student Government

Fall 10-26-2022

Documents from the October 26, 2022 meeting of the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM)

The University of Montana--Missoula, Associated Students

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**ASUM SENATE AGENDA
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 26, 2022
University Center (UC 225) – 6:00 P.M.**

Public Comment Zoom Meeting ID: 986 1658 2767

Public Comment Zoom Meeting Link: <https://umontana.zoom.us/j/98616582767>

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. [October 19th, 2022](#)

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- a. Guest Speaker
 - a. Kat Cowley, Director of ASUM Bear Necessities
- b. Committees
 - a. Staff Cabinet Meeting
- c. Agency Updates
 - a. Sustainability Challenge
 - b. Lobbyist hiring for ASUM
 - c. Can the Cats starts November 5th
- d. Other
 - a. Food Zoo Passes
 - b. BOR Deadline is November 2nd

6. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- a. Committee Assignments
- b. MAS Committee Report
- c. Current Personal Projects
- d. Anonymous Feedback Form
- e. Kudos
- f. Other

7. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Status of the Accounts

Zero Base Carryover: \$331,362.40

S.T.I.P.: \$256,626.82

Special Allocation: \$20,000

Travel Allocation: \$31,335

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- a. Group Recognitions
 - a. UTOPIA
 - b. UM Club Hockey
 - c. Smokejump (Men's Ultimate Frisbee)
 - d. Clay Guild
 - e. Tuba Euphonium
 - f. China Table
- b. Birthdays
- c. Other

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10. NEW BUSINESS

11. ADJOURNMENT



**ASUM SENATE MINUTES
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 26, 2022
University Center (UC 225) – 6:00 P.M.**

You can view the Zoom Recording [here](#).

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm

Senator Wilson, Senator Johnson, Senator Balius and Senator Smith are Sworn in by Vice Provost Leslie Webb

2. ROLL CALL

- a. **Present:** Senator W. Balius, Senator Bell, Senator Birdinground, Senator Bouchard, Senator Burcham, Senator A. Curry, Senator T. Curry, Senator Gibbs, Senator Hawthorne, Senator Merrick, Senator Miglin, Senator Milligan, Senator Redearth, Senator Salyards, Senator Wickum, Senator Witt, President Bowles, Vice President Berna, Business Manager Jolly
- a. **Absent (Excused):** Senator Cervantes

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. [October 19th, 2022](#)
 - a. Motion to amend “Resolutions and Affairs” to “Relations and Affairs” under Committee Report **Wickum-Bell**
 - b. Motion to approve track changes **Bell-T.Curry**; UC
 - c. Motion to approve Minutes **Birdinground-Salyards**; UC

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. **Emily:** Hi everyone. I am here to bring awareness to Early Voting Day this Friday. Monica Tranel and Hank Green will be on The Oval from 12:15 pm to 1:15 pm. Please help spread awareness
 - a. **President Bowles:** Where can students go to vote?
 - b. **Emily:** You can go to the Alexander Blewett Law School. There will be signage to direct you.
 - c. **Vice President Berna:** I sent information about this event in my email to the Senators. Voting is in Room 156.
- b. **Danielle Pease, SAL:** I am the chair of equitable education. We are dedicating a tree on campus to Title IX. It will be between the president’s office and the Oval in the back

corner of main hall. This event will take place next Friday at noon. It will be chilly. The reception is in the Branch Center with some light snacks and refreshments. Next week we'll celebrate Title IX; There will be a lot of events. Alicia is coordinating most of those. If you have any questions reach out to me or Alicia and we can help.

- a. **Senator Cook:** What time?
- b. **SAL Pease:** Friday, November 4th, at noon.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- a. Guest Speaker
 - a. **Kat Cowley, Director of ASUM Bear Necessities**
 - b. **Introduction:** Hello everyone. I was a Senator for a year and a half when I attended the University of Montana ("UM"). I love Halloween. I use they/them she/her pronouns interchangeably. I oversee the UM Food Pantry. I attended UM for a BA in Women Gender and Sexuality Studies with a minor in Sociology. I completed my Masters in Public Administration. In college, I experienced housing and food insecurities. Across the nation, half of college students experience basic needs insecurities. Over thirty percent of UM students experience food insecurities. As a graduate student, I opened the Food Pantry and have, in the last year, come back to open Bear Necessities.
 - c. **Bear Necessities:** The Bear Necessities agency have three pillars of work: Direct Services, Education, Advocacy. They also participate and plan other projects and programming. The Direct services branch include case management, food distribution through the UM Food Pantry, and our six satellites and application support (I.E. SNAP or emergency rental assistance, other grants and support funding). Education includes our physical and digital resource library supplying resources such as access to NARCAN as well as connections to additional community resources. We are also hoping to provide cold weather resources such as hats, gloves, socks and hand warmers. We educate students about their rights as tenants, voters, and provide access to resources such as the Missoula Food Banks programs. We myth bust for the rest of the University and the broader Missoula Community. Getting into college is the first hurdle. There are other barriers that students face that go unseen and unrepresented. We want to be a safety net for these students and bust myths that stigmatize these challenging barriers. Our advocacy efforts work to monitor local and state legislature including affordable housing, tax adjustments, and work being done at the state level that helps students lives easier. We seek opportunities to represent students and student needs wherever we can. This means attending events like the Jedi Summit this Friday. I will be discussing our case management program. We want to fight future needs. This office shouldn't have to exist forever. We also have other programming such as the startup of our coordinated care team. All the support workers on campus meet weekly with representation from TRIO, ODE, Montana Ten, some people from the law school who work directly with graduate students, Missoula college and a few key faculty members who have identified a need and want to help fulfill it. Some of these people include Daisie Rooks and Lauren Fern. I do a lot of fundraising and grant writing. We are also allocated money

from ASUM which helps us keep our lights on. We have spent thousands more dollars on food that we thought we would need. The need just keeps growing. I am a member of the Fast Fund Committee that serves as a review board for applications to our student emergency grant program. This is up to \$300 available within a week. Sometimes checks take longer. I help plan Can the Cats and the Neighborhood Ambassadors.

- d. **How to Get Involved:** Our next big volunteer event is Can the Cats. Before that there is a game against Eastern Washington in which we hope to beat the Eagles and collect hundreds of foods. ESPN will be there. There is a volunteer email list. If you would like to be added to that please let me know. If you would like to plan a food, spice, warm clothes, etc., drive we would love to help. Those hours can be put toward volunteer requirement. We have resources to make it super simple. Ten minutes of planning can go towards a week's work of tabling and collecting food. We often have a need to help cover shifts in our food pantry. Students serving in the food pantry helps us stay connected. We have a lot of advocacy opportunities. Help fight stereotypes is a huge one. "College kids"? You're adults. You know how to figure out a budget, rent an apartment. Ask for help and encourage your friends to do the same. This is a very valuable skill. Asking for help earlier means you need less help later. If you ever want to take over our Instagram and show what a day in your life looks like that's an opportunity. This Link goes to the Can the Cats sign up link. You are also welcome to email our Agency or stop by the office. If you ever want to help out, we could really use the bodies.
- e. **Upcoming Events and Projects:** The Alumni spice drive is October 28th at Cranky Sam's. They'll have Kombuchas and Blends. The Basketball teams coaches will be there. We hustle to get people in the room, to be able to provide food. We don't always have the most exciting food so having spices available helps. Can the Cats be November 5th – November 19th. Can the Cats is community wide food drive competition between Missoula and Bozeman. Last year we raised almost 600k pounds of food to support the Missoula Food Bank and Community Center and the young Food Pantry. Bozeman raised just over 600K. We are going to Can the Cats this year. This is an awesome thing to engage with because no matter what, everyone wins because everyone walks away with more food raised for their community. Food collected on campus go the UM Pantry and dollars collected at UM dining cash registers go to the Missoula Food Bank. There are a lot of things in the works such as student group competitions between Universities and Senates. I would like to kick in a small prize to incentivize. I would love to see Senators drum up attention and get involved. The Food Pantry sends over 2,000 pounds of food to students every month. Missoula Food Bank serves one in four Missoulians. After that is the UM Friendsgiving meal. Stay tuned for those promotions and RSVP link. This is a cool opportunity to help students get a meal and anyone looking for community. We will have our holiday meal kits over the break that should even yield a little leftover. Every week we have grocery hacks by Kenzie Carter. We are also looking to get engagement up on our social media.
 - i. **Vice President Berna:** Thank you for being here. Could you elaborate on how we can cover Food Pantry shifts?

1. **Director Cowley:** Senator or Students can volunteer to do 45 minutes of training to learn about the software and sign our confidentiality agreement. All you need to do is weigh the amount of food and log it into the computer. It would also be valuable to see a little shadowing from members at the UM Pantry or Food Bank to see how they work together. I know there is a need Monday through Wednesday through most of November at 1:00pm to 2:00pm. I would be happy to help get anyone up to speed or help answer questions.
- ii. **Senator Bell:** Is the collaboration with Winco continuing?
 1. **Director Cowley:** We stopped because our Americorps Vista left. It was too much of a burden on us. The Food Bank is still Maintaining that relationship.
- iii. **Senator Hawthorne:** Could you address our conversation on Bills we're looking at going into this legislative session?
 1. **Director Cowley:** Thank you for asking. The Hunger Free Campus Bill has passed in 7 to 9 states towards the goal of energizing students to help fight food insecurity in their state. It designates each campus as a hunger free campus. This is good PR and positions the campus as dedicated to ending hunger. Things like SNAP, having a food pantry, having a basic needs office and having a task force would be required. We are already doing most of these things. MSU is also doing almost all of these things. We want to swipe out hunger. It could be brought to the leg. Session. I am hoping to gather interest from Senators and students to gain momentum. The Bill does include a pool of funding to support student basic needs. It is possible to pass this Bill without the funding, however the funding would mean we could depend less on ASUM and other outside offices. We could stabilize and maintain our programs longer term. The first step is to identify interested students. We have a lobbyist who could also advocate for this Bill as a student interest. We would need someone to sponsor the Bill and we would need a larger conversation among Main Hall Admin, Faculty and Staff.
- iv. **Senator Cook:** Is grant writing something you do or a way for students to get involved?
 1. **Director Cowley:** This is something I do to keep the lights on. If you are interested in learning about the grant writing process, I am happy to talk to you about it.
- v. **Senator Bell:** What are the key places Bear Necessities needs support?
 1. **Director Cowley:** We need more staff and more funding for more staff. Right now, it's just me and Kenzie. We are getting it done but sometimes we feel like we're scraping by. We would also like to increase our outreach and engagement.

- b. Committees
 - a. Staff Cabinet Meeting: We did not have Cabinet this morning.
- c. Agency Updates
 - a. Sustainability Challenge: We have one week left before we find out who wins and see what Tayli's next steps are moving forward.
 - b. Lobbyist hiring for ASUM: We will select from the interviews this week and the outcome will come out on Halloween. Next meeting, we will approve them. We require a 2/3 vote of you to do so.
 - c. Can the Cats start November 5th: Please engage with this process. We should beat the Cats.
- d. Other
 - a. Food Zoo Passes: Come get a food zoo pass from me. It is free.
 - b. BOR Deadline is November 2nd: Tell me if you are coming to BOR by November 2nd. For context, the Board of Regents oversee the University System. We would leave Wednesday and return Sunday. We would stay for the Cat Griz Fame. Do not sign up for the Cat-Griz game. Sign up for BOR.

6. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- a. Committee Assignments
 - a. **Senator T. Curry:** Could you explain the recommendation to remove Senator Cervantes as Vice Chair of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee?
 - i. **Vice President Berna:** I will not elaborate on this too much because Senator Cervantes is not here. The details of this decision are private. Senator Cervantes has exhibited longstanding inappropriate behavior. We notified her about this change and had had conversations with her about her leadership prior to the change. I would be happy to talk to anyone about my decision-making process on this matter, however I do not feel the need to do so with the whole Senate.
 - b. Motion to approve Committee Assignments **Jolly-Witt**; UC; Discussion Called by Senator T. Curry
 - i. **Senator T. Curry:** I do not approve the demotion of Senators from committee assignments as punishment. I see it as performative. Senator Cervantes is a powerful advocate for DEI students. I do not agree with this change.
 - 1. **Business Manager Jolly:** We do not use this as a form of punishment. This was not our first conversation with Senator Cervantes. We have given them several chances to right their wrong. The three of us conferenced on what the best thing to do was with the Senator. We did not take this decision lightly.
 - ii. **Senator Miglin:** Is the decision made in regard to Senator Cervantes removal a dictated procedure in line with ASUM's Code of Ethics?
 - 1. **Business Manager Jolly:** I am not comfortable giving specific insight into this decision during a public Senate meeting.

- c. Move to approve Committee Assignments except the removal of Cervantes from DEI **Bell-Hawthorne**
 - i. **Roll Call Vote (21-2-0):**
 - 1. Yes: Senator G. Balius, Senator W. Balius, Senator Bell, Senator Birdinground, Senator Bouchard, Senator Cook, Senator A. Curry, Senator T. Curry, Senator Gibbs, Senator Hawthorne, Senator Johnson, Senator Merrick, Senator Miglin, Senator Milligan, Senator Redearth, Senator Salyards, Senator Smith, Senator Wickum, Senator Witt, Senator Wilson, President Bowles,
 - 2. No: Senator Burcham, Business Manager Jolly
- b. MAS Committee Report
 - a. The Montana Associated Students (“MAS”) is something you all can attend. They had a meeting yesterday at five. President Bowles and I were unable to attend. Two items that we will see at BOR are academic grievances and transparency in online fees The goal in discussing academic grievances is to change procedures, rounding them out and displaying them publicly so that the process is clearly outlined to students. We are addressing transparency in online fees to ensure any fees approved by student governments are communicated to students before they register for classes.
- c. Current Personal Projects
 - a. Senate Pay AdHawk: Get in touch with me if you are interested in helping with this effort.
 - b. Interview Committee Resolution: Senator Bell, other members of the Interview Committee and I have been working to get this out to you.
 - c. Learning Assistant Program: This is a mentor program run by the College of Education. I would like to tie in this program with ASUM and help integrate ASUM into other programs at the University.
- d. Anonymous Feedback Form
 - a. I will not address comments unless they are substantial enough for you to be made aware. This form is to provide feedback so that I can improve my performance or the Senate’s performance. Please fill out this feedback form. Positive or negative, I would love to hear from you.
- e. Kudos
 - a. Kudos to Senator Bouchard who sent me two long emails about resolutions, looking to be pointed in the right direction. I could tell there was a lot of intention behind their goals.
- f. Other
 - a. Come see me if you have any questions or are interested in getting an idea started. If you want to chat, come find me. I will be reaching out to the new Senators so keep an eye out for that.

7. BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT

Status of the Accounts:

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 - a. UTOPIA
 - b. UM Club Hockey
 - c. Smokejump (Men's Ultimate Frisbee)
 - d. Clay Guild
 - e. Tuba Euphonium
 - f. China Table
- b. Move to Roll Call Vote Birdingground-Wickum; UC
 - a. **Roll Call Vote**
 - i. Yes: Senator W. Balias, Senator Bell, Senator Birdingground, Senator Bouchard, Senator Burcham, Senator A. Curry, Senator T. Curry, Senator Gibbs, Senator Hawthorne, Senator Merrick, Senator Miglin, Senator Milligan, Senator Redearth, Senator Salyards, Senator Wickum, Senator Witt, President Bowles, Vice President Berna, Business Manager Jolly
 - ii. No:
- c. Birthdays
 - a. Senator Bouchard and Senator Redearth I have presents for you but they are at home. Come by the office or email me and I will get them for you.
- d. Other
 - a. Please be respectful of others space in the Office and of the conversations you have there. This is a professional space.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Bear Necessities – Senator Wickum:** There is an opportunity to volunteer for Can the Cats at the home game. We need 7 volunteers starting at 12:30 pm until mid, first quarter. We need 11 more volunteers for after Can the Cats. We discussed the Hunger Free campus Bill. I ask all of you to think of legislatures who could sponsor it. If you are going to BOR, lobby for it. We are planning a Winter Clothes Drive. We want to do it in two weeks, right before a Senate meeting to allow more interactions between Senators and constituents. If anyone else has brainstorming ideas related to basic needs reach out to me or Director Cowley to get them on our Agenda.
- b. **Academic Standards and Curriculum Review (“ASCR”) -- Senator Wickum:** This committee does very important work. Yesterday, I was made aware that when you graduate you have pay for your diploma and any certificate you may receive. This is an additional \$40 or \$55. I am reaching out to Paul Lasiter to gain more information on what this money goes to. In the meantime, please spread awareness.
- c. **Interview Committee – Senator A. Curry:** Interview Committee will be seeing a resolution on confidentiality in our Bylaws. We have also recommended the appointed four new Senators sitting with us tonight.

- d. **Marketing and Outreach (“M&O”) – Senator A. Curry:** Industrial Tote Bags are in the Student Group Resource Center. Everyone go grab one. Senator Cook and Senator Hawthorne have ideas to increase engagement for tabling. We are considering a Senate challenge with a prize to incentivize engagement. Things like coming to public comment, finding a Senator, and other fun activities might be added as tasks to a scavenger hunt type challenge. Our Marketing and Outreach Coordinator, Senator T. Curry is going to go through some trainings to be brought up to speed on procedures necessary for his position. We will be tabling 11:00am to 1:00pm. I am looking to have signage up for tabling. I am also looking into penalizing Senators who sign up for tabling but do not make an appearance. I would like it to count as 1/3 as an absence, which would be the same as missing at least an hour of a Senate meeting.
 - a. **President Bowles:** If/when will there be a solid MO meeting time?
 - i. **Senator A. Curry:** sometime next week.
- e. **Student Political Action Committee (“SPA”) – Senator Hawthorne:** We almost have a lobbyist. We will have more hiring to do before the legislative session. There will be a survey team meet next week and the survey should go out the week after. Friday is vote early day. At 10:00 am to 4:00 pm MontPIRG will be by Brantley Beach. You could hang there or hang by Hank Green and Monica Tranel on the Oval. Encourage others to go to the Law school to vote. If any of the new Senators, or anyone else, would like to sit in on the committee on Friday let me know. You can come see the final touches on the survey.
- f. **Senator W. Balus:** MontPIRG event has been moved to the Oval
- g. **Experiential Learning Scholarship Fund (“ELSF”) – Business Manager Jolly:** I will send emails late this week or early next week with amounts, if any, for the Experiential Learning Scholarship Fund. I am meeting with my co-chair to format an email and send a list of resources.
- h. **Board on Member Organizations (“BOMO”) – Business Manager Jolly:** BOMO has been recognizing so many Student Groups. Marleigh Merchant has been serving again this year. She is doing an excellent job.
- i. **Bitterroot Missoula College Affairs Committee (“BMAC”) – Senator Redearth:** I will be tabling next Thursday at 11:00 am to 12:30 pm. I am hoping to get SALs from Missoula College. Hopefully BMAC will convene within the next two weeks.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. **Senator Wickum:** The Rattlesnake Resolution was conditionally approved. The send to line needed detailing and citations should have been adjusted. Some changes were made. Others never received a response from the student. It cannot see the floor until the conditions are met.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by **Birdinground-Witt; UC**

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm