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ASUM Student Government

2-16-2022

Documents from the February 16, 2022 Meeting of the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM)

University of Montana–Missoula. Associated Students

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**ASUM SENATE AGENDA
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2022
University Center (UC) – 6:00 P.M.**

Public Comment Zoom Meeting ID: 941 9891 2038

Public Comment Zoom Meeting Link: <https://umontana.zoom.us/j/94198912038>

- 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 5. UNION LOBBYING**
 - a. Student Music Union
 - b. Sports Club Union
- 6. AGENCY LOBBYING**
 - a. ASUM Bear Necessities Agency
 - b. ASUM Legal Services
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 - d. ASUM Administration
- 7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**
 - a. Strategic Enrollment Planning Committee
 - b. Other
- 8. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**
 - a. Committee Assignments
 - b. Other
- 9. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT**

Zero Base Carryover: \$266,858.56

S.T.I.P.: \$247,587.21

Special Allocation: \$19,359.04
Travel Allocation: \$48,317.92
Research & Creative Scholarship: \$9,938.24
Contingency Fund: \$60,032.16
Union Emergency: \$6,000.00

- a. Member Organization Recognition
 - a. Tabletop Society- Student Interest
 - b. China Table- Student Interest
- b. SB86-21/22: Resolution Authorizing a Transfer from MST009 to MST001
- c. Final Budgeting Updates
- d. Birthdays
- e. Other

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. SB81-21/22: Resolution Amending Section 14.3 of ASUM Fiscal Policy to Add Rental Vehicles and Rental Vehicle Requirements
- b. SB83-21/22: Resolution Striking Article V, Section 8 of the ASUM Bylaws
- c. SB84-21/22: Resolution Removing the Sustainability Board from the Bylaws
- d. SB85-21/22: Resolution Expanding Committee Seats

12. NEW BUSINESS

13. ADJOURNMENT

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**ASUM SENATE MINUTES
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2022
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: President Durnell, Vice President Lock, Business Manager Rinck; Senators Bell, Birdinground, Bowles, Curry, Gudmundsson, Hawes, Hawthorne, Heaton, Jolly, Kayne, Kiefer, Kuney, McKenzie, Northey, O'Neill, Salyards, Shaver, Ververis, Wickum, Williams.

Excused: Senator Glueckert

See roll call here.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to Approve the February 9, 2022 Minutes by **Birdinground-Williams**; UC Called

See the approved February 9, 2022 Minutes [here](#).

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Ajaysia Hill: There is a professor on campus, Clayton Looney, and he is a racist. I have several different issues with that, the biggest being that he is still allowed to teach at UM. I understand that it is hard to bring forth issues with union workers, although I do not agree with it. Having him as a professor goes against everything UM stands for, as outlined in our mission statement. It goes against everything in the modified DEI plan as well. Specifically, in the DEI Plan in reporting for students: it says you can provide confidential and easily assessed processes for discrimination - It is not really easy and people do not feel comfortable reporting issues, which is problematic when the school repeatedly chooses to ignore issues. The process is not as easy as they are making it seem, so it is a bit hypocritical to state this. Strategy 1.2.1 on the Office of Inclusive Excellence for Student Success- this is probably the biggest and most concerning one because it talks about creating an inclusive place for students to be successful, but people who are not white, straight, and conservative on this campus do not feel safe and included when you allow people to openly discriminate. There are issues in the screenshot messages I have shared that are not just about race- he [Clayton Looney] is an absolutely horrible person. There is a video of him saying a slur as well. I brought this to the school's attention last year and I was so confident they would do something with the screenshots and video, but it still was not enough. How is UM being made inclusive and how are you fostering an environment for students to be successful when allowing this kind of behavior to run rampant on campus? He said that slur to his daughter, so what do you think he would say to someone who is not his child? There is no way for us to assure that he is not doing this to students. Most people can probably imagine that people do not speak up about issues on campus because they feel they will be isolated, targeted, and ultimately nothing will happen. UM has repeatedly done this, and people do not feel safe on this campus. I do not feel safe on this campus as a black person and as a woman. I also want to highlight the statements made by President Bodnar- one statement includes "fighting for justice, equity, and the empowerment of all" and he also put "to hold ourselves accountable, UM recently released our new DEI plan,

which will evolve as we learn from and partner with our community as we humbly recognize systems that we must take”. He says, “I hope you will join me in recommitting yourself to this work”. We are all a part of the UM family, and it is all of our jobs to fight for equality. I am asking for you all to help me make the change, because this is not okay. I always worry because I know how it is on campus and I know how racist people are.

- a. VP Lock: This is extremely concerning and disheartening and frustrating, and I am certain that all of our Senate shares your frustrations with the administration’s lack of action.
- b. Bell: Can you share a way for us to contact you?
- c. Hill: My email is hillajaysia@gmail.com .
- d. Birdinground: Thank you for coming today. Can you give us a timeline of when this all went down, because from the screenshots, these text messages are from four years ago?
- e. Hill: It does not matter when the screenshots happened, but it is the fact that it happened. I found this out last year and reported it, and I can forward you the email that I sent President Bodnar, Suzanne Tillman, Kelly Webster, and Alicia Arant on March 7. My question to you is why is that relevant?
- f. Birdinground: That was just a curious statement, I was not trying to make a point.
- g. Heaton: Thank you for bringing this to our attention. I would not have heard about it had you not come today so I appreciate your time. Who are the text messages with?
- h. Hill: The text messages are with his ex-wife who is a black woman. The problem I have with the messages, although I hold his ex-wife accountable as well, is that she does not have a position of authority or right to be teaching people at UM. It is hard to walk away from abusers so while I acknowledge that she also played a role, I sympathize with her because she did not have control in this situation. He will likely retaliate in some form.
- i. Heaton: Did you receive these messages because she sent them to you, or how did you find out about these messages?
- j. Hill: I am friends with her and on Facebook last year she was ranting about how Clayton was being racist and nobody was listened to her. I messaged her and that is how I got the screenshots and the video.
- k. O’Neill: Thank you so much for being here. Outside of direct action items we may take, how can we support you all as peers?
- l. Nonso: Listening and hearing us out. Sometimes people will come at you for talking about stuff like this, so listening and empathizing with situations and taking action is important. The school has not taken action.

- m. Hill: The stuff you all see on the media about BLM or people talking about their experiences as black people and POC, that is not performative, this happens in our everyday lives. It makes it harder when you are in a majority white space and it makes it worse when there are performative actions, such as President Bodnar's statements. That means nothing when people's lives are on the line. They deem this a non-workplace issue. There is an article online where they deemed it a non-workplace issue, but it is made a workplace issue when Clayton was allowed to have another professor in the room speaking on his behalf during the investigation. We understand that you said you are listening, but listening is not enough at this point. We do not want just listening, we want actions too.
- n. VP Lock: I resonate with that line of reasoning because I do not understand how it can be argued that it does not affect his work environment. As you have noted, there are people in his classes who he ostensibly holds prejudices towards, and I do not see how it is possible to refute that. Thank you for bringing that up.
- o. O'Neill: I would be amiss to have participated in protests and walkouts. I would like to extend myself if the next action item is writing a resolution both to you and this body. You can find my contact information on the ASUM website.
- p. VP Lock: I think the protest organized by Mia McKinney and President Durnell was pretty successful to drawing attention to the controversy with Rob Smith, and if that is something that interests this group, I am sure that is an effort ASUM would be happy to participate in.
- q. Jolly: Thank you all for being here. I am not familiar with Clayton, so I am wondering what department he is in?
- r. Hill: The business school. Keep in mind, he is very egotistical. He really likes to boast his status as an "esteemed" professor.
- s. Williams: Thank you for coming to talk to us today. I share your concerns and feel a lot of frustration that we do not have a lot of jurisdiction as the student Senate to control who is hired and fired. Over winter break, especially after the Rob Smith fallout, I was trying to think of creative ways we could have an influence on this. This is something I wish I had more time and energy to dedicate to, but I am sharing this in case someone else wants to pick up the baton. I think a great place to start looking is the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Another person I wanted to reach out to is Marcy Briggs from HR to look at hiring and evaluation procedures for professors. I was inspired by Senator Kiefer's resolution last semester to incorporate a minimum number of DEI questions in our interview process, and I do not know if it is possible, but it would be nice to explore if there can be safeguards implemented into the

hiring process. I do not have the capacity to continue with what I started looking into, but I wanted to share that idea.

- t. Hill: To speak to the white women in the room- I think sometimes you guys underestimate how powerful your voices are. This world does not move without white women's voices. Just speaking about it brings about change. I encourage you all to use it for good. I am a black woman, and they will listen to you guys before they listen to me, even if the change does not come right away, they will listen. Have the necessary conversations and spread the word. Allowing this on campus sends a message to other racist people that this is a safe place, and they have power as Clayton does. I encourage everyone to do the right thing. Speak up, do something, bring change. If you just sit by and listen, you are part of the problem.
- u. McKenzie: Thank you for your words, you speaking out is very powerful as well. Going off of what Senator Williams was saying about the interview process and holding people accountable, I have personally served on faculty evaluation committee, and I do understand what goes on in those meetings. I think it would be wise to try and impact and change the way those evaluation meetings go to make sure we are holding professors accountable, regardless of if they are up for tenure at that time or not. If you have any input on what that should look like, please let me know.
- v. Bowles: I was going to say something similar to Senator McKenzie about how powerful student voices can be, because I think that is what pushed Rob over the edge. What people tend to forget is that there are 10,000 students and not that many faculty, so I encourage anyone who knows of someone in Clayton's class, they should report any of that behavior as well.
- w. Hill: How does that matter if he is racist to black people? He has an issue specifically with these people, and the school is majority white, so these people writing these reviews, what change would this bring about if there is nothing happening to the white people in the room? I get what you are saying.
- x. Bowles: It allows us to take action against him in a more substantial ways in terms of this affecting the workplace. I was talking to Kelly Webster today and she said that their solution to this would be to force him to do a DEI training. I think that was their only solution which frustrated me as well, so I will email you after this.
- y. Hill: That training does nothing, especially regarding race because it is such a deep rooted issue. A little DEI training solves absolutely nothing because I can assure you that if one of you called me a slur and I went to Alicia Arant to report it, and I had substantial proof, you all would be in trouble. These other leaders should be held to the same standard.

- z. VP Lock: On behalf of the Senate, thank you very much for bringing this to our attention. If there is any other way to follow up, I look forward to collaborating. I think everyone here feels passionately.
- aa. Hill: I would hate for something very serious to happen on campus to one of my black friends and have UM release a statement apologizing and saying they did not know what was happening, because their actions do not reflect those apologies.
- b. Mia McKinney: Thank you Ajaycia for all of your work, your work is invaluable. The KPAX article came out in October 2021. That is when Rob Smith was also happening and Rob Smith is not the first or the last racist, homophobic, privileged white male professor at this school. It is vital that we do not pick and choose when to respond to injustice at the university. We need to interrupt systems of inequality and act. In this case, racism, stereotyping verbal aggressions and power dynamics that Clayton holds as a white, rich man at this university. Whatever it be, we have to tear it apart, oppose it, and not let it go unchecked. I urge all of you and student leaders across the board to stand up against this and act because it has been watered down by the university and the media. If the university wants to try and fight against an injustice, then they have to do it.
- c. Monica Davis: To go off what was said- the university needs to do better, for people who are not in Clayton's classes as well. There is a lot of hypocrisy in what is said to students versus the actions being taken.

Online Public Comment

Terydon Hall

Terydon.hall@umconnect.umt.edu

Hello, Every other gym in Missoula is allowing for the use of the Sauna. The rec center is not letting people use the sauna.

Bekah Redinger

Rebekah.redinger@umontana.edu

How can anyone learn holistically in a hostile environment? Continuing to employ racist, anti-Black, and Islamophobic professors ensures that UM students will have to sacrifice their personal safety for the sake of a diploma. Again and again, UM fails to support students of the Global Majority in classrooms. Rob Smith resigned - he was not fired. UM had the opportunity to make real change, and instead put it onto the shoulders of students. This time, the University needs to step up and do more to ensure safety for students.

Ethan Hanley

Ethan.hanley@umconnect.umt.edu

Good evening Senate, I hope you all are doing well and ready for the budgeting process to begin. I am submitting public comment to you all for two reasons. First, in accordance with Article IV, 1 (1)(a)(i) and Article VII, Section 4 (1)(a) of the ASUM constitution, I am announcing that there will be 21 Senate seats up for the 2022 election. The ASUM constitution requires a proportional apportionment of Senate seats based on the University's enrollment in the Fall semester. The University of Montana Data Office reported an enrollment of 10,106 students which equates to 21 senate seats on the ballot for this year's election. Second, there is an issue I am seeking your help in clarifying for future elections. Article X, Section 2 and Article XI, Section 4 state that a constitutional referenda and initiative must receive a 12% voter turnout in order to officially "pass" the student body. During last year's election, the total turnout for the election surpassed 12% but some individual items on the ballot did not receive a vote from 12% of the student body. The elections committee ruled that those items passed because the overall elections turnout surpassed 12%. The constitution is unclear about this as you could very easily interpret that each individual item must surpass 12% in order to pass. What I am asking of you all is to draft a constitutional amendment to go on the ballot to clarify this in one of two ways: 1.) That each referenda/initiative must get 12% voter turnout, or 2.) That the election the referenda is in receives a 12% voter turnout. I am available to talk about any of the issues presented in this public comment. My office hours have been set for Mondays and Wednesdays from Noon to 2 and you can contact me via my email or cell at (406)579-8708. Best, Ethan

5. UNION LOBBYING

- a. Student Music Union (*See full lobbying speeches via recording link above.*)
 - i. UM Horn Club
 - ii. American String Teachers Association
 - iii. Keyboard Society
 - iv. UM Collegiate National Association for Music Educators
 - v. UM Opera Theater
 - vi. Tuba and Euphonium Consort
 - vii. Ververis: Can you outline the union's top three priorities?
 - 1. Martin: We prioritize our student groups, but our top priorities are to get our students involved again because the past two years have not been good for live practices and performances.
 - 2. Ververis: Can you outline your major funding priorities from your budget?

3. Martin: Traveling, including international travel. Our second priority is to bring in guest artists. Third, we print so many flyers, so that is our third priority.
- b. Sports Club Union Lobbying (*See full lobbying speeches via recording link above.*)
 - i. Spikeball Club
 - ii. Women's Ultimate Frisbee Team
 - iii. Women's Rugby Club
 - iv. UM Hurling Club
 - v. UM Hockey Club
 - vi. SmokeJump
 - vii. Club Baseball
 - viii. Secretary: Since we are not asking for travel fees the normal way, we are doing it within our budget, and we really appreciate all the money that we can get as travel expenses increase. We try to involve a lot of people on campus.
 - ix. Williams: What is the rationale behind moving your travel requests into your regular budget?
 1. POI (President Durnell): All unions can only request travel within their budgets.
 - x. Ververis: Can you outline the unions top three priorities?
 1. Secretary: Travel, equipment, and outreach to promote our clubs.
 2. President Durnell: I appreciate you talking openly about your needs for equipment. I want to make sure you are aware of our STIP account to request that equipment as well.

6. AGENCY LOBBYING

- a. ASUM Bear Necessities Agency (Director Cowley and Student Coordinator Collin Zollinger): Thank you for having us. I want to reiterate that the top priorities for BNA is always staff and maintaining the food pantry. Both of those pieces contribute to our three ways of support, direct support, education, and advocacy. So far this semester along with contributing to student food supply through the pantry, I have assisted students with case management, SNAP, rent advice, scholarship discussions, lack of parental support, and folks who needed to adjust their class schedule and lost their advisor. Sometimes those appointments are repeated each week, and I am so appreciative that I am able to help these students. As Hillary leaves at the end of July, we will be left with some huge shoes to fill. We should be able to hire a $\frac{3}{4}$ time staff person to take over some of that work. That position is vital to our continued growth and support of our services. Our food pantry is very important after staffing.
 - a. Zollinger: The mission of the pantry is to support students through food assistance services. In 2021 the food pantry got 11,085 visits compared to 715 in 2020. I talk to students about questions they have in applying to SNAP and to those using food assistance resources to help break the stigma. I work on our social media, prepare for events, stocking our shelves, prepare and manage events, and more. The coordinator position needs more support to focus on our mission of

helping students directly. We are asking for an allocation large enough to have a $\frac{3}{4}$ staff member to take up some of those coordinator tasks so the coordinate can focus on supporting students more directly. An additional staff member is absolutely needed for us to successfully work and achieve our mission. It has never been more important for us to be here and running at full capacity.

- b. Cowley: One of the main reasons the food pantry budget is so expensive is because we spend money stocking because we know donations are not necessarily stable. We know we can expect huge waves of donations at other times, and we are grateful for these drives, but we are committed to maintaining stability through purchased food. To touch on the revenue listed in the group basics section- the revenue sources listed are likely to change over the next year. That revenue line is very much dependent on having an additional staff person because we receive grant funding. It is a lot and I need help to make it happen. That \$25,00 in revenue through grants is likely to drop without that staffing position. I am hiring a practicum student for the fall that can help support.
 - c. O'Neill: I am curious since the largest expense is stocking the pantry, how much annually do you all bring in with food recovery and salvaging?
 - d. Zollinger: We recently partnered with WinCo and are doing that in addition with the Missoula food pantry, and they have donated 2,057 pounds of food but that fluctuates a lot.
 - e. Cowley: It also very much depends on having a person who can go to WinCo and pick up that food. We also work with the peace farm and are expanding that partnership.
 - f. Kuney: On the line item for equipment, can you expand on those items?
 - g. Cowley: Those relate to the food pantry and neighborhood ambassador program.
- b. ASUM Legal Services (Lou Villemez): My office provides an amazing service to students because almost any legal needs a student has, they can get from us. As you might imagine, good and strange cases come in and I get my job satisfaction from lifting the stress from a student who does not know what is going to happen next. The unknown is super stressful, and they come in stressed out and they leave having checked some boxes and having a plan to deal with other stresses. We do get great results in my office. We have obtained child support for a student, unemployment compensation, compensation from a car dealership, security deposits back, and much more. I also try to get the word out because a lot of students do not know we exist. I started in house counsel for ASUM to provide legal services to agencies and the student government. My office serves with a student resolutions officer. I make some tweaks in the budget each year. I made a decision to make legal advice completely free for all students. I did some research, and I am proud to say that we have been in existence for about 47 years, and this is the first time legal advice has been free, though that has some budget consequences. We are bringing in attorney fee awards from the cases and we bring that

in more often because we give that free legal advice. We are charging fees for higher levels of service, but not for advice. We are fortunate to have a number of years of experience in Montana between us, and we are much more efficient in providing services. We have streamlined the process and are able to provide more services over fewer hours. My office is now completely digital. We provide many services by Zoom as well. I have made tweaks to the budget and this year I reduced some of the attorneys' hours because we consistently do not use all of them. This year I decided that we need to bring up the level of pay for everyone in the office and those wages were raised this year and we are offset by reducing the number of hours specifically in the budget. It is still a great place to work and that is the goal, to retain great people with higher wages.

- a. O'Neill: Thank you for all of your work. Are you raising wages to the \$12.00 an hour or are you going above that?
 - b. Villemez: The goal is \$12.00 an hour but I am not supposed to put a certain amount of hours for my student positions.
 - c. President Durnell: The goal is \$12.00 an hour but we did have to reduce to 11.00 an hour to make a raise possible. I do not think our discretionary includes enough to make that possible for all positions.
- c. ASUM Childcare (Vicki Olson): I have been with the program for about sixteen years and have been the director for five years. We do have five classrooms, 2 preschool 2 toddler and an infant classroom. Each classroom has a lead teacher and an assistant, with the infant class having 2 assistants. We are nationally accredited and have been for about 15 years. We just received a star level for the stars for quality program. We are looking for a star five next summer. We also participate in a food program that provides reimbursements for about half of our food costs, and they provide trainings and review our menus, so we continue to provide nutritious meals. We are also licensed by MT. We have two psych coordinators, five lead teachers, six assistant teachers, and approximately 40 college students that work for us. The majority of our budget is payroll. Most childcare programs in MT do not provide health insurance and benefits, but we provide that for our employees. We are not able to lobby like we normally have in the past, so I asked parents to write letters of support. A few specifics about our budget- very similar to last year but we did bump up student wages to \$11.00 an hour. We work on keeping our overtime costs down and we have received over \$51,000 in COVID grant money and I found out today we are conditionally recognized for a \$418,000 childcare stabilization grant. The basis of it is to try and stabilize the childcare market because in the last year 171 childcare programs in MT closed. Parking- keeping one reserved spot for assessors. I did not add a fee increase for parents; they have been hit hard enough by the economy lately. The state rate for childcare is higher than ours. Our program has been through a lot, but we are still going strong and continue to provide the best quality and care for the children of UM students faculty and staff. It is really hard to know what actually happens in a childcare program if you have not been there, but there is way more that goes on. The care is the foundation, but we provide quality care, love, support and teach social and problem solving skills and much more. Studies have shown that children who attend a quality childcare education program have less issues with law, crime, drug abuse, and are more likely to attend college and get higher paying jobs. We provide about 60% of our spots for student's children and the rest goes to faculty and staff. In some of those letters the parents commented that they

could not do their work or schooling if their children were not in a safe and caring environment.

- a. Northey: The state of Montana is distributing funding to similar programs so I would be on the lookout for that in the coming months.
 - b. Olson: We did receive for childcare providers an application for a stipend of \$6,000 they can get in May and get another \$1,000 if they are still in the program by December.
 - c. BM Rinck: Childcare feels distant sometimes from ASUM because you are located outside of the office, but I feel immense solace in what you all do for the kids, so I appreciate you and thank you.
 - d. President Durnell: Please read the letters sent over through the email chain. It puts a lot of perspective and meaning to these numbers.
 - e. Ververis: On the \$418,000 grant you said you received, when are those funds going to be distributed?
 - f. Olson: I am not sure of the exact dates, but they will be distributed quarterly over the next year. I am not sure how quickly that will happen.
- d. ASUM Sustainability (Statement Written by Eva Rocke and Presented by BM Rinck): ASUM has been a progressive leader when it comes to sustainability at UM since 2003 when the sustainability fee was established and our first ASUM Sustainability Coordinator was hired. This ASUM sustainability position was created even before a full-time professional position in the Office of Sustainability was established, in case we need concrete evidence of that leadership. The sustainability coordinator's role has changed over the years somewhat, but one thing remains the same: the ASUM Sustainability Center exists to offer a direct bridge for students who want to impact campus sustainability with opportunities to do so in meaningful ways. This position and office continue to oversee the Kless Sustainability Fund that supports student sustainability projects. It also houses interns and supports student projects that come from a variety of disciplines on campus. The fact that ASUM continues to support its own sustainability office is concrete, tangible evidence that sustainability remains in the hearts and minds of UM students and is a priority. The ASUM Sustainability budget supports these education and engagement activities. Earth Week events (April), Sustainability Month (October), and the Commuter Challenge (Feb) are all events designed and led by the Sustainability Center. This role also works closely with UM Housing to integrate sustainability programming into the residence halls and acts as the mentor for students who are designing and submitting Kless projects. The sustainability coordinator also supports the ASUM garden, a large garden space behind Lewis & Clark Apartments that has been a partnership between ASUM and Garden City Harvest for over a decade. For the 2021 growing season, 17% of the gardeners were students and 43% were alumni, accounting for 60% of the people who garden in that space. Students receive free access to the educational workshops, a subsidized rate on garden plots, and a number of student groups have used the garden for tours and events. The last 3 garden managers have been UM graduates, giving the garden a long history of

supporting student life through accessible food production. I hope this provides you with a snapshot of the value of the ASUM sustainability center and its coordinator. As the other sustainability professional at UM, I can't emphasize enough how valuable they are to me and to helping UM reach its goals. I wish I could be there in person this evening to support this process and answer questions, but please don't hesitate to reach out if I can respond to questions after the meeting. Thank you for considering the ASUM Sustainability Center budget and for supporting sustainability leadership at UM.

e. ASUM Administration (President Durnell): The admin budget encompasses the core of what ASUM provides in the office, including the executive wages, office manager, and some of our student employees. This also includes retreat fees, travel to the legislative session, and other committee expenses for operating budgets, office equipment and program expenses. Last year the budget for admin was prepared knowing what we knew about the world with COVID in mind. We were not really traveling and did not have as many positions and paid at a lower rate. We added a budget for meeting room tech because it is now at an additional cost, and I proposed wage increases to every agency budget for \$11.00 an hour in the executive recommendation. The biggest change to this budget is that the accountant position is fully funded through the admin budget. Marlene was paid with half of the budget from ASUM admin and half from a contingency account, but now the current position has to be funded fully through the admin budget. Program expenses include business cards, nametags, etc. and we reduced that. What is not accounted for here but is a possibility is an operating budget from M&O.

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- a. *Find the written portion of the President's Report [here](#).*
- b. Strategic Enrollment Planning Committee: Reviewed more action plans and today's theme surrounded enrollment regarding DEI and minority populations and we had to shift perspectives. Everyone was jumping right into the numbers, and I pointed out how we needed to shift our perspective and define success in a way that is not all about finances and that still does save money. We discussed a graduate enrollment position, creating a bias reporting system simultaneously or proactively to a Title IV reporting system which takes time, but I thought this was one of the most interesting action plans today. Another clarified how to apply to UM on the website and students click on multiple links and not get to the application, and then they do not access the site again, so the plan focused on fixing that and making it clear and adding data analytics to see what they may be interested in.
 - a. Kunej: Who chairs that committee?
 - b. President Durnell: Mary Kreta and Brad Goan in Strategic Planning Implementation and Enrollment.
- c. Other

- a. Regarding public comment today- email me if you have questions. I spoke with Ajaycia and talked through some of those issues and the entire system. The reporting is wild, and the CBA protects tenured faculty from a lot of things harming students which is evidenced by this entire year. Review the CBA, look at what the next three years look like before the CBA is up again. I am speaking with Alicia Arant in Title IV about how the CBA interferes with her ability to provide an equitable environment. A lot of these conversations are connected. The publicity from previous rallies and resolutions can be very effective please reach out to the commenter. It is seriously impressive how much work went into that comment, and we must demonstrate our care and thought continuously. I see this as at least three years of work to amend the CBA and I implore our Equitable Education Committee to reconvene and continue discussing this.

8. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- a. Committee Assignments
 - a. Motion by **O'Neill-Birdinground** to appoint Senator Northey to RA; UC Called
 - b. President Durnell: If you are interested in learning more about university committees, please reach out.
 - c. Birdinground: I am not questioning your ability [Senator Curry] to serve as vice chair of Interview, but I would rather see someone who has served on the committee be vice chair instead of a new senator.
 - d. VP Lock: I am not of the opinion that the vice chair position of any committee is beyond the faculties of anyone in this room
 - e. Kiefer: I think Interview is a pretty easy gig, so I do appreciate the current assignment.
 - f. Williams: I would love to see another senator on ASCRC. This is the final committee before the general education proposal goes to Faculty Senate, so it is essentially our last stop to give student input.
 - g. McKenzie: I want to make a statement about appointing vice chairs that are new. I was appointed as a chair that was new and I asked for help and reached out to a lot of people, so if you are new, we are here to support you and there is no reason why someone should not chair or vice chair if they are new.
 - h. President Durnell: If you are on a comm as a senator and you see a vice chair or chair position open, it is essential to have a meeting with the Vice President to talk through it. Everyone in this room is capable of being a chair or vice chair of a committee, so it is important to have those conversations.
 - i. Salyards: Did you appoint Senator Northey on RA?
 - j. VP Lock: Yes, and there will be an additional committee spot open.

- k. Motion by **O'Neill-Bowles** to appoint Senator Salyards to RA (Senator Northey will be appointed at a later date)
 - l. President Durnell: Take a look at the committee spreadsheet so we can ensure clarity of the current committee seat status.
 - m. Motion by **BM Rinck-O'Neill** to approve committee assignments; UC Called
- b. Other
- a. None.

9. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Zero Base Carryover: \$266,858.56
S.T.I.P.: \$247,587.21
Special Allocation: \$19,359.04
Travel Allocation: \$48,317.92
Research & Creative Scholarship: \$9,938.24
Contingency Fund: \$60,032.16
Union Emergency: \$6,000.00

- a. Member Organization Recognition
 - a. Tabletop Society- Student Interest
 - b. China Table- Student Interest
 - i. Motion by **Ververis-Kuney** to approve Tabletop Society and China Table; UC Called
- b. SB86-21/22: Resolution Authorizing a Transfer from MST009 to MST001
 - a. Authorship (President Durnell): This transfer indicates something happening in our budgeting process. Last year the budget followed the year of going into lockdown, and student group activity ceased. We had a lot of funds roll back into accounts and we had so much extra to go off of. We decided to put that into Zero Base with the intention of parceling that out over future years because we know COVID will continue providing challenges in the future years. We are proposing to draw out \$26,000 of that \$85,000 initial transfer because we funded student groups so much last year and we do not want to reduce them severely in their budget in comparison to the last. That number is included in our exec recommendations, so I encourage you to vote yes. If you vote against this transfer, you will have to go back into executive recommendation with a negative \$13,000 balance and will have to make cuts to member organizations and primarily agencies.
 - b. Ververis: To President Durnell- Your executive recommendation is inclusive of this \$26,000 being deposited?
 - c. President Durnell: Yes, it includes the notion that this was approved for the discretionary.
 - d. Heaton: To President Durnell- I am curious how you decided on \$26,000?

- e. President Durnell: The way our budget operates is that there is a certain number of minimum quantities that have to go toward certain categories. 5% has to be reserved for senate discretionary, \$6 per full time student and \$3 per part time students has to go to member organizations. That left us a minimal amount to fund agencies and that \$26,000 covers the bare minimum that we needed to keep funds above water for those, and that left some room to go to the senate discretionary which we thought was appropriate to prevent drastic cuts to member organization budgets. If we go too far below \$26,000, we will have to make cuts in the budget toward agencies specifically.
- f. Motion by **Ververis** to amend L15 year; Ruled Friendly by Author.
- g. **SB86-21/22 Passed Unanimously.**
 - i. See the approved resolution [here](#).
- c. Final Budgeting Updates: We are here tomorrow at 6:00 pm for category allocation. I suggest you read 9.13 of Fiscal Policy to help prepare. If you are not going to be there, I highly suggest you let me know extremely soon because you are automatically up for impeachment if you are unexcused. Tomorrow we will also confirm category board assignments and next week is lobbying. What board you are on will dictate when you will listen to student group lobbying. If you are thinking about making changes to the executive recommendations, I would love if you approach me about it so we can do it correctly. We confirm union and agency budgets tomorrow so that will be your last chance to amend those.
 - a. Hawthorne: What is the dress code for category allocation?
 - b. BM Rinck: I recommend a dress code of pajama wear.
 - c. Ververis: Where are board assignments?
 - d. BM Rinck: They are confirmed after category allocation, but they are in Box right now and will likely not change much.
- d. Birthdays
 - a. Secretary Berna 😊
- e. Other
 - a. None.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Senator Bowles Relations and Affairs

The Relations and Affairs committee met on Sunday, February 13th 2022 to discuss three resolutions: Resolution Expanding Committee Seats, Resolution Removing the Sustainability Board from the Bylaws, Resolution Striking Article V Section 8 of the ASUM Bylaws. The first resolution went through discussion about the question: why just these committees? Points were raised that if we are going to update the committee members parts of our bylaws, then perhaps we should also be updating the student

political action committee. The author was not present so members who raised these questions said they would ask once more at the Senate meeting. It went through substantial line level edits and amendments before being forwarded to the Senate. The second resolution went through minimal discussion but a medium amount of line level edits before being forwarded. And the last resolution went through minimal line level edits before being forwarded.

- a. McKenzie (SPA): Met Friday and had Kat Cowley and the new MontPIRG campus organizer in attendance. We discussed improving mental health on campus and some of the ideas we all have for possible resolutions. We discussed coming up for questions for Mayor Engen and discussed ideas for continuing to address the housing crisis. A lot of things were focused on improving mental health including resolution ideas like taking the Curry budget and implementing a student fee of around \$12.00 so we can improve the services for mental health through the Curry Health Center and add two additional counselors. There have been a lot of conversations with Dr Jeff Adams and those conversations were going well but yesterday it took a turn...
 - a. Hawthorne: Jeff was for the student fee for SARC and Sarah Swager called me yesterday afternoon and told us to slow down and that it would not work this semester with BOR coming up and other red tape. She wanted me to stress that she is not trying to put it on the backburner but that there is a lot for us to do before then. I do not feel comfortable moving forward quickly and leaving the admin in chaos so we can go forward with it in the Fall.
 - b. VP Lock: Were you satisfied with Sarah's reasoning for the delay?
 - c. Hawthorne: Is it my favorite? No. Do I get it? Yes. Jen and Jeff have not been in great contact about it. I am frustrated with it but I get why.
 - d. VP Lock: I am frustrated too, and I do not think it is a particularly new conversation either. I think mental health services for students is not the kind of thing you can put off because it is essentially a life or death investment. If you need additional conversations, I would be happy to help.
 - e. McKenzie: In this discussion we decided to have an emergency meeting on Friday which will still happen so we can talk about this and other things.
 - f. Ververis: To Hawthorne- Did Sarah Swager give any specific reasoning about the logistical issues?
 - g. Hawthorne: I will email her tomorrow to see what she has to say.
 - h. Ververis: I am very weary of admin talking about these possible logistical issues and not giving reasoning. I do not think they are taking student Senate very seriously, though that is nothing on you, and I am offering my help if you need anything. I am tired of admin dismissing student's valid concerns, especially for student mental health.
 - i. VP Lock: I have little patience for the "we will do it later" argument because there is a lack of continuity as people graduate and positions change. I think

that is employed strategically at times to slow down student efforts and we have to make sure the reason to wait is a good one.

- j. President Durnell: As far as specific initiatives, I still want to voice that it does not have to be a fee proposal to speak to the regents, but we can just speak to them about student concerns. Compiling all of your thoughts we can provide a cabinet presentation to the admin as well. Mental health issues have been put off the most despite continuous student support and I want to offer my support. If you are preparing data or research or anything, feel free to keep me in the loop and I can connect you to admin. I encourage you all to attend the regent meeting in March. Hope is not lost just because we cannot yet write a resolution for a fee, but there are a lot of ways to continue this discussion.
- k. O'Neill: This is in line with the Executive's campaign promises. To Durnell- Since this was part of your campaign agenda, even if admin is going to attempt to push this down the road, would it be a potential route forward to write the resolution, put it on the ballot, and see what the student body thinks of it?
- l. President Durnell: I think so, there is no harm in testing the temperature of the student body. If there are continuous demonstrations of student support it strengthens our point. We have had a conversation about each of our campaign points and mental health is prioritized in our strategic plan this semester, so I really thank you for all of your support.
- m. POI (BM Rinck): In terms of fee or non-fee years, that's why I took issue of the definition change for a student driven fee, which we cannot do off biennium.
- n. O'Neill: With that context, I encourage Senator Hawthorne to introduce the resolution tonight.
- o. Bell: I think we need to be very careful to not act like Curry is eating up SARC funding because SARC deserves everything they get. I think we should use this resolution to prioritize mental health services and move this along as fast as possible to show that we care about this issue and do not have to wait for administration as always.
- p. Curry: To McKenzie- Are the potential additional counselors going to be affiliated with Curry or SARC?
- q. McKenzie: With Curry, and I want to make it clear that I fully support SARC as well. Taking the funding leftover due to funding SARC independently would allow them to fund more affordable services for counseling.
- r. Curry: If you all ever need an individual representative, I am usually there for SARC admin meetings.

- s. Salyards: To President Durnell- You mentioned when talking about your campaign that the part about mental health does not seem to resonate with admin. This is speculation, but do you know why that may be>
- t. President Durnell: Two parts, one is financial constraint, which I do understand because the regents have not made that any easier. They provided a number of justifications as to why Curry did not receive the CARES act funding, some of which I agree with and others I starkly disagree with. Some of the momentum stopped because other programs for mental health were announced and while I think those are great, Curry is still underfunded and there is not great representation among the therapists.
- b. Williams (M&O): We had a discussion with Kelly Armington from UC Marketing about updating our out of date website and she brought up many great ideas about updating Cascade, including making the navigation more accessible. We also talked about giving committees their own GrizHub account and linking that into the website so committees can update their own information. We hired a new Marketing and Outreach Coordinator- Teddy Jumpp and I think we got an awesome hire and I am excited to work with them. Tabling next week Wednesday is 11:00-2:00 pm.
 - a. Hawes: We are making the website date neutral, so we do not have to constantly update as well.
- c. Ververis (Gen Ed Ad Hoc): We finalized a draft model that involves UM experience and pathways and will incorporate all of those requirements previously in gen ed and allows for you to get a certain number of credits in each pathway and get a certificate at the end. We discussed some of the sticking points from the committee and I want to advise you of the points I put forward- inclusion of a foreign language requirement, which I am against, lack of a true DEI related course in our core and renaming the UM experience and pathways titles. We will have a meeting in March to talk about the model here and I encourage you all to bring forward ideas about gen ed and you may want to talk to your faculty mentors as our committee goes through the variable units.
- d. Jolly (University Budget Committee): VP Lasiter presented and spoke about having the dean of each college present what they thought their budget would be, which made things easier to predict, and they were pretty accurate in terms of actual allocation.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. SB81-21/22: Resolution Amending Section 14.3 of ASUM Fiscal Policy to Add Rental Vehicles and Rental Vehicle Requirements
 - a. Authorship (Birdinground): The day after we adjourned BM Rinck, Gwen and I discussed this bill and talked about some of the issues that came up such as the rate. We were in conversation about it and saw that adding a rate does not

- make sense here and I do not see the necessity behind over or underfunding based on vehicles.
- b. Motion by **BM Rinck** to add a period in L41 and the language “In the case of unexpected increases to the quoted amount, the Member Organization may seek additional funding from the Board.” and strike “and may be refunded to the board”; Ruled Friendly by Author
 - c. O’Neill: I am excited to see this back and I commend the author for being receptive to feedback from this body. I am excited to vote yes on this tonight.
 - d. BM Rinck: I think there was a good point about there being a rate in the rate section but there should not be a rate here. In discussion with our office manager, this is also where motor pool existed, and it did not have a rate. I am happy with this language.
 - e. Williams To Birdinground- Is there any reason it is not phrased similarly to 14.3.2 by taking out the hyphen?
 - f. Motion by **Williams** to strike hyphen and “may be funded”; Ruled Friendly by Author
 - g. ***SB81-21/22 Passed 20Y-0N-3A.***
 - i. *See the approved resolution [here](#).*
- b. **SB83-21/22: Resolution Striking Article V, Section 8 of the ASUM Bylaws**
 - a. Authorship (Ververis): We wrote this resolution because we had changed it so that special elections is under section 3, and we missed cutting section 8. This is to remove dilatory language.
 - b. ***SB83-21/22 Passed Unanimously.***
 - i. *See the approved resolution [here](#).*
 - c. **SB84-21/22: Resolution Removing the Sustainability Board from the Bylaws**
 - a. Authorship (VP Lock): If nobody wants to chair a committee that is a good indication it does not belong in our documents. I encourage the Senate to vote yes.
 - b. ***SB84-21/22 Passed 17Y-0N-6A.***
 - i. *See the approved resolution [here](#).*
 - d. **SB85-21/22: Resolution Expanding Committee Seats**
 - a. Authorship (VP Lock): When we redid the Bylaws, we cut a number of committees and did not consider there would be less seats for senators to fill. We now have a full Senate and not enough committee seats. I was going to go through and double check how many committee seats were available total and see if that was equal to 42 so everyone can have 2 committees, but I think a better approach is to expand a few committees that are highly active and have senators serving across these committees. To be fully transparent, I thought before about getting rid of committee caps entirely, but that is a later

discussion. It is never a bad thing that if student volunteers their time, they should be able to do it in a way that is fulfilling to them.

- b. Motion by **O’Neill-Hawthorne** to strike L51-56;
 - i. O’Neill: I believe that Article 6 (1)(1) of the ASUM Constitution outlines the number of Senator that can be seated on BOMO as well, and it would require referenda for us to change this because the language is in the constitution.
 - ii. Williams: Why is BOMO specified in the Constitution?
 - iii. POI (BM Rinck): The document outlines our interactions with student groups.
 - iv. Motion approved unanimously.
- c. Motion by **Ververis-Williams** to strike L31-36; UC Called
- d. Ververis: To VP Lock- Why did you pick these committees specifically to expand?
- e. VP Lock: I do not see why it would hurt to have as many people as possible on MO and that is the similar case with RA, and it is a good opportunity for senators to orient themselves around the organization. For B&F I can see why having a limited amount of people makes sense.
- f. Ververis: I was wondering more why not other committees outside of what is outlined?
- g. VP Lock: I would be open to expanding more committees down the line, I just do not want to overshoot.
- h. Bowles: RA is almost filled to these changes even.
- i. ***SB85-21/22 Passed Unanimously.***
 - i. *See the approved resolution [here](#).*

12. NEW BUSINESS

- a. President Durnell: Resolution Adding Bear Necessities Agency to Personnel Policy; to RA
 - a. Description: Inclusion of language according to Director Cowley.
- b. President Durnell: Resolution increasing Non-Academic Month Hours for Executives; to RA
 - a. Description: During academic months the hours are capped at what students can work and it is striated during non-academic months but the executives do similar amounts of work over the summer, so I want to make sure to raise those and demonstrate that there is no need for the president to work more hours than other executives.
- c. Heaton: Resolution Establishing an Anti-Racism Statement on the ASUM Website; to DEI and RA

- a. Description: First step of many actions to making ASUM a devotedly anti-racist organization.
- d. Bell: Resolution Calling for the Removal of the University Area Parking District; to RA
- e. Bell: Resolution Generally Revising the Code of Ethics; to RA
- f. O'Neill: Resolution Urging the University of Montana's Office of Equal Opportunity and title IX to Reopen an Investigation into Clayton Looney and Calling for the Immediate Resignation of Clayton Looney; to RA

13. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Motion to Adjourn by **Birdinground-Kuney**; UC Called; Objection Noted by Gudmundsson
- b. Meeting Adjourned at 9:34 pm