July 7, 1975

Dear Friends,

Greetings to all from the hotbed of Montana Radicalism!! I trust this letter finds you in good health and good company! Since so many things have been happening in ASUM, I thought this interim report of our activities would be helpful in keeping you abreast of the situation. Some Central Board members were able to attend an informal information session July 1 at which some of this report was given.

Health Service Proposed Fee Increase

As you remember, originally we feared a $5 or $6 fee increase due mainly to the state reclassification plan for non-academic employees and inflation. Student agreement isn't necessary for the increase to take effect, but since the Health Service is totally student supported and funded, I believe any alternative proposals would have met with a favorable eye by the Regents. After considerable discussion with Dr. Curry, he and I have agreed that a $2 per quarter fee increase is all that is now necessary to maintain the quality of the Health Service for the upcoming year. Although Central Board will not take any official action on the proposal increase, several items are important to note. First, there will be no increases in the cost of services (such as PAP smears, shots, specialists, etc.) this year. Second, we expect a $10,000 surplus in the Health Service budget at the end of fiscal year 1975-76. Third, I predict university enrollment to be higher next year than the administration is expecting, this will create additional revenue if I'm correct. Fourth, during the month between the end of summer and the beginning of Fall quarters, even the Health Service is "closed" and no income is coming in, the football team receives benefit of a full-time physician, if necessary, plus physical check-ups. I believe that it's only fair to the regular student that the Athletic Department pay for any Health Services it receives over the benefits athletes pay for as students.

What these four points mean from my perspective is that another Health Service Fee increase should not be necessary for at least two years, unless conditions change dramatically. I have written Dr. Curry to that effect.

My reasons for supporting the $2 increase are essentially that by so doing we have "cut the fat" without "cutting the services". Your views on these matters would be appreciated.
Advisory committee on the hiring of the Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs

The Deputy Commissioner will second to the Commissioner, who is the executive arm of the Board of Regents. This person will be working on curricula development system-wide, so we'll all be affected tremendously by whomever is eventually selected. By the end of the summer I will have spent a full two weeks working with the Committee. Incidentally, since the eight of us serving on the Committee (from all parts of the state) were commissioner-appointed, our costs are borne by that office.

Montana Student Collective Bargaining Coordinating Council (MSCBCC)

Recently formed by the nine University-system student governments, the MSCBCC is applying for a $20,000 grant. Kevin Lombardozzi from Bozeman, Brian O'Grady, and I have all been working, trying to complete the written draft so that we can send it to a foundation and hopefully be funded. Since we're now in the fourth draft, we expect to be done by August 1. Even then, I was recently told, we have less than a 20% chance for funding. So our efforts may be for naught.

If the grant is successfully funded, we will hire a full-time state director for the MSCBCC to aid in unit negotiations. Even though UM is not yet bargaining, whatever contracts other units finalize could "whipsaw" and affect future UM contracts. As most of you know, Montana was the first state in the nation to (by law) include students in faculty negotiations. One of the strong points of the grant proposal is that what happens in Montana could dramatically affect both university collective bargaining and the governance structure of higher education.

Womens Studies

When the Faculty Senate passed the Womens Studies Proposal by a wide margin, most of us thought the issue was closed: There'd be a Womens Studies Program next year. Unfortunately we're having to lobby certain administrators in an effort to get the program instituted. I've been working with members of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, the Dean's Advisory Committee (of the College of Arts and Sciences), the authors of the Womens Studies Proposal, the Faculty Policy Committee, Central Board members, and other interested students. The issue is as yet unresolved.

Low Tuition Statement

In another effort to unify the faculty and students behind common goals, the Missoula affiliates of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the Montana Education Association (MEA), and Central Board of the Associated Students of the University of Montana issued a joint statement supporting low tuition and asking administrators and Regents to consider our position. The final draft was contextually identical to the draft Central Board passed at a May meeting.
The real benefits of the statement are not for the political advantages students obtain with the Regents, but rather in getting important faculty representatives to publicly back such a stand. I think we can count on their support should we try to reduce our fees.

University Budget

In recent meetings with President Bowers, he has indicated his intent to make up a projected $400,000 deficit in fiscal year 1976-77 by cutting some programs altogether. Apparently, he feels that the University can no longer make 5% or 10% cutbacks, but that rather we must start choosing which programs we want to do well and guard those. You should write your views to either President Bowers or me on the relative merits of cutting programs entirely vs cutting everyone back. President Bowers intends to report to the Regents July 28 in which direction he intends to proceed.

National Student Congress

There are three or four national student conferences worth attending each year. The National Student Lobby gives considerable assistance to student governments working with state legislators. The conference on Student Legal Rights, to which Bozeman is sending some and where Tom Stockburger got his ideas on Collective Bargaining, promises to be very good this year. I have just tentatively planned to attend the National Student Congress in August. The Congress seems to offer the most for what we need. Some of the topics to be covered include student legal rights, services, governance, student roles in higher education, funding education, PIRG's (which is starting up again this year), Title IX, campus day care, gay student issues, course and teacher evaluations, and collective bargaining. I will give a full report next fall.

There's actually quite a bit more happening in student government this summer, but this newsletter is getting too long. We haven't heard anything yet about the Madison vs Yunker, et al, lawsuit, but it's likely the issue will be appealed to the Montana Supreme Court. It's going to cost a lot of money to defend ourselves. The Student Action Center is moving full-speed on several different programs. The Kaimin is coming out weekly with only minor hitches. The Big Sky Conference closed-meetings issue is still unresolved, though the student Presidents have formally requested that the meetings be opened to the public.

... And the sun is finally shining! Keep in touch.

Peace,

(P.S. John Hockleby

ASUN President

Sometime this summer I'd like to compile a White Paper on Athletics to give the Regents and Administration a philosophical view of what it is students want in athletics. Please send me your ideas; we'll discuss it this fall.)
June, 1975

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