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Documents from the October 8, 1964 meeting of the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM)

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The meeting was called to order by Pres. Bob Liffing at 7:00 p.m. in the Territorial Room. Liffing introduced Dr. Robert Johns, President of MSU, and asked if there were any questions that DB Delegates or the audience would like to ask him.

Liffing: How much has been done in the planning for a new Student Union Building?

Johns: (The following is a prepared statement by Pres. Johns on this subject)

1. We have not requested permission nor funds to build a student union.
2. We have asked for and recieved authority from the Board of Regents to request funds from H&HFA for preliminary planning studies of a student union.
3. Should these funds be granted (and it may be assumed that they will be), a detailed feasibility examination will be made to determine the need for a student union, what should be contained therein, where it should be located, how it should be designed, how it should be financed and when it should be constructed.
4. It is our sincere desire and intent to involve students as far as possible in the development of the aforementioned feasibility study. We will ask them to help to ascertain what should be contained in the building, to help determine if and when the building should be built, and to help designate the extent to which it should be operated and managed by student government. We would also employ the best union design consultants available and the best union program consultants available to work with local architects and University administration to derive the facts necessary to complete such a study.
5. If the facts revealed by this feasibility study show that the construction of a student union is desirable, the determination of whether or not to proceed will be made by the Board of Regents, hopefully on the recommendation of the President of the University.
6. We have no interest or intent to foist any undesirable building project on any group associated with the University.
7. We believe that the final determination should be made on the basis of sound evaluation of the facts presented by the feasibility study. This would therefore preclude a popular vote based on an emotional, political campaign. We do not believe that the procedure followed a few years ago is desirable because the final determination was not made on the basis of fact, but rather as a result of emotional, whirlwind tactics of a limited group of student leaders who took advantage of general misunderstanding and, indeed, student apathy to prevent you from meeting what at that time appeared to be a reasonable need. It should also be pointed out that your vote in effect was to virtually throw away \$10,000 of student money which you had spent making the study. Only through the personal interest and good will of the architects has it been possible to apply this amount to the current project.

(The following questions and answers are not direct quotations.)

Behan: Would you clarify what power Governor Babcock has in this issue?

Johns: The interpretation of his power would be determined by the Attorney General. Since Governor Babcock is chairman of the Board of Regents, he has one vote in case of a tie.

Ross: Who has power to regulate student fees?

Johns: The Board of Regents has this power.

Foley: When will the feasibility study be completed?

Johns: It should take about six months, and if the study indicates that we should go ahead with the plans for the Student Union building, it will probably take four years altogether.

Davis: How much money will the students receive for the purchase of the Lodge?

Johns: We would pick up the unliquidated obligation on the old building. My personal desire is to see that the students be appropriately reimbursed

- for their investment in the building.
- Bowler: How much of the proposed building will be food service? Will it be Student Union food service or University food service?
- Johns: There is the possibility of serving food in the Student Union for adjacent dormitories. In this way, the contract food service could carry the cost for building the kitchen in the Student Union. It is less expensive to carry the cost of a manufacturing kitchen by contract food service.
- Bowler: Would student fees go to pay for the kitchen?
- Johns: No, they would not. We plan to have only two manufacturing kitchens in the long-range plan of the institution. The most expensive overhead in the entire university is the operation of the kitchen.
- Foley: How much of this proposed \$3.5 million would go toward Student Union costs, and how much toward kitchen facilities?
- Johns: I cannot give you a fair answer on that.
- Hibbs: Will any part of this project be put to a student vote?
- Johns: I would recommend against it being put to a vote for the final determination.
- Ross: Would you listen to students' desires in the planning of the building?
- Johns: Paragraph 4 of my prepared statement answers your question.
- Liffring: Assuming that \$3.5 million is the cost of the building, how long would it take to liquidate the bonds on the building?
- Johns: That would depend on the bond rate at the time of the sale and the willingness of the bond firm to extend it over a period of time.
- Behan: Why won't students be able to say that they purchased the building?
- Johns: The students, nor I, have title to it. The Board of Regents holds title to all state property.
- Behan: What firm is doing the feasibility study?
- Johns: We can't appoint a firm until we have obtained the money to contract one. I have several in mind, though, and they are the best in their field.
- Behan: Would these planners listen to the students' recommendations?
- Johns: Any good planner would want the students to be involved in the planning.
- Foley: How would you appoint the members on the proposed student-faculty planning committee?
- Johns: I would ask Central Board to make the appointment of students who would want to serve on this committee. I would hesitate to impose on the faculty for this committee since it takes a great deal of time and I would have to try to lessen their work load some how.
- Bowler: Would it be similar to the subcommittee of the Student Union Council that worked on the planning of the student union several years ago?
- Johns: I am not familiar with that committee.
- Taylor: Has the location for the new building been decided upon?
- Johns: Present campus plans indicate that the best location would be the north side of the quadrangle where the varsity practice field is now located. The plans call for a new library to be adjacent to the student union, and also, any future dormitories that will be built in that area.
- Bowler: Where will Dornblaser be located?
- Johns: It will be constructed at Fort Missoula. Dornblaser Field is the most expensive piece of property on campus since it operates at a loss every year.
- Behan: What is planned for the future of the Clover Bowl?
- Johns: It will remain there for at least twelve more years.
- Behan: The current location of the Sentinel office has caused undue hardships on the staff. Is there any possibility of moving it somewhere on campus?
- Johns: We don't know where it could possibly be moved on campus. This has been studied in great detail, but there is still no solution to the problem, although I agree that it is a bad arrangement.

- Behan: What's being done on the telephone situation?
- Johns: We are presently conducting a detailed and comprehensive study on how the telephone system should be set up, but then we must figure out how it can be done. This whole situation is very bad since it is terribly expensive and the safety factor is very critical, just to name a few of the problems. We want to switch to a central dial system which would enable the students to make calls at any time. If the change is made, Knowles, Miller and the new dorm would be the first to change. Then, the other dorms would change simultaneously to the central system, and after that, the entire university would be included in the change. Each student would pay a telephone bill to be included in his resident fee.
- Behan: What are the plans for the section of University Avenue in front of the Lodge which has recently been closed to traffic?
- Johns: Designers will be here on Oct. 20. The campus plan does not call for the street to be there. Since it did not provide much parking space and was a safety hazard, the unanimous agreement was to close it.
- Ulyatt: What do you plan to do about the parking problem?
- Johns: There is no parking problem. A study which was just completed, shows that there has not been any hour of any day when there hasn't been space for 900 cars.
- Taylor: Would it ever be possible to have the street opened for Parents Day, Homecoming, etc.?
- Johns: There might be a possibility, but I can't give you an honest answer.
- Bowler: Would it still be a safety hazard without the cars parked along the street? I feel that it is one of the most beautiful parts of our campus and people should be allowed to view it.
- Johns: The cars would probably still "hot-rod" on the street. But, wait till you see what we have planned for the section.
- Hibbs: You keep mentioning "12 years from now." What is so significant about this specific period of time?
- Johns: I say twelve years because by that time, we should have built the last building called for in the Master Plan. Within 10 years, the long-range plan should be terminated which predicts a minimum of 95,000 to 100,000 students enrolled at that time. In planning a university, there are certain stages which you must go through:
- 1) We must know the program which is determined almost solely by the faculty, and this includes the fields of study, etc. This has been partially done in the Master Plan of the State.
 - 2) The second stage determines what type of faculty is necessary to carry out stage one.
 - 3) There must be a ten-year projection on how to finance the plan.. It must be a flexible formula on how much can be derived each year from student fees, benefactors, sale of goods, etc.
- Tangen: When will the new library be built?
- Johns: If it comes from appropriated funds, we would request it in the Legislature in Jan., 1967. The funds would be appropriated around July, 1967, it would go to bid Jan. 1968, and should be open by July, 1969.
- Tangen: What will be done to alleviate the already overcrowded conditions in the library?
- Johns: We will probably open other buildings for study, but this problem is going to get increasingly worse because by 1969, the library collection alone will crowd everyone out of the library.
- Ross: Is the library going to be closed on Saturday afternoons?
- Johns: Yes, I believe that was the arrangement we decided upon.
- Behan: What is being done about changing the name of the University?

- Johns: Since it is a statutory change, it will have to go to the Legislature in January. I'm in favor of this change and feel that the University will profit more from the change than any of the other units.
- Behan: How much will the name change cost?
- Johns: It will cost \$25,000.
- Ross: I have heard complaints that the freshman living in the dorms are paying more than they should be for their overcrowded rooms.
- Johns: I realize that this problem does exist, and it is not limited to just the dormitories, but also to the family housing units. The students are not being overcharged, however. We are ten years behind in Montana. It has been fourteen years since the State made an outright appropriation for a building on campus.
- Taylor: Will the University allow the purchase of a car for the Sentinel staff?
- Johns: The law says that the University cannot buy any student a car.
- Foley: How many academic buildings are students currently paying money toward?
- Johns: The students pay a building fee on some academic buildings, such as the Health Science and the Field House. This law was passed in the 1957 Legislature.
- Foley: Then, what was the recent discussion about in the Board of Regents meeting concerning students paying for academic buildings?
- Johns: Some members just want students to pay more, I suppose. This is not an uncommon change in American higher education.
- Hibbs: Will the present Lodge be given to the Food Service?
- Johns: Yes, and part of the building might be used for a faculty lunchroom. In a year from this fall, we will have to take over the Yellowstone Room for food service, and then the following year, we will have to take over the Grill.
- Cole: Do you feel that Montana can afford this twelve-year plan or that some of the other colleges will have to take a back seat?
- Johns: I'll answer that question after November 5th.
- Ulyatt: What is planned for the fraternity system?
- Johns: Under the development of the South campus (The University Golf Course area) we hope to set aside 16 plots of land for fraternities and sororities.
- Ulyatt: Would this be state property?
- Johns: Under the bill I wish to introduce in the next Legislature, the land would be transferred from state-owned to the private ownership of the University, a non-profit organization which would make it tax exempt.
- Ross: Would the fraternities be compelled to move?
- Johns: I do not anticipate any change if the fraternities continue to conduct themselves as they have in the past. But if the fraternities change their mode of conduct, the Administration will have to change theirs, too.
- Behan: What is the future of the resolution on women's social regulations which is currently pending in the Board of Regents?
- Johns: It has been tabled at present. But if we sit still for a year, the situation in the dorms will be so crowded that they'll have to act on it.
- Davis: Could a group approach the legislature and go over the heads of the Board of Regents?
- Johns: Yes, it is possible in this state.
- Davis: According to the laws of the State, if a girl is 18 years of age, she is considered of legal age. If this is true, then isn't the University operating against this law by compelling girls over 21 years of age to live in the dormitories?
- Johns: I don't think the Attorney General would accept that. By the rule of matriculation, the University could require every student to live in the dorms, if it chose to do so.
- Foley: Will the change in the library hours have any change on women's hours?

- Johns: I haven't looked into this yet.
- Taylor: AWS is currently taking a poll about extending the women's hours for library study. Do you know anything about this?
- Johns: No, I don't. I depend a great deal upon the judgment of my deans of students in these matters, however.
- Johns: Thank you for inviting me to your meeting tonight. If you ever have any questions or problems, do not hesitate to come and see me. I want you to know that we aren't trying to peddle a bill of goods on this student union building. The final determination on the building will be made on the basis of sound evaluation of the facts presented in the feasibility study.

MINUTES - Approved as read.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Bowler reported that application to committees would be extended another week.

STANDING COMMITTEES

PUBLICATIONS BOARD - Ray Cosman, Chairman.

Cosman reported that Dr. Darrell J. Inabnit will be the new faculty adviser to Publications Board. Cosman requested that CB accept the resignation of Ross Carletta as Sentinel Associate Editor. ROSS MOVED THAT WE ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF ROSS CARLETTA AS SENTINEL ASSOCIATE EDITOR. SECONDED BY TAYLOR. MOTION PASSED WITH CROMWELL ABSTAINING. Cosman reported that the money received from the sale of Sentinels over four years old to the alumni would probably go to the Worthy Scholar program or Homecoming Activities if it was not placed in the scholarship fund. Ross stated that whatever the Alumni Association did with the money would profit the students. Cosman informed CB that a decision on the Sentinel Office would be made by next week. He reported that the first 80 pages of the Sentinel are back, and the entire yearbook should be here by October 23 for distribution on October 26.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE - Nancy Taylor, Chairman.

Taylor announced that the Homecoming Elections would be manned by Spurs and Bear Paws. She reported that the petitions for freshman delegate will be due by October 13, the primary would be held October 15, a convocation could be held October 18 and house tours by candidates on October 19, and the general election will be held October 22. Behan suggested that the house tours be held before the primary election.

PARENTS DAY - Nancy Taylor, Chairman.

Taylor reported that the letters were printed and envelopes ready to be addressed. There will be campus tours and open houses after the football games as activities for the parents. This year's banquet will be buffet style and 550 reservations can be made.

AUXILIARY SPORTS BOARD - Brett Asselstine, Chairman.

Asselstine requested that CB approve a bill for \$50 for the purchase of a new intramural trophy, the old one having disappeared two years ago. BOWLER MOVED THAT CENTRAL BOARD APPROVE THE BILL FOR THE INTRAMURAL TROPHY. SECONDED BY TAYLOR. MOTION PASSED WITH COLE OPPOSING.

ASGUSA

Taylor read a letter from John Eldred, Chairman of the Southern Region of the Associated Student Governments of the U.S.A. stating the purpose of the organization and the procedure for becoming a member. The individual schools must ratify the interim constitution to become a member, and must pay a \$50 registration fee at the national convention to obtain voting privileges. Knight asked if the financial obligation would be more than \$50 later on. Taylor replied that there would be no financial obligation unless we attended the national convention and wished to vote. Cromwell pointed out that Sec. 3, Art. IV of the Interim Constitution states that

all members will meet financial obligations. Therefore, we have not idea of what financial obligations we would have to meet in future years. Behans said that Rick Jones, who attended the St. Louis Convention last year, was very impressed by the students who organized ASGUSA. It will be a central body where we can get information from other colleges our size, and with outside connections we can better ourselves as a governing body. BEHAN MOVED THAT WE RATIFY THE INTERIM CONSTITUTION OF ASGUSA. SECONDED BY TAYLOR. Cole questioned this organization because one of its purposes was to be an apolitical organization which he felt was impossible in the world in which we live. Taylor pointed out that in Art. VII, which lists the organizational working committees, would be a means of gaining information without having to deal with specific colleges through individual correspondence. Ulyatt and Hibbs complied with Cole's views. Cromwell offered a compromise as stated in Art. II, Sec. 2 of the Interim Constitution of ASGUSA which would make us eligible for discussion at the national convention, but not eligible to vote unless the constitution is ratified by us. Cromwell, also, pointed out that Art. II, Sec. 2 of our Constitution might make us ineligible for membership in this organization. Ross called for a vote on Behan's motion. THE MOTION FAILED TO GET A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY WITH 8 IN FAVOR, 2 OPPOSED, AND 4 ABSTENTIONS. Cromwell stated that his reason for abstaining was due to the question of Art. II, Sec. 2 of our Constitution. BUDGET AND FINANCE - Bill Hibbs, Chairman. Hibbs reported that the Soccer Club requested \$50 to finance their trip to Billings. KNIGHT MOVED THAT WE GUARANTEE \$50 TO THE SOCCER CLUB FOR THEIR BILLINGS TRIP. SECONDED BY BOWLER. MOTION PASSED WITH BEHAN ABSTAINING.

NEW BUSINESS

PLANNING BOARD - Behan asked for a report from Planning Board. Bowler stated that there will be a report next meeting.

NEXT MEETING - Behan reported that the next CB meeting will probably be in Craig Hall.

Present: ASSELSTINE, BEHAN, BOWLER, COLE,
EDWARDS, HIBBS, KNIGHT, LIFFRING,
ROSS, TAYLOR, TANGEN, ULYATT,
WEGGENMAN, Cromwell, Field, Foley,
Cosman, Miller, Cogswell, Inabnit

Respectfully submitted,

Lela Weggenman
ASMSU Secretary