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### Documents from the November 26, 1940 meeting of the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM)

University of Montana--Missoula. Associated Students

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November 26, 1940

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Joan Kennard. Minutes for the meeting of November 19 were read and approved.

Bourke reported on the conclusions drawn up in letter form to be sent to the State Board of Education Sub-Committee. Briggs stressed the importance of making clear the difference between the expected money loss and the loss that would be caused by the union in production of a musical show.

Greene took charge of the meeting and suggested we go through each point in the letter. Some revisions were offered. Bill James thought the student body should know about the matter and asked if it could be published. Publication was discussed and Shallenberger stated that Central Board was a representative body and that the facts were not yet ready for publication. It was suggested that James ask Gregg for a statement containing his demands. Price moved that the committee's letter of protest be accepted as presented and corrected, and that the president and secretary be directed to send it to members of the State Board of Education Sub-Committee, and to the Executive Secretary and the President of Montana State University. Lueck seconded the motion and it was passed by Central Board.

Greene asked for a report on songs of M.S.U. Kennard reported that all songs were copyrighted with the exceptions of "Fight Montana" and "College Chums". Bourke felt the matter should be investigated further as so many of our songs are already national alma mater songs of other schools. Greene stated the songs should be approved by the whole student body before they were copyrighted and published. A committee will be appointed to correlate, along with the music school, the songs which would be acceptable for our song book. The matter was tabled until next meeting.

Greene received a letter which asked the student body to donate an ambulance for British relief at the cost of about \$1350.00. The letter will be read next meeting. Shallenberger stated we do not have the funds and suggested we write a letter telling them we are sympathetic, but that our student budget cannot afford the donation.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Bruce Ann Radigan  
Secretary

Present: James, Kennard, Bellingham, Shallenberger, Christenson, Briggs, Badgley, Greene, Lueck, Fairbanks, Button, Bourke, Ryan and Price.

Nov 1940

TO: STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE

Feeling that student policies and activities could be seriously curtailed should the State Board of Education authorize a representative of the Montana State University to sign the proposed agreement presented by the Missoula Musicians Union to the University, we, Central Board, representative governing body of the Associated Students, do vigorously protest.

Let it be understood that we are not opposed to Unions, or their principles, and have proven our willingness to follow to the letter Union regulations governing "commercial" employment. We do feel, however, that the demands of the Musicians Union are unjustifiably infringing on student rights and activities. As this proposed contract will affect only the funds of the Associated Students and in no way concern actual University funds, we feel that it will cause undue financial burden on the student body. After reading the proposed agreement we feel that the Union would be in a position to dominate student affairs and at the same time not place itself under any restriction.

If the present agreement is signed, the annual all-school musical cannot be produced because of the increased cost involving a total budgeted loss of nearly \$600.00. Last year's production showed an actual loss of student money of \$395.00 which we felt was a justified expenditure of student funds due to the entertainment given the student body, the credits granted by the University to the student participants, and the experience gained by the students engaged in staging the production.

Perhaps the Union's reason for presentation of this contract was their misconception that students were realizing profits on activities. Most of our activities suffer a loss which, however, we feel is justified due to their educational value. In event we do realize a profit, the money reverts to student reserves, or to the general student fund which lacks \$150 this year of meeting our budgeted requirements, or in the case of school shows profits go to fund restricted in use to that activity. The demands of the Musician's Union raise the cost of production to such an extent that it is financially impossible for student funds to support a show of this type. The contract as presented would result in a number of unsatisfactory consequences. Some of these are as follows:

1. Unjust discrimination among students in the musical production because some would receive no compensation for work equally as valuable as that of the union musicians being paid as provided in the contract.
2. Under University regulations, students cannot have credit for work for which they are also paid, so that the Union students would either have to turn their pay over to other Union members or lose their credit for the course.
3. Limitation of the various student entertainment activities due to increased production costs too large for our student entertainment activities budget.
4. Curtailment of student productions which would result in our students being unable to obtain the experience and training offered by other schools unhampered by Union restrictions. It is needless to point out that student entertainment and the benefits derived from presenting them are an integral part of our education.

We are opposed to this contract not only because of its immediate effect, but also because of its later influence.

It is apparent that the University could not, and should not, discriminate between Unions, so that the Musician's Union would be followed by the stage hands, electricians, carpenters, and janitors Unions among the students. Likewise the Student Store would be ultimately Unionized. Should the Student Store be Unionized, investigation shows that approximately twenty students, which is almost as many as University student members of the Musician's Union, who now work their way through school would be forced from employment in that source alone.

The inevitable result of all this would be not only to deprive deserving students of their present employment, but to increase the expense of operating the entire Student Union building beyond its present financial capacity. An increase in student fees which are already heavy enough would thus be forced.

In view of these facts, Central Board feels that the Musician's Union is over-stepping its authority in forcing itself into student affairs and the educational system. This protest comes as the view of the students, and we ask the State Board of Education to do all in its power to prevent this encroachment on our student rights.

Rae Greene

Rae Greene, President A.S.M.S.U.

BruceAnn Radigan

BruceAnn Radigan, Secretary A.S.M.S.U.