ASUM SENATE AGENDA
Mt. Sentinel Rooms
November 28, 1990
6:00 p.m.

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes
4. President's Report
   a. MAS Report
   b. Self-Insurance Update
   c. Legislative Tour
5. Vice President's Report
   a. Miscellaneous Announcements
   b. Senate Appointment
6. Business Manager's Report
7. Committee Reports
8. Public Comment Period
9. Old Business
   a. Auxiliary Services resolution - Vessar
   b. Salary Position resolution - Crocker
   c. Gun resolution - Crocker
   d. Funding resolution - Warden
   e. Probationary status for ASUM groups resolution - Warden
   f. ASUM Senate attendance resolution - Thorgrimson
   g. Fiscal policy resolution - Price
   h. Group Home Support resolution - Young
10. New Business
11. Comments
12. Adjournment
**ASUM SENATE TALLY SHEET**

**SENATE MEMBERS**
- Dan Astle
- Tim Berg
- John Crocker
- Tim Dahlberg
- Amy Jo Fisher
- Eric Hummel
- Kelli McMaster
- Scott Nelson
- Linn M. Parish
- Paula Pelletier
- Pat Price
- Geannine Rapp
- Polly Rhodes
- Amy Clark Stevens
- Tyler Thompson
- Annie Thorgrimson
- Ed Tinsley
- Marc Vessar
- Steve Young
- Ed Zink

**ASUM OFFICERS**
- Chris Warden (President)
- Alice Hinshaw (Vice-President)
- Doug Wagner (Business Manager)

**FACULTY ADVISOR**
- Pat Edgar

**ROLL CALL**

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**EX-OFFICIO (NEW SENATE)**

**DATE** Nov 28, 1990
Chairman Hinshaw called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Members present were Astle, Crocker, Dahlberg (8:03), Fisher, Hummel, Johnson, Parish, Pelletier (6:52), Price, Rapp, Rhodes, Stevens, Thorgrimson, Tinsley, Vessar, Young (6:33) and Zink. Excused were Nelson and Thompson. Unexcused was McMaster.

Hummel - Vessar moved to approve the minutes of the November 20, 1990, meeting as written.

Hinshaw read letter of resignation from Senator Tim Berg. Warden submitted Chris Johnson's name as replacement for Senator Berg. Warden - Tinsley moved to approve. Motion carried. Johnson took his seat at the Senate table.

President's Report

a. Warden submitted Exhibit A - draft of "The Montana Associated Students report on the University System: 'A Campus in Crisis.'" Any proposed changes should be submitted to Warden by noon Friday.

b. Joycee Dozier, Health Service Administrative Officer, and Dr. Nancy Fitch, Health Service Director, answered questions about the self-insurance program being proposed. Specs will go out for bid the first of the year.

c. Warden will be touring the state over Christmas break - Billings, Butte, Helena, Gt. Falls, etc. - to talk with legislators. He will be accompanied by a student from each area who has made the appointment with the legislator.

Vice President's Report

a. Hinshaw announced that Complaint Officer and City Council selections will be made during final week.

(The Senate Appointment was made at the opening of the meeting.)

b. Hayes distributed the tentative Senate meetings schedule for Winter Quarter.

Business Manager’s Report - None

Committee Reports

a. Astle announced that the Sub Board will have a breakfast meeting with President Dennison next week. Please see Astle if you have any input.

b. Zink announced that Pub Board will meet Thursday at 3 p.m. in the Kaimin Newsroom to discuss the Cutbank and Kaimin Business Manager positions.
c. Zink requested that anyone interested in seeing proposed bylaws or suggesting changes contact him. Proposed changes in election bylaws will be introduced the first Wednesday of Winter Quarter.

d. Vessar noted the Auxiliary Services Committee met and the resolution will be addressed tonight.

e. Hummel announced that the Reorganization Committee will meet at noon Friday, at which time Wagner and Como will be interviewed.

f. Schacher of Sub Board showed an informational film on student unions. She said the goals of Sub include improved lighting and seating, campus directories, formulating mission statement, space allocation, addressing the food service deficit and increasing pay parking.

g. Rapp announced that the Drug and Alcohol Committee will meet at noon Thursday in Main Hall 205.

h. SLA Director Fine announced a meeting with Vice Pres. Stearns to be held next Monday at 3 p.m. to discuss legislative strategy.

i. Hinshaw solicited opinions on the student-at-large position on Budget and Finance. Newly appointed Senator Johnson served in that capacity. Should he automatically move to vacant senator position on B&F, apply with others, etc.

Public Comment Period

The following persons spoke on the firearm issue:

Dennis Small, UM student
John Hinshaw, UM student
Jim Parker, Student Coalition for Social Responsibility
Mark Hodges, UM student
John Mudd, UM student
Andy Long, UM student
Greg Fine, UM student
Jeannie Taylor, UM student
Stefan Langdon, UM student
Jay Barnell, UM student
Rick Schrum, UM student

Old Business

a. (Exhibit B) Wagner offered amendment to the resolution to treat all five of the proposals as one for the vote. Vessar accepted the amendment. Fisher - Hummel moved to table. Motion failed. Hummel - Warden moved to table. Motion failed. Vessar - Astle called previous question. Motion carried. Vote was taken. Motion carried.
b. Crocker's Faculty/Staff Salary Position Support Resolution was tabled.

c. Crocker - Price moved to take the resolution off the table. (Resolution is Exhibit E of October 31, 1990, minutes.) Fisher - Vessar called previous question. Vote was taken. Motion carried.

d. Warden's funding proposal (Exhibit C) was tabled.

e. Probationary status for ASUM groups resolution was tabled.

f. ASUM Senate attendance resolution was withdrawn.

g. Fiscal policy resolution was tabled.

h. Operation Home Front support resolution presented by Young was voted upon. Motion carried.

New Business

a. Zink submitted a seconded motion from the ByLaws Committee for proposed ByLaw changes.

b. Warden - Vessar submitted a resolution regarding daylight hour threat perception by Campus Police with respect to the firearm issue.

c. Hummel - Vessar submitted a resolution that the student-at-large position on the Budget and Finance Committee be vacated. Young - Hummel voted to suspend the bylaws for an immediate vote. Motion failed.

Comments

Rapp announced that a peace march will be held at noon Friday.

Stevens announced that the Wildlife Society will be selling Christmas trees between the UC and the Library Thursday.

Vessar - Price moved to adjourn at 9:53 p.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Hayes
ASUM Office Manager
Montana is at a crossroad. It is our firm conviction that our state cannot continue its present course for higher education without profound and detrimental impacts on the future of our people. We face fundamental choices that cannot be postponed any longer.

"Crossroads" report of the Montana Education Commission for the Nineties and Beyond.
The Montana Associated Students are deeply concerned about the critical condition that our higher education system is in. With great pride in our state and its educational system, and a painful recognition of its slow, yet continual deterioration, we find ourselves in an endless struggle with the conflicting realities of our situation.

We are very proud of our educational institutions, at the same time, we are overcome with a sense of helplessness as they are allowed to literally crumble around us.

We are troubled by the outright neglect that our talented professors are forced to endure. In light of the fact that our faculty are paid the lowest salaries of any in the nation, we are shocked, but not surprised, as many of our finest professors seek career opportunities in other states. We are disturbed that with many of our faculty reaching retirement age, our state will be unable to recruit and retain quality faculty to fill their vacancies.

We are increasingly concerned with the fact that many of our educational programs are in jeopardy of losing their accreditation. The fate of these programs and the overall system is at stake as many of these programs will soon be beyond the point of recovery.

The crisis within our system is painfully evident. It is clear to us that quick and decisive action is imperative if we are to save our educational system. It is essential that elected officials make a sincere attempt to recognize and understand the magnitude of the problems we are facing, objectively review the possible remedies and solutions to alleviate and eventually eliminate this crisis, and finally to take action to implement policies which will begin to immediately address these crucial issues.

We applaud Governor Stephens for the leadership he has shown in establishing a commission to investigate our higher education system, now we call on him to exercise the leadership necessary to back these recommendations with action.

The Montana Associated Students are committed to doing everything possible to promote the best interests of our education system. We offer this pamphlet, "A Campus In Crisis" to Governor Stephens, the members of the 52nd Legislature, and to the people of Montana to assist them in their efforts to put our state and its education system on the road to recovery.

Sincerely,

Kirk Lacy
MAS President
INTRODUCTION

The Problem:

The Montana Association of Students (MAS) has determined that the number one problem facing our University System is that it is not funded at a level comparable to peer institutions.

A 1989 study conducted by the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, the Executive Budget Office and the Montana University System indicated that Montana institutions are funded at a level of approximately 70 percent of peer institutions. Incremental funding for facility support, research, and capital construction also trail peer institutions.

It is imperative that the University System receive increased state funding to provide additional faculty positions, increased faculty salaries, additional support staff, and increased operations and equipment budgets.

Without this additional state support, the units of the System will continue to fall behind their peers. Our research has shown that these problems exist on a system wide basis. MAS agrees with the "Crossroads Report" of the Commission of Higher Education in the Nineties and Beyond. This report recommends maintaining a level of funding equal to the average of our peers. This funding level should be viewed by the Legislature as the bare minimum.

We would like to see the Legislature, in conjunction with the Commissioner of Higher Education, adopt the following strategy to address this problem of peer related funding.

- Adopt a multiple year plan that will address the funding disparity with our peers over a specified period of time.

- In a national survey the Montana University System's facultysalaries ranked dead last in all areas of comparison.
- Individual units in the system are funded at levels considerably well below that of their peers.
- The Board of Regents have documented over 16 million dollars in deferred maintenance of campus facilities.
- Libraries throughout the system have seen drastic reductions in their book and periodical purchasing ability.
- Several programs within the system are facing severe accreditation problems.

Amount of Money Given by the State per FTE*

MAS strongly endorses and supports the five year equalization plan that has been proposed by the commission that will bring our system to peer averages by 1995. We also support the proposed funding strategy being presented to the Legislature by the Board of Regents.
The Facility Crisis:

These problems and their costs are significantly multiplied the longer they are deferred.

Some examples of maintenance needs which exist throughout the system include:

* Leaking roofs
* Non-Code Wiring
* Deteriorating Sidewalks and Buildings
* Asbestos Abatement
* Lack of Proper Insulation
* Leaking Steam and Gas Pipes
* Worn Carpeting and Warped Floors
* Inadequate Access for the Handicapped
* Poor Fire Alarm and Sprinkler Systems

MAS recognizes the critical condition of the facilities throughout the University System. There is an urgent need for immediate action to address and begin to correct the problems created by deferred maintenance, lack of adequate equipment and technological resources, and poor classroom environments.

The Board of Regents has estimated the cost of correcting all deferred maintenance needs to be approximately 16 million dollars. Deferred maintenance has already reached epidemic proportions. Furthermore, these problems and their costs are significantly multiplied the longer they are deferred.

The lack of educational equipment and resources are also a great concern for students as they directly affect the quality of education we receive.

There is a desperate need in this area as our institutions are not only understocked with essential educational equipment, but much of the equipment is outdated and does not meet educational requirements.

Deferred maintenance is common throughout the University System. Deferred maintenance will continue to grow at an alarming rate unless it receives immediate attention.

In Closing-

These shortages and inadequacies span across the whole scope of our educational program and are especially prevalent in science laboratories, audiovisual equipment, geographical instruments, and computer software and hardware.

These facility and equipment deficiencies have a devastating impact on a student's classroom learning environment.

Combining these problems with the structural deferred maintenance problems, broken and worn down chairs and desks, and inadequate lighting and heating conditions, the opportunity for receiving a quality education in this type of environment is significantly constrained.
The Faculty Crisis:

Faculty salaries in the Montana University System rank dead last on the national level.

Many people have the impression that the faculty in our system receive more than enough in salary and benefits. MAS feels it is necessary to put an end to this misconception.

Faculty salaries rank dead last on the national level. Salaries are also considerably below the regional average and the averages of their peer institutions. In 1987-88, faculty salaries for Montana institutions averaged $29,684 compared with the national average of $37,903.

In addition to this embarrassing reality, Montana faculty are offered very little in the way of faculty development and educational enhancement incentives.

This is a very disturbing situation for us. Low faculty salaries cause great difficulty in retaining and attracting quality educators.
Faculty Salaries Continued:

Accreditation teams are continually emphasizing that programs are in steady decline because the level of faculty salaries make it impossible for the programs to remain regionally, much less nationally competitive.

We are alarmed at the findings of the Montana Education Commission for Higher Education in the Nineties and Beyond. In their final report, the commission points to the fact that “...faculty salaries in Montana are in a chasm.”

The scenario painted by this grim reality is even more disturbing.

Many of our faculty are either reaching retirement age, or are seeking career opportunities in other states. These vacancies can only attract new, inexperienced professors who spend a few years getting the experience they need and then migrate to other states who can offer them much more.

This scenario is plagued by implications totally unacceptable for anyone hoping to receive a quality education. We deserve an education provided by experienced and talented professors. Furthermore, our professors deserve a level of support and commitment far above what they are receiving.

The only way to assure that students of tomorrow will be provided a quality education is to invest in our professors a level of support and commitment necessary to attract and retain them in Montana classrooms.

How can we expect educators to invest their support and commitment to a system that refuses or is unwilling to reciprocate that support and commitment?

“...faculty salaries in Montana are in a chasm.”

-Commission on Education
The Accreditation Crisis:

A loss of accreditation leaves a negative perception which reflects on the entire institution and not just the program in question.

The Accreditation Crisis:

The problems that will be caused as a result of losing accreditation in existing programs will be significant to the University System.

The potential for losing accreditation of any of our existing programs is a significant concern for us. This is especially true as many of the programs at risk are at the very core of the role and scope of the institution. For example, NCATE Accreditation of the EMCSchool of Education, the Law and Pharmacy Schools at UM, and Engineering at MSU.

A loss of accreditation leaves a negative perception which reflects on the entire institution and not just the program in question. These perceptions are particularly devastating because they impact the institution's image in the community, the ability to attract and retain quality educators, and the ability to attract students who are being asked to pay for a degree which is stigmatized as being inferior in quality.

We firmly believe that eliminating these risks, and the maintenance of current accredited programs must be a primary concern of our elected officials.

MAS is very alarmed at the magnitude of this problem. The potential for losing accreditation in a number of our current educational programs grows greater every day as the standards required to maintain accreditation are becoming more and more demanding.

Although these standards have become increasingly stringent over the last few years, very little, if any additional resources have been allocated to these programs leaving them far behind the pace and at great risk. We firmly believe that eliminating these risks, and the maintenance of current accredited programs must be a primary concern of our elected officials.
The Cause Of The Crisis:

If the system were funded at the level the formula dictates, many of the problems would not exist.

The choices have been postponed far too long. The options available have steadily declined as this crisis has grown out of control. The time to act is now.

Although the problems related to this crisis are complex and widespread, MAS recognizes that they all share one common root...grossly inadequate funding. The longer that root is allowed to survive, the greater the destruction will be.

The University System is funded by a formula designed to finance its institutions to meet the average level of its peer's funding. If we were funded at the full level prescribed by this formula, we would be at the desired level and many of these critical problems would not exist. The fact that we have been funded consistently below what this formula demands is why we are in such a predicament.

One important thing to recognize is that the method used to fund our system is not at fault. The fact that the legislature has failed to follow the method is.

It is evident that our state must make significant increases in the funding of the University System if we are ever to catch up to where we ought to be and eliminate this crisis. MAS recognizes that this will require a long range plan and cannot be accomplished overnight. We do firmly believe however, that this process must begin immediately.

The process must incorporate a funding of our system to the full level prescribed by the formula and an additional “catch up” increase to make up for the funding deficiencies over the last several years. We recognize that this amounts to a massive increase in current funding levels, yet we feel it is imperative if we are to reverse this crisis. It is clear that there are few options and tough choices that must be made.
In light of the large number of problems which exist in the University System and the magnitude of each problem, there are relatively few alternatives which exist to effectively address them.

Although there are few options to consider, MAS strongly believes that our elected officials have an obligation to objectively look at each one, weigh the pro’s and con’s of each, and finally to make the necessary tough choices that “must not be postponed any longer.”

Of the options commonly referred to by people examining the crisis within our system, the Montana Associated Students has identified the following:

**Cutbacks:**
- Closing of Units
- Eliminating Program Duplication
- Limiting Enrollment of Students

**Increased Funding:**
- Increase Student Tuition
- Increase State Funding

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**Program duplication:**
- Many entry level programs require duplication, as do business and teacher education.
- 88 percent of all associate degrees are only offered at two institutions. 70 percent are unique to one institution.
- Unwarranted duplication is not a serious problem in Montana's higher education system.

**Closure of units: Why not?**
- There is no significant unused capacity at any institution that could handle a substantial number of extra students if one of the other schools were to close.
- The population of Montana will demand additional educational facilities as our population grows and the need for increased education of our people increases.
- Costs are not eliminated by closing an institution. Costs follow students through the system. Additional costs are required for expansion of facilities to compensate for transferring students.
- Only 36 percent of Montanan’s feel the state is supporting too many units, and 60 percent are willing to pay higher taxes to maintain what we already have.

**Limiting enrollment of students:**
- 70 percent of Montanans oppose limiting enrollment.
- 68 percent of Montanans believe there should be an open door admissions policy.
- 7500 students would have to be eliminated if money was to be saved. This would amount to closing EMC, Tech, Western, or Northern and not allowing those students to transfer.
Increased Funding:

- Increase Tuition
- Increase State Funding

These graphs, compiled with statistics from 1989 represent the relation between tuition and state funding in Montana, and tuition and funding for our peer institutions.

In 1989, students in Montana were paying 80% of what their peers were in tuition, since that time tuition has increased 14 percent, bringing this category well into balance with our peers.

The state allocation still remains at 67 percent of its peers however, and is well below its necessary funding level. MAS feels the state should fund at the average of our peers.

[Graphs showing Montana Average Tuition and Peer Average tuition, with Montana at 80% of Peers]

[Graphs showing Montana Allocation Average and Our Peer Allocation Average, with Montana at 67% of Peers]
Funding:

61 percent of Montanans feel that tuition should not be increased.

Over the last ten years tuition has increased nearly 200 percent. Last biennium, MAS students received a 14 percent tuition increase.

Students will not expect a tuition increase until the state accepts a greater responsibility for the education of its citizens.

In Conclusion:

The Montana Associated Students would like to reiterate that it is imperative that quick and decisive action must be taken to address the crisis developing in our Higher Education System.

We recognize that an increase in state funding is the only viable solution. Where would this increased funding come from? MAS recognizes that there are a number of options for our elected officials to consider including tax reform, alternative sources of revenue, and a College Savings Bonds Program similar to the ones adopted throughout the United States.

MAS realizes that our system is in a state of crisis, requiring an additional $45 million over the next five years to maintain a competitive, accessible, affordable and accountable system of higher education.

MAS recognizes the importance of additional revenues for the University System and contends that the state of Montana must take the lead in providing these monies. In comparison to our peers, state funding levels are well below the average. The amount of state support the system receives is approximately 67 percent of what other state government provide their institutions.

Students of the Montana University System will not expect a tuition increase until the State of Montana accepts a greater responsibility for the education of its citizens.

University System students have historically demonstrated willingness to pay their fair share of their educational costs. Over the last ten years tuition has increased nearly 200 percent. Last biennium, MAS students received a 14% tuition increase.

On a dollar basis we are paying nearly as much as our peers towards our educational costs, yet we are seeing the quality of our education deteriorate. We believe that it is now time for the State to contribute their share.

Production by Todd Mitchell, ASEMC Public Relations Coordinator, Eastern Montana College

MAS REPORT-A CAMPUS IN CRISIS Pg. 9
DATE: November 14, 1990

TO: ASUM Senate

FROM: Auxiliary Services Review Committee

RE: Auxiliary Fund Accounts

It is recommended that the enclosed resolutions be considered and approved independent of one another (see attached).

These resolutions are designed as safeguards against student fees, within the parameters of Auxiliary Services, from being utilized to offset non-student related purposes. Most importantly these resolutions are also designed to ensure student fees are first and foremost utilized to ensure student safety and rights.

The following are the specific areas of concern:

a) Transfers from Auxiliary Services Fund Accounts to offset chronic negative balances in accounting entities, which lie outside the realm of Auxiliary Services, as result of mismanagement within the deficit incurring entities.

b) Transfers from Auxiliary Services Fund Accounts to cover shortfalls in primary bond payment accounts. Transfers off of the balance sheet transfers from primary accounts into other specific entity accounts occurred either to prevent negative fund balances from occurring, or in order to offset retrenchment (see Auxiliary Services Review Report November 14, 1990 sections 1,2 [STADIUM BOND CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT]).

c) Transfers from the Auxiliary Services Fund Accounts so impaired the individual units within Auxiliary Services that they could not meet appropriate demands. These demands included fire safety sprinkler systems in residence halls, proper campus lighting, asbestos abatement, and disability access projects in all auxiliary buildings.
Auxiliary Services Review Committee suggests the following recommendations be considered for resolution by the ASUM Senate. The committee suggests that each recommendation be approved independent of one another.

1) Request the Board of Regents to halt all transfers from Auxiliary accounts, which do not directly effect Auxiliary entities. Any transfer which does not directly effect Auxiliary needs can only take place after fire codes, safety issues, and disability access needs are met as measured by state and federal law. In addition all transfers that do occur in the future should be accompanied by a full documentation of need statement. This document of need statement must contain within it accounting statements of the previous fiscal year and present fiscal year in order to demonstrate need.

2) Request of the Board of Regents to mandate all negative fund balance transfers be designated as loans to be repaid to Auxiliary Services by those entities which originally incurred the deficits. Although the one time transfer within the Montana University System was legal under House Bill 44 this mandate will ensure proper management practices are respected by those departments which incur deficits in the future and are held responsible for the deficits they incurred in the past. In so doing the Regents will be protecting students from being held responsible for fiscal mismanagement by deficit incurring departments.

3) Request of the Board of Regents to mandate the UM administration to fulfill its obligation set forth by former UM President Neil Buck ley that student monies would not be utilized to meet stadium debt obligations. In addition, a full public ticket tax revenue accounting must be required before Auxiliary Service funds are utilized to offset any ticket tax revenue shortfalls in meeting its primary stadium debt obligation.

4) Request the Board of Regents to mandate the Athletic Department be required to realize the full $200,000 figure as agreed upon by the retrenchment committee and President James Koch (see Schedule Of Student Requests memo dated October 30, 1989; item 2). This $200,000 figure can be utilized to offset future stadium bond debt requirement shortfalls, and to repay its deficit of $301,000 to the Auxiliary Services Fund Account.

5) ASUM Senate should not self-impose any increases in student fees to cover budget deficits, rising costs, or financing of capital improvements in auxiliary entities until a full public accounting is given to demonstrate need. The inability to meet its fiscal need due to transfers to non-auxiliary accounts is not sufficient grounds for a fee increase. Transfers as those described in recommendation (1) one should not so impair the Auxiliary Fund Accounts from meeting its primary obligations.
WHEREAS, The Montana Board of Regents is charged with developing both long range educational goals and long range facility goals for the Montana University System,

WHEREAS, the current system of individual unit appropriation makes it nearly impossible for long range planning on a system wide basis,

WHEREAS, the Postsecondary Education Study Committee in May of 1990 voted to recommend that the 1991 Legislature allocate funds to the Montana University System in one lump sum to then be reallocated to the university campuses and associated agencies.

Therefore let it be resolved...

... that the Associated Students of The University of Montana strongly supports the concept to allocate funds to the Montana University System in lump sum payments to be reallocated, by the Montana Board of Regents, to the university campuses and associated agencies.

The ASUM Senate reserves the right to approval a final position on any final lump sum proposal

Author: SLA Committee
Sponsored by: Scott Nelson