**I. CALL TO ORDER** – Vice President Taylor Kurkoski called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

**II. ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT-** President Merritt, Vice President Kurkoski, Bus. Manager Unzaga, SRO Cunningham, Senator Boze, Senator Bryce-Black, Senator Combs, Senator Davis, Senator Johnson, Senator McKinley, Senator Neff, Senator Niemi, Senator Norris, Senator Robertus, Senator Sexton, Senator Seymanski, Senator Williams

**EXCUSED-**

**ABSENT-** Senator Janney

**III. PROXIES**

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**-3/9/20

**V. PRESENTORS/REPRESENTATIVES-** Chancellor Edelman

**VI. ADVISOR REPORTS** –

Dr. Kim Hayworth

- Currently working on figuring out issues with students living in residence halls, including how to feed them. Many students have left and are in the process of leaving – just had a meeting today to discuss this. Summer registration, which is usually done face-to-face, is now online and this is another priority at hand. Staying in communication with everyone is the important thing right now.

Kathy Kotecki

- Want students to know that they are still cared for and that they are a priority. There will be refunds for room and board.

-Will students be reimbursed for parking passes or other fees that are not being used anymore? Initially, the focus was on room and board, because MSUB is following directives from OCHE. Parking passes have not really been in that conversation. Our CFO, Susan Summers, is aware of the parking passes issue and has reached out to OCHE; they haven’t responded yet.

-Is MSUB going to utilize a pass/no pass grading system, like other colleges are falling back to at this time? Dr. Arnold has been in communication about that, but no announcements have been made. The department chairs of each college are given permission on how to structure their grading system. Students can push it forward, but it’s up to the individual colleges.

-What are future semesters going to look like? It is currently up in the air if summer 2020 courses will be fully online or mixed. Fall is currently planned for in-person classes, but that could change. The university has been really great about communication and keeping students up to date; students really appreciate it!

Lance Mouser

-City college is closed down, and most students are concerned about labs being online. Overall the students and professors are persevering through this - both faculty and students will have these new skillsets which will be beneficial in the future. But some students are struggling because they no longer have that in-person assistance for their courses.

-They are considering the pass/no pass option for grading, but no decisions have been made.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

**FB#1 Funds for “The Rook”: Senator Williams**

That the sum of $1,400.00 be allocated from Contingency index #630200 to The Rook index #630316 for publishing and printing costs.

Printing Costs: $2,000.00  
Less money raised: (600.00)  
**TOTAL REQUEST FROM STUDENT SENATE $ 1400.00**

**Financial Board Recommends: $1,000.00**

Discussion: *The Rook* is going through a new printing press (a company in Great Falls) that is considerably cheaper, without forsaking quality.

For: 13, Against: 0

**FB#2-19: 2020-2021 ASMSUB Budgets: Senator Robertus**

**Requested FB Recommends**

**FB#2- ASMSUB Activity Scholarships $ 32,530 $31,558**

**FB#3- ASMSUB Capital Account $ 0 $0**

**FB#4- ASMSUB Childcare Scholarships $ 5,000 $3,000**

**FB#5- ASMSUB EC Management Account $ 8,400 $7,100**

**FB#6- ASMSUB Game Room $ 700 $500**

**FB#7- ASMSUB HEROES $ 7,000 $7,000**

**FB#8- ASMSUB Intertribal Pow Wow $ 10,000 $7,425**

**FB#9- ASMSUB Jazz Festival $ 7,000 $7,000**

**FB#10- ASMSUB Legal Services $ 45,508 $45,508**

**FB#11- ASMSUB Northcutt Steele Gallery $ 6,480 $5,930**

**FB#12- ASMSUB Operations $ 49,411 $49,810**

**FB#13- ASMSUB Retort $ 7,494 $6,269**

**FB#14- ASMSUB Stem Club $ 3,400 $3,000**

**FB#15- ASMSUB Student Activities Board $ 68,200 $47,076**

**FB#16- ASMSUB Student Political Action $ 150 $150**

**FB#17- ASMSUB Student Services $ 7,040 $4,185**

**FB#18- ASMSUB Student United Way $ 2,000 $2,000**

**FB#19- ASMSUB Undergrad/Grad Research $ 2,500 $ 2,000**

**TOTAL REQUEST FROM STUDENT SENATE $262,813**

**FINANCIAL BOARD RECOMENDS $229,511**

Discussion:

FB#2: Accounts for printing costs, salaries of staff in ASMSUB, EC stipends, retreat costs, committees, Retort Editor in Chief, etc.

FB#3: Miscellaneous items - closed the account to combine with other accounts.

FB#4: $500 scholarships are given to students to help cover the cost of childcare expenses. Why was so much cut? This change was based on the number of students who applied for the scholarships. It is not as in demand compared to previous years. There are statistics to support this. Is this application also through the MSUB general scholarships? No, it’s promoted through flyers, banner, and emails.

FB#5: Includes MAS meeting expenses, leadership conference, retreat for fall and spring, year-end banquet. Decreased it because other student organizations were also being cut, and it was fair for this budget to be cut as well.

FB#7: Jesse Hahne, advisor for HEROES - Line items include programs for students and attending conferences to get ideas for new programs.

FB#8: The decrease in budget was a matter of needing to cut the overall budget. Did a really good job of fundraising this year (about $75,000), and the funding from ASMSUB was a very small amount of money in comparison. The org. was okay with the altered budget.

FB#9: John Roberts (not present) says there is going to be a guest saxophone player from New York coming in next year

FB#10: Line items include salary, benefits, printing costs, etc. Why were there no cuts to this area? Are these services even utilized? There are no cuts here because students don’t have much of a say in the salary amount for Judy William’s position. Several students have utilized her services. Has there been a student satisfaction survey about this service? Are students aware of the resource, and how far has promotion gone? ASMSUB has promoted quite a bit. She sees mostly landlord/tenant issues or relationship issues. It’s on a year-by-year basis if Judy’s position is kept, a decision made by the ASMSUB president and vice president.

FB#11: Morgan Syring and Leanne Gilbertson - What is the Northcutt Steele Gallery doing for the next semester? Big projects coming up include “Social Fabrics,” taking local embroidery and bringing it into a modern context using an exhibition of work by women in Peru. There will be a faculty exhibition and they are contracted to have another exhibition after that. Hoping to engage as many as possible through this. “Pole to polls” is held to get students out to vote, so that is also a possibility in conjunction with their program. Input from ASMSUB is welcome! This budget was cut because cuts were made across the board; it is still an increase from last year, however.

-How successful have they been and how do they measure that? Quite successful; have a growing mailing list (over 1,000) and also frequently engage with community. On average they have 75-150 attendees at the exhibition receptions. Unfortunately don’t have a student worker or staff member available to take counts otherwise.

FB#12: Line items include office manager salary, printing expenses, shirts for senators, and telephone usage in EC offices. Can’t cut that down because it is set by the phone companies, with 10 total phones. Annual cost of $5,000 from that alone.

FB#13: Budget was cut because the tickets line item was increased without intent - it was decreased back to the previous year’s amount. Also, the number of hours by executives was taken into account.

FB#14: STEM club is newer to campus and wants to become established, so they asked for a consistent budget.

FB#15: Erika, SAB chair; Violet Scott, SAB member; Chase Greenfield, SAB advisor. SAB has had the most board member growth this year. 153 people came to the corn maze event this year, which was not a public event. Large events from previous years had a great number of community members accounting for high attendance numbers. Continued budget cuts for SAB from year to year is going to greatly effect the organization and ultimately students all across campus.

* Why is ASMSUB interested in helping to pay for the bird project, stickers on COE building, which is estimated to cost $50,000, yet is cutting the SAB budget? When budgets are not used, excess is rolled over to the contingency account. It is a separate budget and cannot go directly to student club budgets in this way. The funding for the stickers comes from a separate budget that student clubs cannot access anyway.
* Reserves is built from several years, from everything we don’t budget. Only ASMSUB has access to reserves. Contingency is rolled over from year to year, including 18% that was brought in from last year’s income from student fees. All students have access to contingency.
* Hoping we will reconsider the budget cut. Would it be possible to roll over unused funds from this year to lessen the blow? This year has been basically comprised of an entirely new SAB board and, and they have been learning how to plan events and use funds. Had three major events planned for the rest of this spring semester, if it weren’t for the COVID-19 pandemic. Could SAB roll over $13,000 from current budget to next year? These funds will be even more essential after students can be on campus again, when SAB can function.
* Why did budget get cut so severely? Had to make $30,000 in cuts overall, due to lower enrollment. The “performer’s fees” line item was cut because it wasn’t utilized this semester. Travel fees for retreats was another reduced line item.
* SAB never got direct communication from student senate about discontentment toward the club’s performance. Could SAB amend their budget? At this point, only a senator can attempt an amendment.
* Special considerations should be taken due to the COVID-19 pandemic. S. Bryce-Black would be for increasing SAB’s budget in any way possible. Student senate doesn’t have the money to give them the amount requested, and on top of that, SAB only ran 5 events this year. When students were asked for opinions, they thought campus was pretty dead.
* Why was the HEROES budget not cut, but the SAB budget was reduced so drastically? HEROES brings things back from conferences to evidence the value in attending, and students really enjoy their activities.
* None of the members of the EC have brought forth budget recommendations – senators on the financial board committee made these. We have to have a balanced budget, like any other organization. We don’t currently have the money, but SAB can take different avenues to obtain funding. The budget cut is not a reflection of SAB’s performance this year, but because they take a major part of our budget and cuts needed to be made. The contingency funds are available next year for application.
* S. Norris thinks the cuts are justified. There were a smaller number of events, so less funding is needed. Maybe if SAB’s meeting minutes could be accessed online, ASMSUB could have evidence of their productivity.
* Is there a way to go around the by-laws because of the circumstances of the pandemic, in order to give SAB back the funds they will lose from this semester? Having an established board will improve number and quality of events for next year.
* If bylaws were to be changed to allow clubs to hold onto student funds, it’s a three week process. Senate brings it up, then an ad hoc committee has to be formed and meet, and then bring it back to senate to amend the bylaws.
* Can we make line item adjustments? If the amount stays the same, it should be no problems. The club can freely move money around up to 10%. But in the case of large budget cuts, they can propose to move funds to different line items if they bring it to financial board.

FB#17: A large cut was made here and it will affect the SSPR committee. Goes toward ASMSUB events, ski tickets, and campus enhancements. With the cut, we can still host events but possibly not on other discretionary ones like campus enhancements. This cut does take away from SSPR’s ability to make direct, positive changes on campus. Most of the cuts came from the community outreach line item; two service events and two sustainability events must be held by this committee per year. This includes Service Saturday and Campus Cleanup. We also can access contingency if we have insufficient funds.

FB#19: Students can go present research at a conference. Every year has run out of funds because students have been so interested in utilizing it. This benefits academics on our campus quite a bit. Again, this budget was cut due to overall cuts and because students may apply for contingency to fund their travels to research conferences.

Continued FB#15 (SAB) discussion: if we pull from the reserves to boost SAB’s budget, we would also have to consider other clubs’ budgets to be fair. Reserves are typically used for projects by ASMSUB, that must be voted on by senators.

Motion to vote on budgets, so moved.

For: 8, Against: 1, Abstained: 1

Senator Bryce-Black moved to table the budgets. Moved to amend the budgets. Motions were not acknowledged by chair, or seconded.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**X. EXECUTIVE & STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**President Savannah Merritt:**

* State-wide hiring freeze, as directed by OCHE. All vacant campus positions cannot be hired/advertised for. Thus the SRO, business manager, Retort editor-in-chief, and SAB chair positions cannot currently be filled for next year.
* How do we start the process to look into bylaws and roll over funds? Going to reach out to Judy for guidance – she knows our bylaws very well.
* Contingency is first-come, first-served. Also, a club needs to fundraise 30% only if they intend to travel.

**Vice President Taylor Kurkoski:**

* We will not be having senate meetings unless something urgent comes up. Otherwise, communication will be via emails. There will be a senate meeting on April 20, 2020 to wrap up the year.

**Business Manager James Unzaga:**

* Don’t know if The Rook will be able to function, so we will look into the current funds. Also will look into the possibility of rolling unused funds to the fall semester.

**Student Resolution Officer Robin Cunningham:**

* Will be contacting SSPR committee to schedule a meeting to discuss how to proceed for the rest of the semester.

**XI. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

-Academic senate has been looking at changes made to programs, including making the English major more accessible. Also working on classes going online. The COE is hoping to go against the pass/no pass grading. For students, “passing” is marked a C- which could prevent one from getting into a program or such that may require a C or B, etc. If classmates are having any troubles, reach out to Robin as the SRO.

**XII. SENATE & ACADEMIC CONCERNS**

**XIII. WORDS ON CAMPUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

SAB is having an online event, planning a game and buying premium package to hold the game every Wednesday night. Winners will get $25, $50, and $75 gift cards. Can email SAB about comments or ideas. Also coordinating with the Center for Engagement with Masked Singer event. For those watching on Facebook, only students may win prizes (must present student ID).

**XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chase Greenfield: SAB advisor.

-Rules vs. principles: rules state that budgets can not be rolled over into the next year’s funds, but that is based on the principle of encouraging student clubs to not stockpile funds. However, in the circumstance of the pandemic, the principle would be to allot the student clubs the funds that they could not use during that time. It would not be necessary to amend the bylaws, just a resolution would suffice. He would help accomplish that to assist any club/organization that will need the lost finances put into their budgets next year.

-Public comment is supposed to be before the voting of bills – there is a MT law in place regarding this.

-SAB had a slow start this year, but this was no fault of the students involved. These executives had less than one month of experience beforehand, and currently have 15 members, so did an amazing job of recruitment.

-March 18th was supposed to be the next event, and it was postponed due to the pandemic. Regarding events on campus vs. off campus: SAB made that decision due to student opinion at the end of last year. ASMSUB’s role is to direct the role, not content - so cannot dictate such programming details.

-Doesn’t make sense for SAB to approach contingency – by the time SAB would need it, due to the large budget, contingency is likely to be very low.

-Is happy to provide general advise regarding how to function in student government, and use senate positions to support the student organizations. Contact information: [chase.greenfield@msubillings.edu](mailto:chase.greenfield@msubillings.edu)

President Merritt: Because all budgets are done at once, Judy advised to not vote on them separately due to totaling the sum.

S. Bryce-Black: would like to write the resolution to allow the current student club budgets to roll over through next year.

Jesse: please send any students with questions about the coronavirus pandemic to HEROES and Student Health Services.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT – 8:05p.m.**