



Associated Students of Montana State University Billings

Tuesday, March 11, 2024- Meeting Agenda

We strive for Leadership, Involvement, Sustainability, and Service

I. CALL TO ORDER- Vice President Husen calls meeting to order at 6:30pm

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT- Senator Chenoweth, Senator Ellery, Senator Foxley, Senator Garayeva, Senator Hickey, Senator Hofer, Senator Hollenberg, Senator Husen, Vice President Husen, President Kumar, Senator McGraw, Senator Merdanovich, Senator Murillo, Senator Palmer, Student Resolution Officer Sharpe, Senator Slade, Business Manager Sladic, Senator Sneigoski

ABSENT-

EXCUSED- Senator Bookheimer, Senator Brady, Senator Imokhai, Senator Murillo, Senator Palmer

III. PROXIES (fill out absentee ballot)

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 2/25 Minutes
 - Senator Sneigoiski was marked absent and present

GUESTS/REPRESENTATIVES

- Vice Chancellor Leslie Weldon and Director of Business Services Barb Burows
 - Still catching up from Covid
 - Increase in utilities fee is 29%
 - most of the increase is from electricity
 - Why is the tuition increase for the nonresidents higher than that for residents?
 - Resident fees are increasing by 3% (90% of MSUB students are residents)
 - Nonresident fees are increasing by 5%
 - OCHE (Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education) gives the numbers
 - Mandatory fees (summary of individual fees) are being increased by less than 3% both years
 - City College students do not use a lot of the University campus resources (such as the gym) but their fees are also being increased
 - Fees are still increased because we need to allow access to all students
 - Are lab fees part of mandatory fees?
 - No, those fees are non-mandatory fees and based on the labs taken
 - Dining is going up by 3% for all meal plans
 - Will student worker wages go up?
 - Student workers cannot make more than the lowest paid employee on campus
 - Will MSUB employees' wages be increased?
 - Axillary funds are given to most employees, not general funds (general funds are the ones that will be increased)



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- Will scholarships be increased?
 - Not at this time
 - Dependent on funds from the Foundation
 - Wavers will be increased
 - Eligibility for financial aid will be increased
 - Endowed scholarships have a certain amount of funds that can be taken out based on the donor's wishes
- Retention Director Katie Moffat
 - Representative for an initiative focused on student support and how we are communicating with students
 - Discussion with Focus Group Questions:
 - Do students at MSUB feel supported, engaged, and connected?
 - Support given from ASC, TRIO, library services
 - There are boards everywhere advertising support services
 - Professors are good about including services in their syllabus
 - Engagement given from SAB, CFE
 - More students would join clubs if there was an incentive offered
 - Connection given from the institution as a whole or between other students
 - Senator Hollenberg stated that her graduate program is now having students meet once a month
 - Students who are not in clubs are not as connected or would have a different answer
 - 3 different assessments, so it might be better to have 3 separate questions instead
 - Do students feel like communication from the university is streamlined?
 - Senators agree that we get the right amount of communication about important announcements and dates
 - Senators like that communication goes to our school emails for easier access
 - Some students got the emails about the weather conditions late
 - May be due to Gmail making sure that email from MSUB is not spam
 - How do students budget for the cost of going to college?
 - Most students are financially illiterate
 - Most students apply for as many scholarships and grants as possible
 - A refresh about how to use My Info would be nice
 - Office is downstairs in SUB 163



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- **SAB**
 - At the end of every month, there will be a breakdown of money spent for all the events
 - Love n Stuff:
 - University campus: 256 students attended; \$17 per person; same number of animals for next year; everyone loved the photobooth
 - City College: 85 students; \$16 per person; plan on getting extra animals next year
 - Vision board:
 - \$25; \$1.25 per person
 - 25 students showed
 - Mocktails and Mariocart
 - \$63 for prizes; \$0.90 per person
 - At least 73 students showed
 - HEROES provided the drinks
 - Karaoke night in Petro theatre this Wednesday at 6 pm
 - Rock Painting on March 26 at 6 pm

v. ADVISOR REPORTS

- Christine Whitlatch
 - Had to leave early so Dr. Hayworth presented
 - City College senators are gone for their program-related tour
- Dr. Gentry
 - Research and Creativity Conference on Friday, April 11th
 - Submit applications by Monday, March 24
 - can get help with the poster during one of the online sessions
 - students can also apply to perform music
- Dr. Hayworth
 - Fall registration opens in a week
 - Summer registration is currently open
 - March 26 from 4:30 – 6 pm for the Career Services Mingle Event to meet with employers
 - April 9 for Student Leadership Awards

vi. UNFINISHED BUSINESS



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vii. OLD BUSINESS

- Financial Bill #11: AWP Conference
That the sum of **\$2,577** be allocated from contingency index #630200 to The Rook to attend the Association of Writer's and Writing Programs Conference in LA.
 - Financial Board recommendation: \$2,577
 - **Approved**

- Financial Bill #12: AMA Conference
That the sum of **\$6,593.05** be allocated from contingency index #630200 to the American Marketing Association Club to attend the AMA conference in New Orleans.
 - Financial Board recommendation: \$0
Concerns from Financial Board:
 - 5 students were going; most are seniors
 - 2/5 students are not seniors
 - Most students in this club are usually seniors
 - Concerns about staying at the most expensive hotel
 - Discounted rate given
 - Policy is to stay at the conference hotel due to safety issues and additional transportation costs
 - COB has declined providing funds for this trip
 - COB is funding the advisor so that fundraising from students will not be used for travel expenses for the advisor
 - lots of confusion between advisor and students
 - 5 total contingency requests were submitted
 - Resubmitted when requested
 - Initial request in November
 - **Approved** by the majority

ix. NEW BUSINESS

- Financial Bill #13: Rocky Mountain Psychological Association Conference
That the sum of \$5,200 be allocated from contingency index #630200 to the Psychology Department and the Honors Program to attend the Rocky Mountain Psychological Association Conference
 - Senator Hollenberg attended last year
 - Approved to move to financial board



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x. EXECUTIVE & STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Vikash Kumar

- Elections
 - Appreciates all the help with tabling
 - Word of mouth is very important on this campus
 - Applications due March 15 by 5 pm
 - Make sure to apply by this Friday if you want to be a senator for the next academic year
 - Election day is on March 28
- Senate Pictures is now on March 18
 - 6:30 pm; please arrive 5-10 minutes early
- Events update
 - Sneigoski: AMSUB tabling
 - Ellery: Tabling
 - Foxley: senior day basketball and Tabling
 - Garayeva: Tabling
 - Husen: Tabling
 - Merdanovich : First Aid training
 - Slade: Mariocart n Mocktails and Tabling
 - Chenoweth: Tabling
 - Hofer: Leadership workshop
 - Hickey: Tabling

Vice President Lamiya Husen

- Blood Drive
 - Tuesday March 18 from 12 - 4:30pm
 - Flyer will be sent with minutes
 - Please encourage other students to donate

Business Manager Nikola Sladic

- Financial board meeting right after

Student Resolution Officer Jackie Sharpe

- Senator Hollenberg will be the SRO for next year
- March 17 event at 10am – 12pm
 - Blooming with Gratitude
 - Attendance is mandatory unless you have a class
- SSPR meeting



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XI. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

XII. SENATE & ACADEMIC CONCERNS

XIII. WORDS ON CAMPUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- If you have any promotions for events, you can ask SAB to post it too
- Dillon wanted to thank students for attending the student leadership workshops
- Nominate students for student leadership awards

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT

XV. ADJOURNMENT – meeting adjourned at 8:17pm