ASMSU Senate Meeting Minutes for October 7, 2010

PPT Anderson calls meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Roll Call - Absences: none

Review Previous Meeting’s minutes

Move to approve previous minutes made by: Sen. West

Seconded by: Sen. Theil

15/0/0

Public Comment

None

Presentations

Mary Bolick - Daycare Services

Would like to introduce herself and give information about daycare and what we’re up to now. Sen. Forrest is our liaison, but I haven’t met him yet.

The Daycare Program – serves 85 children part time and full time. Currently, we have 6 slots available for staff and faculty children. Diverse place; we have children who speak many different languages, some with no English at all. It is an adjustment for them. Come have lunch with us – just call by 10:00 am. Some children helped with Hope Mountain. We are doing some commercials and will bring photos of this event to senate so you can see.

Have an issue with car seat safety, so we are using bike trailers for the children.

We have always done recycling and we have gotten some actual recycling bins this year.

Best 5 Star Field Test – through the quality assurance program. Starting in January. We are 1 of 120 programs that are to participate in Montana. We have a year to work on accreditation.

Annual Halloween Party – need Senators to help out and supervise games. Pass around sign-up sheet. Some of you have participated in the past, and you are truly appreciated.

Sen. Nehmeh – What children are eligible for the daycare?
Mary – Preschoolers, usually children of MSU students, some of faculty members.

Sen. Nehmeh – Is it free?

Mary – No, we have 2 different rates, one for students and one for faculty – also have rates for part of the day and full day.

Sen. Theil – Can you describe the field test?

Mary – Montana is doing a field test to make sure we’re providing quality care. 5 steps – must meet certain requirements to move up.

Sen. Smith – Does ASMSU helps subsidize the cost?

Mary – Yes, current Bozeman rates are higher.

APT Dawson – On average, it is almost double.

Smith – By having ASMSU subsidizing, it helps reduce cost for students.

Mary – Yes, almost equal to rent for some families.

VP Diehl – Can you send out a reminder email about the Halloween Party?

Mary – Yes, I will. October 29th is Halloween party.

Sen. Schroeder – Is there really no daycare for children under 2 ½?

Mary – We do not have the facility to offer daycare to those children, they would have to be kept in a separate place. Low ratio of children of that age and it is high cost.

Shane McFarland – Reduce the Odds

RSF is bringing a speaker here next week – had a sponsor back out, so looking for help to make up the difference. Mark Eggensperger presented last week and said you had more questions.

Steve is a sexual risk reduction specialist – it is important especially for females. 25% of women going to college will be attempted or sexually assaulted in the time of their 4 years. First year is the highest risk.

Want to prevent this from happening. It is impossible to educate women quick enough when they come into college. Steve will do that and teach women about sexual assault and risk reduction.

Sen. Wheeler – This is a one-time thing?

Shane – Yes, would be nice if he could come back. He teaches 2 self defense courses that would be nice to have here.
Sen. Schroeder – Who are current sponsors?
Shane – LI, President’s office, hopefully the senate

Sen. Schroeder – What about Campus Police and Voice Center?
Shane – Police dept has limited funding and the voice center also has limited funds. They have already invested in another program. Will both be there with booths and information.

Sen. Schroeder – What is the total cost?
Shane – $3500.

Sen. Capp – Is that the cost of the event or for him to come here?
Shane - $350 to set up, covers his hotels, travel, etc.

Sen. Welles – How many women are assaulted at MSU?
Shane – 200 a year, which isn’t quite 25%.

Sen. Wheeler – You said the Voice Center is having their own presentation, do you know anything about it?
Shane – Yes, saw poster – It will be a comedy to educate students on the risks and how to prevent assault.

Sen. Smith – Do you have the capacity to get the money if it doesn’t come through from Senate?
Shane – Fitness Center would piece it together to come up with the amount.

Sen. Welles – It is free, right?
Shane – Yes, we tried to make it as accessible as possible.

Sen. Theil – When and where is it?
Shane – It is at 6:30 pm in the Fitness Center.

Sen. Schroeder – How much is Rec Sports contributing?
Shane - Between $200 and $500. Hope you all can make it!

**Unfinished Business**

*Reduce the odds Supplemental Request*
Sen. Wheeler – Think if they follow through with what he was talking about, that it would follow up with other programs, think it would be worth it.

Sen. Mohr – Think we should support it, if we are the difference between it being successful or not successful.

APT Dawson – This is pertinent in lieu of recent events. This is a great thing. Has this or anything like this come in the past?

Shane – Steve hasn’t been here, but his self defense workshop has been. Some high schools have had him and his program here. As far as “Reduce the Odds,” no.

APT Dawson – It is a good cause – it is open to both men and women. The “pink boxing gloves” is a similar program but seems to be geared towards women.

Sen. Capp – Move to approve.


14/1/0

Sen. Smith votes “no.”

Motion carries.

Sen. Smith – Would like to remind the Senate that they were approached by a fellow Senator with a similar last minute program to do a film and did not receive funding.

Sen. Steffens – That was supported until a senator moved to change the amount of that supplemental.

Sen. Nehmeh – Food Inc. will be shown this week

Pres. Fisher – Gave $325 from discretionary fund to fund this.

**New Business**

**Capital Request – Sustainability: Cardboard Recycling Bins**

Presented by Sen. Smith

On behalf of Gretchen Hooker – want to acquire 16 - 5 yard bins. Increased capacity by 18 yards.

Currently ASMSU pays $195/month in rent to use the current dumpsters.

Would pay for itself in less than 3 years. Would be acquire all 5 yard bins. We can put ASMSU branding on the dumpster.
It will cost $9,920 for new bins.

After 5 years, it would save $1780 and in 10 years $13,480.

Gretchen has been taking incremental steps to help move this process along

Sen. Forrest – Do we need the increased capacity? Seems reasonable, but don’t know if it is needed.

Sen. Smith – The bins overflow sometimes. Have seen some spikes and trends in usage. Thinks that expanding the locations would be useful, but we aren’t doing that right now. People are using them.

Sen. Nehmeh – Is there any ways to subsidize the cost for what we are currently paying for rent?

Gretchen – Would have to talk to Brandy, maybe we could pay it back to the reserve.

Sen. Smith – Could keep it within the budget to acquire more recycling bins.

Gretchen – Yes, I will use extra money to try to expand the recycling bins.

Sen. West – Where are the locations?

Gretchen – There are 16 locations, 1 at the stadium, 1 at the Field house, 1 at campus stores, 3 behind sub, between Sherrick Hall and Reid Hall, behind the Chemistry building, Culbertson and Johnstone area, behind EPS.

Sen. Nehmeh – Can you explain extra numbers at the bottom?

Sen. Smith – We have $744,541 in reserve and $156,810 available. We have to keep 40% in the Reserve for insurance purposes.

Sen. Mohr – Thinks making an investment like this is a good thing. If it can be paying for itself in that time, then go for it. Biggest question is where is the limit to this? We’ve given $10,000 for the solar panels, etc.

Sen. Smith – ASMSU isn’t technically paying. The annual budget is separate from ASMSU and directly from student fees.

Sen. Mohr – Regardless of who is paying for it, how can the money to actually keep things sustainable and cheap? If you are getting this much money for projects you want to do but don’t find a way to keep it running itself, it isn’t sustainable.

Pres. Fisher –They are getting $72,000 of Senate appropriated fees from students each year.

Sen. Mohr – Main question is a philosophy thing, don’t you want to use the money you have to become sustainable instead of always asking for more money? It seems like you would still be asking for money if the fees were $5 per student each semester.
Sen. Smith – Think we have created a program for recycling that has been very low cost. Gretchen is very fiscally responsible. When you compare what she is asking for compared to other committees, it’s not that much. The value is unmatched with all the programs and events they put on. ASMSU is reflected by student’s desires. Students passed this with huge response that they want this, and you guys represent them. Think that there is a consensus within the students that they want to see this come through. It is a sound investment. This is strategic and students have voted it in. think it is rational.

Sen. Mohr – Not questioning competence, but seems like no matter how much money program is getting, it can always need more. There needs to be an end to it sometime. Can I see the wording to the thing where students passed the program?

Sen. Smith – Yes, there aren’t very many programs on campus that are very similar. Think the thing is it is up to you to draw the line and represent the students, they have an interest, but you decide what you think they want. There is a matching fund for the solar panels. This increases revenue and expands the program further. It is strategic.

Gretchen – One of the advantages of having our own dumpsters is that we can eventually convince MSU facilities to take over some of this program – should share the responsibility with them. That is long term goal. We already have the equipment; it won’t be a continued expense. Think these programs should be able to pull in together.

PPT Anderson – This is a chance to ask questions, discussion with opinions will be later.

Sen. Welles – Is there any issues with weather? They are mesh on the side.

Sen. Smith – We use the same bins currently. The people servicing the dumpsters like this type.

Sen. Nehmeh – Have you tired getting funding for these?

Gretchen – No, we have not, don’t know where else to go for funding.

Sen. Forrest – What do you expect for operational savings?

Gretchen – Going down from 4 days a week to 3 days a week for servicing.

Sen. Wheeler – Do you not have the money in your budget to do it?

Gretchen – No.

Sen. Smith – Would be saving money eventually, but not for initial costs.

Sen. Theil – Do you have the money now without cutting other services?

Gretchen – No.

Sen. Schroeder – Do you do fundraising?

Sen. Smith – No.
Gretchen – This is only our second year. Hoping to someday have a product that will earn revenue, but don’t know what the right project would be.

Sen. Smith – Wrote grants last summer, looking for grants that are available.

Sen. Kruegger – Do you know where the $2000 will go after you start saving money? How many bins would that buy?

Sen. Smith – That is what the debate was about.

Gretchen – They are about $50 a piece. It might buy more recycling locations, but also have to add in labor cost.

Sen. Smith – It might help us not come back here as often.

APT Dawson – Think it is good to note that sustainability is our newest committee; they are still up and coming. When they come for appropriations, it is a way to look at it, they are starting up.

Sen. Smith – Finance Board passed this unanimously just on a financial basis.

Sen. Mohr – Is it considered a full finance board when there is only 3 on it?

Sen. Smith – There is no official requirement.

APT Dawson – Normally there are 10 members on fin board. 7 of them are voting members. By-laws say there is not a necessary number there. It is a capital investment. Supplemental is anything $5000 or less and over $5000 comes from supplemental.

Sen. Capp – Think it is a great idea to buy something when we are renting now. The money that we save won’t actually be saved, the money we give them, the $6000 budgeted for rent will stay in their budget until next year. We might not remember to reduce their budget by that amount. They will have that extra money by default. Sustainability might or might not be the one to need it most. Move to postpone till March 10th (budgeting day). This will directly be appropriate for budgeting.

Seconded by Sen. Spoklie

Discussion:

Sen. Smith – Would like to clarify, the funds are restricted anyway, you can’t put the money back into ASMSU. The restrictions are in place to keep people from shorting the sustainability center.

Sen. Schroeder – If your reason for postponing is a money issue, should consider that it is a $1000 of rent that is wasted. Think it should be decided today. It should be on the grounds that they pay us back.

Sen. Theil – Move to recognize Sen. Stevens

Seconded by Sen. Smith.
Recognized with no objection.

Pres. Fisher – As far as the budget goes, when this committee was formed it was thought of becoming a $1 committee, similar to how recreation sports and fitness is. It is where they make more revenue than expenses. They don’t need our money, but to keep our connection, they stay as a $1 committee without needing budget.

Sen. Nehmeh – The point of creating a committee is to see it succeed. Think that from the numbers, it is evident that it will pay back and they did adequate research. Think we should support this.

Sen. Steffens – Would like to echo Sen. Nehmeh – it is a step in the right direction. When we approve things like this the requests will go down. How many programs pay themselves off in 4 years? They presented well.

Sen. Capp – Understands and supports buying these dumpsters – only concerned that we won’t get our money back. That is why want to postpone it. It isn’t a dollar committee yet. Experience with budgeting, if it is in the budget, it will be in the budget later. Want to make sure this money comes back to ASMSU. It is a capital request which is available to all committees. Want to make sure it is available for all committees. Then we can use the $2300 to give it back if that is what the senate desires. But there could be other committees that need it more. Shouldn’t only use it for one. We don’t want to see one of our small businesses fail. This money can be used for any of our small businesses. Shouldn’t use savings for sustainability over other committees. Postponing ensures that it will be done.

Sen. Theil – think we definitely have a good enough executive board. As a senate, we can probably remember. With something that is going to pay itself off, we should avoid rental fees. When budgeting time rolls around we can discuss it. Move to vote on motion. Previous question.

Seconded by Sen. Steffens.

Voting to vote

16/0/0

Those in favor to postpone:

2/13/1

Sen. Spoklie abstains

Motion does not carry.


Seconded by Sen. Forrest

Sen. Nehmeh – Feels some confusion – isn’t budgeting in February?
PPT Anderson – It is March 10th

Sen. Schuler – Seems that everyone is in favor of it but not for doing it all right now. What if we sponsor part but not all of it? See it shift over in stages?

Sen. Smith – Thought about that, but it is more expensive for delivery, bulk shipment. $1500 would be lost revenue by waiting until March. Not fiscally sound.

Sen. Schuler – The supplemental vs. capital fund? Where does capital fund exist?

APT Dawson – Imagine it like a savings account and a checking account. Savings is all money from student activities, chunk put in supplemental. Capital is the request, in that budget; we need to leave 40%.

Sen. Wheeler – With regard to Sen. Capp’s point, don’t think we should base our decisions on committees that are asking for money.

Sen. Stevens – Move to approve.

Seconded by Sen. Smith.

16/1/1

Sen. Schroeder abstains, Sen. Mohr votes “no,”

Sen. Stevens – Move to previous question.

Seconded by Sen. Forrest

16/1/1

Schroeder votes “no.”

Sen. Mohr abstains.

Motion carries

16/2/0

Sen. Capp and Sen. Mohr vote “no.”

Sen. West – For the record, abstaining should be used for those who do not know enough or who are involved in the request, not for not being able to make up mind.

Admin Reports

Pres. Fisher –
MSU hired Provost from North Dakota. She will begin work January 11, 2011.

Homecoming week – Barbeque went well, fed about 1400 students. Stayed just under the budget. Was able to feed more people than originally expected. The next event is tonight - Go Cats lighting at North and South Hedges. Hike the M is tomorrow – 1st 100 people get a t-shirt. Tomorrow is also the “undi run.”

Working on the float – if you signed up, talk to me after.

Game – Saturday at 1:30 – Bobcats vs. Portland State. Homecoming winners will be announced at half time.

Last weeks’ game was great!

Elections were closed at 5:00 p.m. tonight – had around 1600 people vote; hopefully will be up to 2000.

Sen. Welles – At last check were at 1600 and hoping for 2000 total?

Pres. Fisher – Yes, out of 13000, it is 15%. Historical election referred to 23-24%

Sen. Smith – Have they announced the election results?

Pres. Fisher – No, they need to contact all the candidates, then they will post them.

Sen. Thiel – Is it true that one of the candidates for Provost removed their name? Do you know why?

Pres. Fisher – Sandra Woods removed her name, don’t know why.

Football stadium – Board of Regents approved a design consultant to be hired – open forum last Monday. Will get information to you when they announce updates. Foundation approval – formal announcement will be tomorrow if they get it.

Sen. Stevens – Is there any action being taken to find a long term solution to dorm room shortage?

Pres. Fisher – As long as attendance stays level or increases, more dorms will be built.

Sen. West – There was an anonymous donor who donated $1M to renovate stadium.

Pres. Fisher – Yes, they donated on the premise that tribute would be made to Sonny Holland, a former player.

Sen. Nehmeh- Story of the week?

Pres. Fisher - There were 2 kindergardeners holding hands in line. Told them to keep their hands to themselves, and then they kissed each other. PDA even in kindergarden.
VP Diehl –

(Represents masquerade ball and snow white)

Homecoming is coming to an end, but still lots of events. Mark has volunteered his DJ-ing skills for the “undie run” – Will be promoting by having a “pants off dance off.” Then run will start at 1:00.

Parade is Sat. morning – normally Pre-Vet club offers to clean up after the parade, but when parade is over with they aren’t able to be there. The city is allowing us to have the parade, but if it is messy, they won’t let us do it again. If you are interested in helping Patty and I to clean that would be great. It would only be ½ hour to 45 minutes for clean up. Candy and horse poop.

Blood drive tomorrow in the ballrooms. Next one is right before cat/griz. As well as the competition for Can the Griz.

Early registration – senators are eligible. Seniors are able to get this already, but if you aren’t, give me your GID number so you can register early.

Pres. Fisher – Both blood drives are 6 weeks apart so you can donate at both!

Bus. Man. Thrasher –

Have a packet for everyone – last years’ budget (July 09 to June 2010) so you can see if committees went over or under budget.

Journal entries – shows how to account for putting money from checking accounts into committees.

Requested Appropriations – shows what was transferred from reserve – shows what was appropriated and whether they were over or under budget.

Sen. Theil – Where did funds come from if they went over?

APT Dawson – From reserve.

Bus. Man. Thrasher – There is a number that says how much we were ahead. If a committee goes over, it comes from reserve.

Sen. Capp – Did we lose $1M last year?

Bus. Man. Thrasher – It was budgeted that we expected $919,700.00 in income and had $1,569,700 in expenses.

Sen. Capp – So is student fee included in income or revenue from businesses?

Bus. Man. Thrasher – It is included in both.
Pres. Fisher – I think you’re seeing the difference between the two.

Sen. Smith – Would like to point out that Sustainability has only received a $3600 appropriation. $74,000 in revenue from student fees.

APT Dawson – They just didn’t use that money. Money that was left over.

Sen. Smith – They don’t owe ASMSU anything.

Sen. West – So that money goes back to reserve?

APT Dawson – Money they’re appropriated goes back to reserve in July.

Pres. Fisher - FY ’10 had $4000 leftover that went back into reserve.

Bus. Man. Thrasher – On the last page, diagram that shows the big picture. Shows a breakdown. Don’t hesitate to come to me or Brandy if you have questions.

APT Dawson – Is the big amounts of overages expenditures or something else?

Bus. Man. Thrasher – It accounts for the net amount of overages and under age.

Sen. Nehmeh – When you say administration, does that mean ASMSU office?


Sen. Nehmeh – Why would admin pay for Campus Entertainment?


VP Diehl – Assuming that will just be an error in categorizing.

Pres. Fisher – Imagine that purchases for computers went through bookstore, so it might be coming out of a different account. Will check as well.

Sen. Nehmeh – Food Inc., you said you supported that from what budget?

Pres. Fisher – I supported it from money from my discretionary fund, listed as “president’s fund.”

PPT Anderson –

Thank you for dressing up – those of you who did.

Thanks to Senators who volunteered at elections booths – a lot of people got good information by having you there.
Will be swearing in new Senators next week – will be setting up an orientation session with them before the meeting.

**APT Dawson –**

1st Finance Board meeting on Wednesday. Some members couldn’t make it. Need 2 more. 3 professional positions said that they would appreciate you making a plug for more people involved.

Working on getting a bill to go through in regards for consequences for committees who go over-budget. When it is days before a budget to turn over, there has been some irresponsible spending. Would like to put a crew together for that if you are interested come talk to me after meeting.

**Senate Reports**

Sen. Stevens – The Exponent and KGLT is having open house next Wed. 11:30 – 1:30 upstairs in sub. As liaisons to legal services, it was Phyllis’s 28th year on Monday – let her know you appreciate her.

Sen. Schroeder – LI will be having the Leadership Summit Oct. 23rd. It will increase your Leadership ability. Only $10 and you get food and snacks and prizes will be given. Senators should go – Indiana Jones themed.

Sen. Schuler – This week Sen. Wheeler and I met with the nursing committee- have all new committee. In billings, they changed the uniforms, but they ended up being the same as surgical staff. Next meeting for November, they wanted us to give presentation of what ASMSU does for them. Will answer their questions, etc.

Sen. West – will you and Sen. Wheeler be giving presentation?


Sen. Nehmeh – As liaison for Oct 19th is first meeting, is anyone else able to go to that? I have class and cannot go. It is at noon.

Sen. Capp – Approached by constituent that was upset about closing the art museum. A presentation on this issue would be appreciated.

Sen. Smith – Is that a report or an announcement?

Sen. Capp – A report.
Announcements

Sen. Wheeler – E.O. Wilson was speaking in ballroom, you should go if it is still going on.

Sen. Smith – Showing a picture of the trash cans after barbeque. We have a green purchasing policy – it is more than a good idea. Should communicate this to all committees so they can follow it.

Sen. Nehmeh – Talked to Phyllis – as it has been passed, we cannot demand it, it is just a suggestion.

Pres. Fisher – There is no punishment for not purchasing by the guide. We only passed a resolution so it is a suggestion.

Sen. Mohr – Should be more proactive in getting bins set up for the students. We should be doing something.

Sen. Smith – We have existing bins, we put the effort into it in suggesting that we should be buying green. We need to work on communicating to our committees.

Sen. Stevens – Would like to announce that the 3rd annual Recycled Fashion Show will be November 5th in the SUB ballrooms. $5 in advance $8 at the door. Come talk to me, Joe or Matt for tickets. 7:30 pm

Sen. Welles – Last week we talked about committee for renovating Campus Entertainment office. Shelby and I were at the meeting today, but no one was there to meet with us. No one from Campus Entertainment bothered to show up.

Sen. Nehmeh – Suggestion for next year’s elections: if we are directing students to barbeque, maybe we should have the booth at the barbeque.

Move to Adjourn made by: Sen. Wheeler

Seconded by: Sen. Schuler