Meeting called to order at 6:00pm

Roll Call: Excused are Thuringer, McKay, Haskell, and Mains

Review Previous Meeting’s Minutes from February 23rd, 2012: Murakami moves to approve seconded.

Public Comment: Chantel Burry: The new director for ASMSU films.

Chase Cordoza: RHA director on campus. Wants to make known what RHA does to the ASMSU Senate. They just attended a conference to encourage a bridge between the residence halls and the campus. They passed 17 pieces of legislation that will be implemented into the residence halls in the upcoming year. RHA really wants to get the name of MSU out there.

Presentations:

Gretchen Hooker, Sustainability: Gretchen is leaving and she is here to answer any questions senators may have about the continuance of the sustainability program after she leaves. She feels that ASMSU has a lot to be proud of and there has been much growth on the campus. The higher administration is looking at incorporating more sustainability on campus. There will be an interim director selected soon to continue the progress already started this year.

The budget proposal did not go through do to the lack of funding and the need to put money elsewhere but Blake wants to see something happen and make a compromise on the budget versus just cutting it out all together. Gretchen will be moving to Missoula. Scafide wishes her the best of luck and sounds like a great opportunity. Bernard wonders what changes she would like to see continue; she believes it needs to be ASMSU leaning on the administration to keep pushing for more sustainability on campus.

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

Bylaw Revision, Senator Townshend: The SOS committee has been working on the bylaws and the revisions of them. The committee has taken a broad look at each of the bylaws and taken each individual article and making adjustments. There has been a lot of discussion about how much content is needed in the bylaws. There is a spreadsheet tracking all of the progress made by the committee. This is basically the defining document of ASMSU as a whole. The formatting, level of content, and the time frame necessary all need to be discussed by the senators.

Townshend wants senators feedback on how detailed the bylaws should be because he would like to give the program directors a bit of wiggle room in order to leave some things up to their discretion. Bernard wants to have wiggle room; he doesn’t want to have ASMSU hands on everything. Duker notes that an incident came up last semester and the lack of guidance caused a discrepancy. French wants to keep the bylaws more open ended and would like to see ASMSU have a little bit of trust
in other programs. Scafide believes that if it is to narrow we are going to be stepping on toes. Karimian wants to know if the new bylaws will actually be enforced if we do decide to make them specific. Abeh agrees with French and believes the more specific it is the more room for error there will be, if you leave them general and allow room for creativity. Marsh wants to know if it is supposed to be skeletal bylaws and then make them more specific for the job descriptions.

Townshend notes that with that would come the level of involvement from senate or the executive counsel. He believes that the current bylaws have not been consistently changed and he wants to create a brand new document that they are really proud of. The bylaws are not hard to change within the senate. Bernard wants to know about checks and balances and what would the system be and how would they be implemented. Townshend notes that discussion is really specific to the bylaws and would like to save that discussion for a better time. The senate voices that they would like to keep the bylaws general. To carry out the format of the bylaws there can be a third party that you pay, allow someone internally, or pay someone internal over the summer. The third party would be beneficial because someone internal could be blind to discrepancies because they are too internal. Rogala notes that to find someone like this would take some research.

Henry Lawson believes he might know a professor. Abeh wants to know who internally would edit it would be the SOS committee. Duker notes that he also knows several third party professors who might be up to revising. Bandstra notes that keeping it on our campus would be more beneficial to ASMSU. Bernard notes that it would be beneficial to have a third party MSU staff or student. Abeh agrees with Bernard due to the fact that there is a rotating door as far as ASMSU senators are concerned and wants this issue to remain on campus so that in the future other senators can contact them. Duker notes that the student government notes that they are a good resource. Scafide agrees and wants the third party member to be on campus so that they are available to be contacted in the future. The general consensus is to start internal for formatting the bylaws.

When are we going to commit to having this process completed by? Scafide wants them to take there time and use the summer to really work through this process. French wants to know who is going to be available over the summer time? Should we spend the money to pay for this process? Rogala would like to see this work done by students. Content needs to be stemmed by the Senate. Scafide doesn’t want to pay a professional to put in all the work. Townshend wants it known that he personally will not be here this summer and so he would like to see this get moving before the summer time. Abeh believes that maybe this could be a project that people work on but the labor input may not be the same. Lawson notes that maybe going out and finding out how much this actually will cost because at the moment we have nothing to go on.

Duker is burnt out with reading the bylaws and this requires a division of labor and the meetings on Monday at 3 are just not enough. He wants to try and pull in other senators. Townshend notes that looking at this issue from a bird’s eye view makes it seem unattainable. Rogala believes that there is not much left to do to get content ready for an outside third party to overview them. Floerchinger wants to know if you can pay senators? Townshend wants to come back with more information next week.
Lake came into the meeting at approximately 6:42pm. Steffens recognizes Senator Lake seconded.

2012-R-06 LEED Standard: Rogala notes that this is to standardize buildings on campus. This is a program to implement sustainability in buildings on campus. This is tying into the piece of legislation that was passed in Montana to implement a standard for buildings on campus. Duker notes that this project Environmental sustainability is important on campus. Marsh moves to approve this motion seconded. French wants to know why we are settling for silver instead of shooting for more? Rogala responds by stating that you have to by into this program and make do with what you have and slowly implement this on campus. Lawson notes that it does cost to be invested in this project.

Bernard states that there are savings over time and wants to know the actual savings over time and how cost efficient is this? Steffens notes that this is a growing concern and doesn’t want to put a dollar amount on this project. Floerchinger wants to know if anyone knows any details about the different levels. Rogala responds with two qualified members recommended this level to Blake and Rogala. Bernard is in agreement with this and wants to remain consistent. Steffens notes that he is just going to use his best general judgment on behalf of the student body. Vote: 14/0/1 Motion passes.

Resolution 2012-R-06 Amended to: Therefore, let it be resolved that: The Associated Students of Montana State University recommend that all new buildings on the Montana State University, Bozeman campus be to at least the LEED Silver standard.

Supplemental Request, Office of Student Activities, $4,000: Motion to move into discussion by senator Steffens seconded. Steffens encourages people to open their mind to the discussion due to the bias in the email. Floerchinger notes that there are 20 new clubs and this would allow for the funding of all the new clubs. Lawson notes that from the presentation last. French: does not want to give Student Activities more money than the Board of Reagents has determined is acceptable. He believes they have enough money allotted to them already and that if they need more money they should be requesting a raise from the Board of Regents. Bernard: Cruzado spoke to this at the Leadership Institute last week and she would like to see this change come from the ground up and she wants students to be the ones requesting that clubs receive more and better funding.

Floerchinger: we have almost 200 clubs and that number is growing. They need more money. Marsh: I cannot see any better use of student money. Rogala: We have not yet budgeted $24,000 for Student Activities, we should not be speaking to something that has not yet happened. Lake: why are we doing this now? Direct Response Lawson: clubs are given money first come first serve. Scafide: few students will see this money. Rogala: the Student Activities fee took 15 years to be given because such things require a lot of time to be decided on. It is a slow process. Student support of something that
affects so many students is not a bad use of our money. Steffens: good student leaders cannot wait for this money. We should allow them to host events now that they do not have funding for. Duker: I have witnessed the process for funding requests on the club side and it has a great impact not only on campus but goes beyond. Bandstra: move to previous question. Seconded. Vote: 11/2/1 Scafide and French oppose. Motion passes.

Admin Reports:

Senate President-Jenny Lawson: The ASMSU is coming up in 2 months; Senator of the Year email will be going out sometime next week. Next week finance board will come before senate to give their own opinions. The Sexual assault summit will be held this weekend in Butte. New films director, Chantel will be taking this role as previously stated tonight.

Matt will be talking about the four new directors, the first is for the director of the WAMI program, the second will be Bob Marley, Dean for the college of Business, and finally the dean of arts and architecture. The search has not started for the dean of letters and sciences. Bernard wants to know what the turn over of dean’s is due to. Two deans have just left and three just notified of there leaving. This is a testament to the fact that deans really do enjoy MSU. Scafide wants to know if an interim dean has been found yet.

Senate Reports: Duker is really proud of senate for board of regents approving the religious studies major. Lake notes that the honors college is moving to approve dual credits for several classes. Secondly she has been working on getting business cards for each individual senator and wants to know if senators are in favor of this idea. Abeh notes that this is a good opportunity for PR on campus. This will be fully funded by PR. Lake will send an email for people who do decide to opt out. Floerchinger notes that CFAC approved ASMSU’s five new computers, mobile computer lab, and many technological upgrades.

Combs wants to give an update on the biking position interviews will begin this Monday and Tuesday. Murakami notes that the productions committee is occurring now and the library is now opened until 2 am. Rogala recognizes that Brian is moving forward with state legislator and she is really excited about it. Lawson went to the libraries committee meeting last week and the library has some awesome new additions in their digital realm. If any person has a book request they should inform the library. This may or may not need to be a book. They have recently been subscribing to a lot of online journals. Bernard physical activity for credit is still up in the air. The event that is going in the room next door is being overseen by ASMSU.

Announcements: Marsh is announcing for Thuringer an art that is now on display that she would like ASMSU to go check out. Bernard has been handing around tickets for a night with general Clark please be present no later than 7. Steffens notes that on the same night MSU choral is presenting that night and he is singing in it the event begins at 7:30 in Howard Hall.

Adjourn Meeting:
Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm