ASMSU Senate Meeting Minutes for October 20, 2011

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm

Roll Call:

Review Previous Meeting’s Minutes:

French- move to approve
Bernard- seconded
20/0/0

Public Comment:

Presentations:

Cassidy Medicine Horse- Gender Liminality

My name is ..... I am the daughter of Janet and the daughter of Johanna and the daughter of joseph. Nez Perce. I hold degrees from varies in philosophy and biology. Masters in Native American studies. I am a doctoral student and candidate. I am also of two spirits. Euro American knows us by another name—transgender. There is no such thing. I come before you this evening as a constituent. I support you through vote and tuition money. i want to bring facts to you that you may not know. You as this body should know. To be transgendered is not a choice it is a biological thing from birth. Brain differences, hormone washes. What is important is that it exists on this planet in every 1 in every 250 people are transgendered. Three times the amount of muscular dystrophy. They are stoned and murdered. There are no laws on the books that protect or prevent from housing or jobs. They can be evicted or fired immediately. Not because you did anything wrong but because who you are. 50% of all transgendered people have at one time considered suicide. 30% of those are successful; slightly over 1% nationally. 60 people on the MSU campus who are transgendered. I am the most obvious and blatant and most out. I am Indian I am not afraid. Many hide. A suicide which may indeed turn to a tragic circumstance on this campus. 15 kids on this campus because of who they are. What you take for granted. What bathroom do you use? The decision is clear. For a gender liminal person could get killed. You have it in your power to make a difference. There are actions that can be taken. I will list them for you and hope you will consider them. Designate at least one bathroom, within reason, in every building as transgendered. For families and singular people. Designate that future construction could incorporate transgendered facilities. Designate a space for the transgendered on this campus. I understand the problems a lot of space.... Open a dialogue with MUS and the Regents to change the policies. It is an abomination. MSU has the opportunity to be socially interactive. And it could be the first to make a change in these human rights issues.
Abeh- You mentioned that people who are gender liminal have had issues with residency and jobs. Do they say the sex they identify with or who they seem from the culture. Is it because they announce their preference or because it is found out?

Cassidy- sex and gender are not the same. The culture of this country to date has been based on a bimodal paradigm. Barbie and Rambo... there is a huge void in the middle. If you apply to an employer, if you are qualified, and you are given this job, and you personally identify, and go to HR and express who you are, although it doesn’t change your qualifications etc., I identify in this gender, I am identifying as this and you can be fired on spot.

Bernard- you mentioned that the regents have recognized the gender liminal but..?

Cassidy- It states that there are no federal or Montana laws that hinder harassment on transgendered individuals. It is on each basis, courts may choose to look at particular circumstances and may choose to take actions. It basically does nothing.

VP Steffens- I am very impressed with your presentation and courage to represent. What progress have you seen at MSU since you have been here?

Cassidy- There is an organization on this campus QSA queer straight alliance. This is chiefly, from my experience, is centered on the gay and lesbian population. This is totally different. Accommodations? None. I have seen nothing. I have heard talk and speculation. I have been spoken to by many people on what to say what not to say and how to say it. It’s up to you what to do. I am available to answer questions and advise.

Elizabeth Wilmerding and Zak Reamer- The Voice Center

Zak- we are victim services on campus, 24 hours a day. Assault, stalking etc. We also do resource work, and educational presentations which is under SASA, and staff 9 people. (Statistics handed out)

Elizabeth- The prevalence of the crimes are not going up, people are just coming out to talk to us more.

Zak- We are looking to improve on LGBT awareness too.

Elizabeth- We also support and give resources through oppression etc. Today is Spirit Day, bullying against LGBT students primarily. These buttons are created through the Voice Center. We are really looking to reach out to LGBTQ students. We will be surveying the student body and a LGBTQ resource center on campus. If anyone has any questions or suggestions, we are willing to work with you. The statistics include national and MSU statistics with dating violence, assault, rape etc.

Zak- We don’t mean just survivors who had it happen to them, but secondary survivors as well such as family and friends.
Elizabeth- we are there to help people go through whatever decision they make to handle what happened and support them through it.

Abeh- you were talking about getting a center established?

Elizabeth- We want to gather data to see what students want. MSU is a little behind in activation of this center. A safe place with no judgment and resources.

Bandstra- is safe zone through the voice center?

Zak- yes a lot of our staff is safe zone trained.

Elizabeth- Safe Zone is its own program through another office.

Bandstra- Talk about what is safe zone?

Zak- It trains on the education of the coming out process etc. and LGBTQ and working together to be comfortable to others to feel safe and go to that office to talk.

Fallon Walker- Films

The 27th and 28th of October we are doing the Rocky Horror Picture Show. We will charge a dollar and give it to the Ronald McDonald Safe House. This weekend we are going to show a documentary of a student from MSU film.

I am requesting supplemental funds for a new projector. We would supply half and the sub would fund other half. Butch and I have been working together a lot. We want to get a projector like the one in ballroom A, it would be $7000 from our half, and $600 for cables and such. The 35mm projector is not always used for newer films which usually come on DV, which is what the new projector would be for.

Murakami- the 35mm is the one going bad, what is wrong with what you have now?

Fallon- picture quality is really poor, we get complaints. We have worked with the school films, and we have to spend several hours each time I team up with them to make it work okay. It's very difficult and not useful.

Karimian- Senators Marsh, Abeh and I were at the meeting Tuesday, and it was very difficult to read.

French- Maintenance costs?

Fallon- Butch said Strand Union would take care of maintenance costs.

VPS Krueger- fixing the 35mm as well?

Fallon- Yes and that is in my repairs budget.
Murakami- how many people are there per week? How often is it used currently?

Fallon- quite a few people for Erotique night on Thursdays 60-100 on slower nights 20 or so. For the day time presentations I do not have those numbers.

BM Jackson- I have information on that.

Fallon- Anytime I have rented out the Procrastinator out to another organization I haven’t charged.

Karimian- Why is this projector the best?

Fallon- It’s the money we want to spend, and what we want in a projector. We also already know it is reliable.

(BM Jackson presents numbers of attendance)

Bryan Waldheim- State Leg.

I am State Leg. Director. Coming up on November First is the mayoral forum in the Procrastinator from 7-8pm. We are also going to try to get as many declared candidates I can find for gubernatorial elections and Congress. I want to do a meet and greet in the lobby of the Procrastinator. We are also looking into rock the vote with CE. Phi Kappa Phi is going to work on that as well. And we will work with many groups across the community to get people to this event.

Floerchinger- Do you have any events for absentee voters?

Bryan- Yes we hope to incorporate something in on November first.

Floerchinger- Is it possible to have an absentee sign up table at your events? I don’t think people are aware that they can do that.

Bryan- The bill you have in front of you tonight which will amend the student lobbyist position. I think the student lobbyist needs more time to do his or her job properly. They need to build relationships with other lobbyists, groups, offices, and legislators. There is a big learning curve on that, which you make a small change for a better outcome. Usually hired in September, four months before session is not enough time to prepare for that. I think we should also have our student lobbyist join the board of regents meeting in which I meet with other state leg. directors from other schools. We all work together. This bill will do a lot to enable that Jenny sent out a question and answer, and attached a new description of the student lobbyist.

Steffens- What is the difference between your position and this position?

Bryan- they live in Helena lobbying for students and higher education during session. Bill research and bill tracking, also building relationships. They are directly the voice of the students. They work closely with the state leg director who stays on campus to inform students on campus. In a lot of ways, the
lobbyist and state leg director need to work together but also the lobbyist needs to head the research and information.

French- if hired now the lobbyist would start in the spring? What is the dollar amount of funding?

Bryan- I proposed a tier three position of 1500 dollars of ten hours a week, and yes they would start in the spring.

**Unfinished Business:**

2011-B-09-State Leg

PS Lawson- (read bill) do sponsors have anything they would like to add?

Townshend- one thing we want to talk about is revising the duties in section three to set a precedent of what this position will do but possibly change in the bylaws.

VPS Krueger- I think we should focus on the bill as it stands tonight. And that way Bryan can start looking at hires for mid-November and then we can look into job description. Move to approve

Seconded by French

Rogala- budgeting issues?

French- I like the idea. The extra semester is of great value to get up to spring and to get involved. This makes a better informed lobbyist.

Bernard- We are also creating an incredible education opportunity and employment opportunity.

Steffens- the number of candidates interested in taking 3 semesters off of school?

Rogala- Its only one semester off of school. They have to be enrolled in 7 credits, but not on campus during one semester. Although it is still a large time commitment.

Townshend- line 18.

Rogala- If we approve this, then in our budget, do we have the funds to do this next semester?

Pres. Bjornson- you should be looking out for a supplemental for this position.

19/0/0

**New Business:**

**Admin Reports:**
President Bjornson- the call for investment proposals for this institution. That maybe the money wasn’t there in the past for. There will be a streamline request. Any other ideas that you have for projects on campus, for a minimum of 25,000 dollars. Let me know.

Townshend- Expand what this is and current projects?

Pres. Bjornson- there are no projects yet, they decide that next semester. Projects can come from anywhere; I’m one of the authorized people who can suggest projects to budget council. There is no guarantee that we would have the money to send. Also tomorrow at noon o clock in the procrastinator loft, Theresa will talk about her student needs assessment. It’s one hour.

Duker- what happens next Monday with the commissioners? Show up looking nice.

Pres. Bjornson- 121 north Rouse. Come to the Commission office looking nice. Hopefully you have all seen the website, please shoot me ideas about what to do with our website. Board of Regents, November 17 and 18 in Bozeman in the SUB ballrooms. MAS will be meeting the 16th. More info will come.

Murakami- On our website, it still talks about the old districts description.

Pres. Bjornson- there are 3 schools that had higher Montana resident freshman enrollment. We are one of them. Also, we are having fewer people graduate from high school.

VP Steffens- Town hall meeting is pushed back to November 2nd. I encourage everyone to attend the town hall meeting. There is a lot of time allowed for student input. Cassidy medicine horse also left me her contact information if you want to talk to her and her concerns would be great to talk about at the town hall meeting. Next soccer game is Monday and also Wednesday at 5pm. Sen. Krueger and sen. Haskell and I met to discuss about a space available in the fitness center for students.

Bandstra- what space?

VP Steffens- we are trying to decide what to do with a vacant spot in the fitness center.

PS Lawson- please meet with your liaisons, if you are having trouble with that then come talk to me or send me an email. Tabling in the sub, VPS Krueger and I decided this isn’t a best use of our time. We felt that the ASMSU office is basically the same thing. We just need to advertise the office a lot better. I don’t think it’s the best use of your time alone.

Abeh- one of my directors said she didn’t want to meet with me yet because she hasn’t had her meeting yet. Is that ok?

VPS Krueger- Next week in Finance Board we will have two supplementals. Next Tuesday, many senators will be meeting with professors etc. to work on the fitness courses. Streamline now has its GPS system up and running but it will not be unveiled quite yet. Next week, in my committees we will do undergraduate studies about classes. The day after I was elected into this position I received an
acceptance letter to a school in Germany, I will be stepping down next Thursday. To help training this new position next time.

Senate Reports:

Townshend- We talked about ways to connect with our constituents in the College of Engineering we will be working with the Engineer Ambassadors who work within the college of engineering and those depts.

Combs- I met with the daycare center today. They just got their star two qualification, and they are part of this five star system, and they are now working for the third star. They were really happy to see me there, if you also every want to come by, they encourage you to come by to visit.

French- I talked with Ryan Lalum with Productions who is excited and overwhelmed for Halloween. He is very busy and has many events going on and more coming in.

Lake- I am working hard to make a connection between ASMSU and the Veterans’ Center. They are putting on a 10K this Friday and need volunteers. They need certified flaggers, and need volunteers for registration and flagging, November 11th and you should be done by 12pm. We also don’t have school that way.

VPS Krueger- in our meeting it was brought to our attention that there are more and more Veterans coming home and going to school as handicapped which we need to take notice of and look into.

Murakami- they are trying to redo the planetarium at the Museum of the Rockies, and other projects to be funded through their quasi fund and grants. They also requested possibly 500 dollars to show that students are behind them because they are affiliated with our campus.

Lake-I have a signup sheet for that race, and I think we need to give a couple hours to the people who support our country.

Bernard- when and what is the name?

Lake- 8 AM and it is a 10K the veterans run.

Mains- Can we put our info down, even if we aren't sure?

Rogala- Sustainability Center had their open house today with their new office downstairs. Senators Duker, French, Townshend, Krueger and Lawson and I met Tuesday night for a Finance Board proposal.

French- Finance Board makes recommendations to the supplementals brought before Senate, usually Finance Board is overruled by Senate, and there has been lack of communication between Finance Board and senate which has caused some problems.

Rogala- there are currently 9-10 members of finance board, 6 ASMSU appointees, 2 faculty members, and an exec member. (explains different plans for finance board reconstruction)
VPS Krueger- Finance Board receives all financial requests that come to ASMSU before senate, finance board rules whether or not it is fiscally responsible.

Mains- by doing this, taking out student reps, would it step on any toes?

Pres. Bjornson- Do you mean who is currently on it? Yes that is an issue, but it is something we can change anyway. It’s less of a matter of communication, I don’t know if putting two more senators on the board will change communication when senate already have two reps. As senators, you were sworn in to make fiscal decisions, that is one of your duties. I don’t know why we add two more students to the equation, not that it is a bad thing. I am in favor of making finance board consist of senators. The advisors should still be on the board, don’t take away your own power of managing money.

Duker- plan one would have voting senators on the board as opposed to liaisons, instead of just bringing back what happened.

Steffens- I agree with pres. Bjornson, but I think it is most logical to have finance students on the board, for hands on experience of undergrads.

PS Lawson- (clarification of who consists of finance board)

Public comment- I proxy for one representative who is not able to go to the meetings.

Karimian- how do you decide who goes on finance board?

Krueger- nominations in senate.

Pres. Bjornson- When you look at US Senate Finance Committee, and we could do the same sort of situation here with the most senior senator on that committee.

Rogala- I want to make it clear, that if you place senators on board, that time commitment is also an issue. I think senators should make fiscal decisions.

French- I don’t think it’s a concern of having senators on the board because senate has the final say.

McLaughlin- isn’t that the problem we are trying to overcome? We vote differently than finance board currently?

PS Lawson- an informal vote?

Abeh- is that legal?

French- move to suspend the rules to come to an idea at where we are going with this?

Duker- a vote on a decision?

Floerchinger- seconded to suspend the rules

17/2/0
Pres. Bjornson- What does this mean?

Rogala- We want to gage what your opinions are, not saying we are going to stick with what we see here tonight, if you do not feel you are well enough informed please abstain from voting.

French- we just want an idea so we can start writing a bill.

Pres. Bjornson- I think this should be a poll done outside of the meeting.

Ps Lawson- plan 1: 0 plan 2: 13 plan 3: 1 (Townshend and Peck abstain)

VP Steffens- you voted to suspend the rules, please specify the rules.

Townshend- move to reinstate the rules.

Seconded by Steffens

19/0/0

Announcements:

Marsh- I would like to continue talking about town hall meeting. November 2nd in ballroom A and Sidney wants us to be on the panel or set. She wants you to be there and she will come next week to talk about it.

Duker- I am planning on writing a resolution in writing a letter to recommend to the board of regents for a religious studies major.

Matt Caires- Reckless biking and skateboarding meeting Monday at 4pm. Dillon Haskell is the primary representative for you but feel free to attend.

Peck- all support the arts on campus in the Black Box Theater this weekend or the next. “The Dead Guy”

Murakami- Haskell, Steffens and I have started intro research the Pub in the SUB.

VP Steffens- clarify “direct response” if you have the floor you do not need to say direct response, if you have a question or response, then you have to be acknowledged by who does have the floor not the president of senate.

Karimian- society of auto engineers is looking into putting in a supplemental request.

VPS Krueger- move to adjourn

Seconded by Murakami

19/0/0

Adjourn Meeting:
Meeting adjourned at 7:47pm