Montana State University
Associated Students of MSU Senate
SUB Conference Room 235
October 8th, 2015

Meeting Called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Senate Speaker, Joshua Soares
Minutes recoded by Senate Secretary, Mackenzie Johnson

Roll Call: Campbell, Chapman, Dove, Dufner, Glose, Howell, Jones, Lacy, Leach, Manley, Marts, Miller, Murdoch, O’Keefe, O’Leary, Oswald, Sanders, Soares, Stimac, Windham

Absent: Lynn

Review of previous minutes
Jones - Was FFA changed to ASMSU?
Johnson - Yes
Howell - Move to approve (seconded)
    Roll Call Vote: Y – 19 N - 0

Public comment
Garret Lankford – I thank my leaders for their decisions this week. I want to invite senate to Tacoboutitbozeman it’s a public forum with free tacos and beer if you are of age. Cody Howell is moderating the debate. I would like all of you to share the event on Facebook and tweet a question. It is next Wednesday from 6-8 pm at Taco Montes. There will be important questions answered as well as a talent section.

Presentations
Tracy Ellig, Executive Director of University Communications – I run all the communications for the university including crisis communications and printing. Dealing with the media is one of the most nerve wracking things for people. The words you give the media will be available to the entire world forever. It can follow you for decades. There is a lot on the line and it didn’t used to be that way back when things were only printed. You want to be thinking aggressively about how you work with the media. A journalist will first call, email, or walk up to you when you don’t expect it. You are a representative of yourself and in the world of the internet you have a personal brand that is searchable on the internet until the end of time. Employers will look at it in the future. The first instinct is to defer. When I say defer I mean to be truthful and take an opportunity to gather your thoughts. You want to interview the interviewer. You want to find out who the reporter is and who they work for then ask what they are looking for and when their deadline is. It is typically around four or five in the afternoon and the deadline is very important to them. It could also depend on the severity of the purpose of the interview because that could
determine their next steps. Take their information and consult with yourself and other necessary sources. You want to touch base so that you don’t end up putting your institution out on a limb. You gather necessary information and develop a plan. You then practice multiple times preferably with someone else in your organization. You cannot practice enough. You may think you know what you are going to say but that can all go out the door with the microphone and camera right there. There are some classic questions you will get asked in interviews. “How do you feel about…?” is a common one. They are after an emotional response because the easiest thing for the public to understand is an emotional response.

Howell - Move to extend time (seconded)

      Roll Call Vote: Y – 19 N - 0

Ellig - You are a member of an organization that is all about process. Instead of saying how you feel personally a safe option is to reference the greater group like the senate. Stating something like “we have a process…” is a great option. Letting emotion leak into the media will haunt you for years. It does not do your organization any good to have an emotional headliner. It will not help you move forward and resolve issues. What you say to the media is related to the whole company. Another common question that journalists ask is, “what is the worst case scenario?” I highly recommend that you never say no comment. Explaining that you are busy and will get back to you it diffuses the situation because no comment is like blood in the water for sharks. With the question what is the worst case scenario it is best to answer with we deal with the facts. Don’t say we are not considering but say we are focused with the facts and hand and are focused to identify the best outcome. A few other tips for you would be when you’re doing TV interviews, we think that everything runs smoothly how it is but in actuality it is put together in clips and you are able to redo them. Always take control of the situation and be aggressive, one option would be to just start talking and say that they can ask questions at the end of the interview. This way you can be sure that you have said what you want to say and it has not been forgotten in the questioning process. This is done after you have consulted and more often than not the reporter says great we got it and you are done. If you feel like you are messing up just tell the reporter that you are not used to this and would like to do it again, that is totally okay. It is better to get it right then say the wrong thing. Stay in your lane and only speak about things that you know about or are an expert in. If you don’t know just say that you do not know and will find out the answer in it and get back to you. You do not want to speculate. Always tell your colleagues so there are no surprises in the office. You do not want to be the last person to find out about something so make an effort to inform people. I write a summary of every interview I do and send it out to executives on campus. I have a sheet here for you that summarizes all that I talked about today. Any questions?

Soares - Is there an appropriate way to say I gave you my answer already?

Ellig - The reporter will ask the same question over and over again in a slightly different way and your job is to answer the same question over and over again in a slightly different way. Stand your ground and it will be hard. Don’t tell them you already gave them your answer. Don’t be snarky with a reporter because you will lose. Reporters aren’t spiteful but they are human and the
story could be different as soon as they get back to the station. If you would like the full version feel free to talk to me.

Cowles - Would you mind debriefing us about ASMSU in the recent media?

Ellig - You have had a lot in the last two weeks. You will get asked about tuition, sexual assault, Cat/Griz rivalry, campus population, and off campus housing. Watching how all of you have handled the past few weeks you have all done a superb job and you don’t even need my training!

Cowles - I wasn’t fishing for a compliment but thanks

Glose - I would like to move to shift admin reports to after unfinished business so Matt Caires can stay (seconded)

Roll Call Vote: Y – 19 N – 0

Motion passes

Lacy – Does Levi Birky agree?

Birky - Sure

Unfinished Business – Second reading of 2015-B-01 To reestablish the ASMSU Judicial Council

Glose – Move to approve (seconded)

Glose – We spent most of today discussing the best possible options for this and the best course of action was in the instance of a tie it was not overruled by judicial council. I propose to amend line five to change it to ‘no action will be taken by judicial council.’

Cowles- I agree with you that’s how it works in the US government. I would like a few answers like why is the legal service intern an ex oficio? I would delegate that to a permanent staff member because there is a lot of turnover. You need a section that allows resignation. For eligibility requirements you cant have students going in and looking at that stuff.

Caires- That’s correct when you sign up for senate you waive your FERPA rights

Cowles – Can’t we just have an admin do that so we don’t have to have all the paperwork?

Caires – When someone gets disqualified there is sensitivity to how that occurs. It becomes cloudy when another branch gets involved with that.

Cowles – I advise you to amend line 6. Change con audit to legislative review

Soares – Con Audit doesn’t exist anymore we changed the name

Cowles – There are some small semantic things but I won’t bore you but get rid of the compliance thing because that’s against the law.

Glose – Move to amend page four section five and strike the whole line and replace it (seconded)

Motion passes
Glose – I’d like to make a friendly amendment to page two section one to add ‘or resign’ I also move to add line four to add more requirements to judicial council

Accepted

Glose – Strike the word student conduct and replace it with ASMSU

Accepted

Glose – This allows justices to serve on university boards as representatives of the student body. This could be parking, residency, residence life, etc. there is a full list online. I make a friendly amendment to change grammatical corrections to continually update and review grammatical syntax. Also to change all appeals to be submitted to justice within two weeks after termination. This allows them to look through the constitution and bylaws.

Accepted

Glose – Under resolution appeals I propose to strike the whole resolution line entirely because it gives them the time to appeal that. And change to roman numerals to be consistent.

Accepted

Glose – Under section E voting I move a friendly amendment to remove affirmative.

Jones – When judicial rules how its read currently means if they are against motion there is no ruling made and nothing happens so we need to have a record of what occurred so we will record majority of votes not just if it was affirmative majority.

Accepted

Windham – Can we strike the word of?

Accepted

Okeefe- A constituent said possibly instead of having five justices have seven

Glose – Since this is new we want to start off small

Soares – Did he have rational?

Okeefe – He said he would email me and hasn’t yet

Sanders – You have one chief justice and what if they are unavailable for meeting?

Birky – We have them based on seniority so the next most senior person would chair meeting

Move to roll call vote:

Y – 19
N - 0

2015-B-01 Approved
Admin Reports

Birky – Thanks to Matt Caires and Kyle Glose. My nominees for justices are Carsten Kirby, Hannah Good, Derek Hetherington, Liv Stavic, and Lauren Myers. Of those five I’m putting forward Kirby as chief justice if you can come up with questions for him next week id like them to be the same for each candidate.

Soares – For confirmation is that your choice?

Birky – He has to be confirmed as justice before he can be confirmed as chief justice so there will be six confirmations

Windham – Why do we appoint instead of choose within the body?

Birky – Politicizing it can get fractious. To continue, at university council there was a unanimous vote for approval of the student bill of rights and this is historic. We have had a lot of publicity because of it. Capp and I were commended by the body for how well we handled the transition. I asked Tracy (Ellig) if it is better if we take the story to the news or if we let them come to us and he said it is better to take the story to the news so keep that in mind. Employee of the month is Zen Wholers so congrats Zen. Senator of the month is Madison Lacy so congrats Madison. She was super helpful during the transition and is involved in most ASMSU activities. Next I will go into a presentation on our transition into legitimacy. This will lay out our goals moving forward. It outlines our three guiding goals capsuled in our tag line “Your vision. Our mission.” In our retreat Gwynn (Simenuik) and I outlined the words service stewardship and engagement and we have pivoted a bit to serve someone else and not our own ambitions. I think our spirit is a component to help get students involved. We defined quick wins and we broke those down to task forces and projects. I don’t want you to put your goals on the side just because they take longer. I want to change the definition to progress in public outreach. First taskforce is an alcohol policy taskforce. ASMSU should develop a stance and work and collaborate with stakeholders. We should have a positive solution come out of this. There has been talk of sub pub and we should formulate this taskforce. We need a code of ethics task force. What do we expect of our student leaders? This is critical after the recent situation. We should develop an expectation. I also want to form a speaker’s forum taskforce. This will identify a strategy for an event that recognizes co-curricular engagement. We should develop a strategy to capture this. The last taskforce we should create is a student outreach taskforce. Students won’t come to student government we should go to them and hear what they have to say. We should create this to identify a strategy to outreach to students. If you have ideas of other taskforces let me know. A taskforce needs to be reported by student body by Christmas break and the taskforce will identify how we will do it and this is to build trust among the students. I outlined taskforce responsibilities with chair and members. It helps you step up as a leader. Identify some quick wins as you chair these meetings it will give you initiative as you move forward. Members are also very important to carry out the goal. You are not just here for your opinion let’s actually get some work done. Here are six projects I have identified: Outdoor rec climbing boulder, renter’s literacy, gender equity housing, viewing party for cat/griz, bylaw revisions, and student fee.
receipt. Some of these are posted on our wall as your goals and we should carry them through. Do you have any other ideas for projects?

Zoltek – I want to do a forum for university studies to talk to professors or ex university studies students

Marts – Finding a covered parking home for bikes on campus

Howell – We have gotten a few emails about bike safety so we need to figure out our next step with the conflict of pedestrian and bike.

Birky – Don’t limit your ideas, bring any ideas to me or admin or senate and we can address them. Join at least one taskforce and commit to at least one project. The floor is open to dialogue.

Zoltek – How are we picking chairs?

Birky – If you want to chair then you approach admin and we will decide them at the next meeting

Soares – You do not need permission we will not limit your involvement

Howell – Can we get the list back up (on the presentation screen)?

Birky – Sign up on the sticky notes in front of you and get back to me

Brough – Thanks for coming to the open house today. 90 students completed the tickets meaning 90 new followers on social media. We had a very ambition plan and we are right on schedule. We need to pick a team building day. We need to be a team and work together. I am taking ideas for what we could do and Amaryllis is also taking ideas. Let’s work on teambuilding. Let’s make sure we keep our conversations open that encourage everyone to express their opinion fairly. We are responsible for each other.

Capp who is not able to be here tonight – Met with program directors this week and we are changing meeting times and changing campus entertainment. We will be doing one on one meetings again to make sure I am up to speed. I am still transitioning my office hours have been posted and I am there if you need me don’t hesitate to ask any questions.

Cowles – Finance board is meeting for the first time this year new members will be confirmed at next week’s meeting. The review process for club sports own pool of money is coming up and it worked well last year so we will see. It may fund some turf fields over by the new dorm. I will help you kick off that process. Ran into issues with streamline payments and they are getting their money back we are working it out. No major financial crisis to report. Budget materials are being put together for 2017. We are keeping the board and office remodel is officially done. Copies of the budget were left on the table if you want to look at it. Came in two thousand dollars under budget.

Soares – Can we email that to all of senate with the budget?
Cowles – Sure. For taskforces please advocate to have that be a part of senate meetings it holds everyone accountable. We haven’t had quotes during admin reports so here you go: “vision without action is a day dream, action without vision is a nightmare.” Chinese proverb.

Soares – We will go over the detail of the alcohol policy at 2 pm on Sunday in the office to get a general consensus. I am kicking off the ethics taskforce at 12:30 pm on Sunday.

Windham – You’re chairing both of those?

Soares – Yes I am and everyone is welcome to come. Front desk has asked me to remind you the purpose of the coffee please talk to people getting coffee because we need to interact with students. When taskforces start going on get them in your senate reports. Chelsey did an awesome job with the leadership wall we all look beautiful.

Dove – Chelsey’s board does look awesome

**Senate reports**

Stimac – Outdoor rec liaison committee met and we talked about the boulder and got approval. It’s going to be about a thirty-five thousand dollar budget and he will come talk to senate about plans. They are getting a new assistant director position. New for credit activities will be up next semester.

Glose – What classes?

Stimac – Tons there is a whole manual

Cowles – I talked to Ryan Diel and he said they have unanimous support from admin and staff but we need support from the students so when we get a resolution we can vote on it.

Jones – Ryan will be in to talk to us to see if we can fund half of the boulder and seek donations from alumnae. I have the brochure for all of the activities available for the next two semesters.

Howell – Repeat offenders is in the Exit Gallery. Thanks for being a presence there

Birky – I want to remind our speaker that his main duties do not include shoving someone’s agenda. This promotes leadership among senate not current leadership. I don’t like this last minute change. You can have your own taskforce but I want senate to lead my taskforces.

Windham – Student health advisory committee met and discussed the president’s commission on substance abuse. We talked about health advancement and doing a viewing party for cat/griz so we could team up on that. We could improve the student health facility and its not on admin radar at all. They are trying to raise 300 million dollars and it doesn’t mention student health in the 50 year university plan. We should show that we value them.

Sanders – Melissa Dawn the director of the Exit Gallery has called to hear opinion on renaming Upheaval. Also awesome movies at the Pro this week.

Howell – Word on upheaval: if you are interested in renaming upheaval go to the Facebook and voice your opinion. Give it your best shot.
Murdoch – There will be a card in the office that you should sign tomorrow. Its going to the community college in Oregon to show support.

Lacy – What is the process and deadline for the new elections director position?

Birky – December

**New Business - None**

**Senate Announcements**

Jones – Draft pick is in half an hour in the office

Sanders – I’m directing a play this semester and auditions are coming up so come out and audition if you want to impress with your comedy talents.

Windham – Do you need help with crew?

Sanders – Definitely

Howell – I am on senior capstone and we are breaking it down into smaller sub groups and doing a small study of 5-7 specific focus groups. I am looking for a few gay male freshmen who would be okay with participating in a survey for my class. It is basic, quick, and easy. It’s a snowball recruitment process and if you know anyone that would be awesome.

Windham – Move to adjourn (seconded)

**Meeting adjourned 7:58 pm**