The Residence Hall Association of Montana State University
Senate Meeting

February 8, 2018,  7:00pm

I. Call to order at 7:00pm on 2/8/18

II. Roll call

III. Residence hall and their current endeavor

- Freshman Apartments: 1 senator, Planning an event for valentines day
- Hannon/Quads: 2 senators, Put on a successful duct tape RA event, partnering with the voice center for February event
- Hapner: 2 senators, Hapner formal plans, Planning February self defense workshop
- Johnstone: 2 senators, super bowl event had a good turnout, planning renovations
- Roskie: 2 senators, Roskie 5k planning
- South Hedges: 2 senators, Planning candy and condoms event. Introducing a new senator, Sofia
- Yellowstone: 2 senators, planning February event Speed Friending
- North Hedges: 1 senator, Getting ready for the traditional Tomorrow, Need flags from halls for Event ASAP

IV. Approval of Minutes: Hannon/Quads, North Hedges second on approval

V. Public Comment

Hannah from VOICE center: Discussed basic resources. Confidential office on campus for interpersonal violence, stalking, domestic violence. Sexual assault anything you felt uncomfortable with, domestic violence includes relationships that aren’t marriage, stalking is unsafe behavior. Anyone affect by these issues. Confidential support line – trained advocates, 24hrs a day, someone will always be there. Text or email mon-fri 8a-5p. all confidential and free resources – nonmandatory reporting. Walk someone over who needs help. Located in SUB 370. Stop by to see where they are at. Free counseling by appointment. Number: 406-994-7069

VI. ResLife Update

Tobin: quick announcements – summer employment opportunities numerous are available, summer housing application goes live tomorrow no fee to apply, spring break registration next
week no fee but you do need to apply (all halls will be open) just be registered to let them know you will be staying.

Guest policy revisions– (Suggestion of cutting out all minor check-ins in the halls with a discussion on that idea)

Hap: I have a little sibling that has stayed the weekend, don’t know if this drastic change is the best policy, maybe a transition period with liability form with regulation before we go straight to no. Another thing, halls still have people sneaking guests in and minors could still be snuck in especially with a blanket no policy, problems will still occur. Are there going to be people going around kicking underage individuals out? If there was an online form, parents could quickly submit online if they didn’t know ahead of time.

Tobin: We want feedback in order to have a discussion, higher up.

South Hedges: Supports a transition year, a complete no under 18 policy would be detrimental. If I hadn’t stayed on campus when I was younger I wouldn’t have come to MSU. People will be discouraged if they can’t stay at the university.

Res Life Apartments: How would you control or monitor that in RLA or headwaters? Minors would still be able to and no one would be the wiser. Regulating will be difficult.

South Hedges: As a desk clerk it will lead to more people staying in the residence halls that we don’t know about. Counterintuitive.

North Hedges: Not thrilled with under 18 not being permitted. The coolest thing I was offered was being able to stay a few nights in order to get the feel of MSU. Staying the night is a valuable opportunity for people interested in MSU.

Johnstone: Can people under 18 stay with parent permission?

Tobin: No, they would not be able to stay at all, that is the policy revision being suggested.

Yellowstone: People under 14 wouldn’t even be able to be here without their parents so that makes sense but 16 and up would be a different story.

Tobin: Younger people come with parents and then want to stay with siblings. It happens during nonrecruiting events and even with family. Where would you draw the line?

Yellowstone: 15, because of drivers license and personal experience

Yellowstone: Family weekend, my 10 year old sister wants to stay with me. How much trouble would she get in at that age?

Tobin: The exposure to other things happening in the building, even if they aren’t personally. They can see drinking, etc, within the hall. Would it be better accepted or more positively accepted if there were exceptions in the policy for specific university events (family weekend, 125 birthday weekend, etc)?

Hapner: How would you discipline if an RA found a minor in the building that shouldn’t be there?
Tobin: It’s hard to answer because it’s situation to situation. Verbal violation, student accountable, could be sent elsewhere if they had a place to go.

South Hedges: Would make it confusing to have exceptions for specific events?

Tobin: It would be explicitly spelled out. We don’t always catch everybody breaking rules, but we have a policy for holding them accountable. We write policy to hold students accountable when they are in violation. We won’t catch everything and that’s ok.

Tia: Specific weekends has been successful at other schools.

Jake: Appreciate specifics in the policy. How would you get a special request form far in advance? How to provide exceptions on record?

Kenny: MSU events require more RA presence because there often is more drinking. Why would we put minors in that situation that we already know are troublesome. Kicking minors out because of what they might see, could give a bad image of the university. The halls have gotten much better recently.

Cole: Choosing which specific events would be important. Cat griz might not be good to have minors in.

Tobin: MSU Fridays and parents weekend would be the potential days. We aren’t trying to hide anything – parents are smart enough to know what happens in the halls. We don’t want a minor running away from home. We don’t want liability of the situation.

Tyler: I think we’re having the wrong discussion. We should be having a discussion about what is going on with the students. We are adults we should know what is right and wrong at this point. Having said that I think we should have a more flexible system that allows minors to come in if they have a legitimate reason. If the student has shown they are responsible they should be able to have a minor with them.

Kenny: Are we trying to get away from calling the parent?

Tobin: We are trying to move away from all the calls that senior staff have to make. It is a repeated process and can happen many times a night especially during busy university events. Risk and liability and personnel time. I will come back to RHA to get a marketing plan, so that all the paperwork is done ahead of time.

Hapner: I think we need a marketing plan even if we go with an absolute no.

Tia: Have you considered only making it siblings? Parsing it out for siblings vs friends vs SOs.

Tobin: We will be coming back with more policies. If you have anything you want changed talk to Blake.

Johnstone: Don’t like that the halls aren’t allowed to vote on quiet hours, understand the difficulty especially for large halls but some are small enough.

Tobin: Acknowledgement of issue
Hapner: The quiet hours are not a huge deal, they are reasonable as is, my hall didn’t even know to vote on them

Johnstone: 25% of floor is up to 3am at night

Anne: Appreciates quiet hours because I have to up early and it is nice to have consistency

VII. Old Business

VIII. RHA Officer Reports

Jill: NRHH working on OTY, OTMs encourage members of your hall to write them, we enjoy reading them.

Tyler: working on getting elections process finalized, if you are interested in running for positions next year we are having an info session after this meeting.

Anne: Working on reexamining the constitution with Bake, meeting with Blake to make sure we have all receipts in. Next time we should have budget presentations.

Bailey: Finalizing details for ultimate bingo, reaching out to sponsors for the event.

J: Checking out equipment as usual. We are missing a piece of equipment, ARDs please go back and look for a little black box with knobs and ports that might belong to RHA.

Blake: Already mentioned what I’ve been involved with. Discussing the conference next weekend, excited to drive to Boise. Happy thoughts for good roads. Anne and I are having our birthdays on the road.

IX. New Business

Constitution (Anne VP of Business): we have been updating our constitution and constitutional by-laws. We will send out the update tomorrow with the minutes.

How to ratify the constitution: Hall wide vote or a hall council vote, to approve the changes. It is up to your halls to decide. You must record every single vote that you get and bring to Anne. If you don’t tally up your votes, we cannot count your votes and we will have to start the process all over again. This is a summary of all the votes. President and ARD must fill out the form accurately. We need 2/3 of votes to ratify the constitution.

North Hedge: Are halls operating as states?

Anne: 2/3 of all votes are counted, it doesn’t matter which vote is coming from which hall. Tallying up everyone.

North Hedges: It would behoove you to get as many people to vote as possible.

Anne: No senate next Thursday, so please get your constitutional votes done by that day February 22.
Hanon Quads: Why are there two places?

Anne: It’s just a printing error, you only have to fill out one.

Summary of changes: Corrected names of the organization (Hall council, NRHH, RHA), put in a new mission statement, expanded eligibility of membership to prevent discrimination, restructured our organizations (how we are registered, how HC interacts with RHA, etc), reorganized all Hall Councils to align under the RHA umbrella, detailed/updated the new RHA executive positions and changed some titles to better reflect our roles, updated to include Yellowstone, updated the number of senators at Senate, update protocols for election processes, updates protocols for funding and fund request practices, updates language (switched to correct names, correct grammar, weird wording, use nongendered pronouns), expanded power to recall HC executives. We don’t believe these changes are controversial, we changed it to reflect what was already happening in RHA. Contact us if you have any questions.

Thursday February 22, votes should occur at the latest.

Fund Request

Roskie Presentation: we are looking to purchase long sleeve t-shirts, with two different logos. Sport grey shirt, $15 a shirt for a nicer material. Order 30 shirts, $450, RAs RDs hall custodial staff. Logo designed by the president. This will be a trial run, if residents want one they can pay to order one.

South Hedges: Who are you doing printing though?.

Roskie: Bookstore

North Hedges: Ordering in bulk makes them cheaper, did you consider letting residents order first?

Roskie: We wanted to do a trial run so residents know what they will be buying.

Johnstone: Isn’t there another place to get cheaper shirts?

Roskie: We wanted a nicer material and there wasn’t much that was cheaper online. We wanted something that would last a lot longer and be nicer.

X. Adjournment

Langford: move to adjourn

South Hedges second adjournment

Overall Summary:

Res life had a presentation on a suggestion of a new no minors in the halls policy which was thoroughly discussed, T-shirt Fund request approval for Roskie, Constitution ratification paperwork distributed and discussed.