



Submitted by Vice President Lucido

Minutes of the Montana Associated Students Meeting, Held November 17th at the University of Montana – Missoula

11-17-04

CALL TO ORDER – MAS President, Matt Larson called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT – Student Regent Kala French, ASUM President Gale Price, ASUM-HCOT President Frank Belgarde, ASMSU-N President, Kelley Paul, ASMCC President, Roxanne Lowney, ASMSU-B President, Adam Lucido, ASMT President, Matt Larson, ASMSU President, Blake Rasmussen

RECOGNIZED GUESTS – ASMCC Treasurer, Nathan Herbig, ASMT Vice President, Sarah Bennett, ASMSU Vice President Lauren Krnavek, ASMSU-B Senators Emily Valenzuela and Amanda Mears, ASMSU-B Political Action Director/Lobbyist Connie Summers, ASMSU-B Business Manager, Hanna Rugg

MEMBERS EXCUSED – ASMSU-GFCOT President, Justine Kapperud

MEMBERS ABSENT –

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- **President Larson** invoked members of MAS around the table to provide brief introductions
 - Upon calling for an approval of the minutes from September's MAS meeting at Montana Tech, **President Larson** inquired about the status of these minutes, which had both yet to be disseminated to MAS members and posted on the MAS website
 - **President Price**, who completed the minutes of the previous meeting, explained that somehow the minutes have not been able to be located on the laptop on which the minutes were recorded. **President Price** told MAS that she would continue to search for the lost minutes, but that it was possible that they have been permanently lost.
 - **President Larson** acknowledged the status of September's minutes and made the decision to proceed with the meeting, sans an approval of the previous meeting's minutes.
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PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **President Larson** called for public comment. University of Montana student Aaron Flint had previously requested some time before MAS and was given priority in sequence.
- University of Montana student **Aaron Flint** presented MAS with further information regarding his lawsuit against the administration of the University of Montana and a separate resolution in which he has penned and disseminated to the various student governments across Montana. Flint remarked that he was concerned about a “dangerous precedent” that has been, and will continue to be set unless student governments take a stand on the legitimacy of student government. Flint believes that signing the resolution “censuring the actions of the administrators at U of M” will possibly prevent campus administrators who may potentially deem student governments as illegitimate. Flint noted visitations that he has made to the campuses in Bozeman, Dillon and Great Falls; each of which their respective student governments has signed his resolution. Flint remarked that he hopes to continue discussions with Billings and any other campuses in which he has yet to connect with.
- **President Lucido** asked Flint about more of the details on the actual dialogue between him (Flint) and the U of M administration and to verify if he had any specific plans to take his resolution, or anything comparable, one step further in the form of a MAS action item, or any other item calling for MAS involvement.
- Flint responded by offering the website www.nvri.org to those interested to receive a copy of actual dialogue and more detailed information regarding the case. As far as anything on the MAS level, Flint commented that he would like to see MAS become unified on this issue to make an effective stance against the threat on student government legitimacy, whether in the form of his current resolution or in a more succinct and direct approach to be formed by members of MAS.
- In response to Aaron Flint’s comments, **President Price** invited members of MAS to visit with those within ASUM to obtain further information on both sides of this very issue, and remarked her disappointment to “those campuses that hastily signed on to Flint’s resolution without first contacting her to receive additional information.”
- ASUM Senator **Tyler Clairmont** urged members of MAS not to support Aaron Flint by signing his resolution, feeling that Flint is only offering members of MAS his perspective and drafting resolutions to help out his lawsuit. Senator Clairmont remarked that Flint’s agenda is merely litigious, and not for the greater good of the Montana Associated Students.
- University of Montana student **Tom Figarelle** responded to Senator Clairmont’s remarks by explaining to MAS that the concept of Aaron seeking out other students simply for legal leverage is completely “absurd and unnecessary.” Figarelle remarked that he supported Flint and applauded his efforts for working for the greater good of the Montana Associated Students.

- ASUM Senator **Bryce Bennett** commented to MAS agreeing with previous comments about Flint's pretenses for encouraging other student governments to sign his resolution. Bennett shared that he as well, was convinced that Flint is attempting to gather support for his lawsuit.
- As public comment on this issue began to show signs of idleness, **President Larson** issued a last call for any other public comment.
- Montana Kaimin student government reporter **Dakota Cannavaro** introduced herself to MAS and expressed her excitement about working with members of MAS in the future.
- **President Larson** closed public comment and moved on to old business.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A pending issue with website designer *Spectral Fusion* and provider *TriLocal* brought forth discussion on the matter. At the September meeting, **President Lucido** presented MAS with the bills received from both companies pertaining to the MAS website – *Spectral Fusion's* bill was significantly inflated over the negotiated price range and *TriLocal* presented MAS with late fees. MAS agreed at the time to research the issue. However, no further information has been obtained.
- **President Larson** remarked that MAS needed to touch base with both companies while the group was in Missoula.
- **President Price** said that she would pay a visit to *Spectral Fusion* the following afternoon and invited other members of MAS to accompany her.
- **President Rasmussen** agreed that the issue needed to be taken care of immediately, and offered to accompany **President Price**.
- **President Lucido**, who has been working on a MAS contact spreadsheet, explained that he was nearing completion of the project and thanked MAS members who timely sent him corrections to the preliminary list. He also called for any additional changes or additions to the list to be submitted to him at anytime during the Missoula visit.
- **President Lucido**, on **President Kapperud's** behalf, delivered the MAS Treasurer's Report. **President Lucido** disseminated the MAS financial report (document is attached to minutes).
- **President Larson** called for discussion on a previously discussed MAS mission statement/strategic plan. He inquired if MAS members were still interested in pursuing the concept and if so, how MAS should go about developing it.
- **Regent French** explained that whether the mission statement/strategic plan would take the form of being extremely detailed or succinct and straightforward, she suggests that MAS consider having some sort of statement of purpose and identity before MAS heads into the legislative session.

- **President Price** noted that she had reviewed the strategic plan from the University of Montana's Foundation and offered to share it with MAS as MAS considers formulating its own plan.
 - **President Larson** recommended that MAS members correspond with each other before the next meeting to share their thoughts and ideas for a mission statement/strategic plan.
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NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion with Regent Semmons:

- **President Lucido** apologized to MAS for not successfully contacting Regent Semmons regarding this evening's meeting. A series of emails sent to the regent were returned (delivery failure) and **President Lucido** apologized for not calling Regent Semmons after receiving the email notifications.
- **President Lucido** called for ideas on a *rotating regent* for January.
- **President Price** recommended inviting both Regent Semmons and Chair Mercer to discuss the finalized *Shared Leadership* and the up-and-coming session.

Discussion with Student Regent French:

- **Regent French** discussed the packet of information that she disseminated two weeks prior to the meeting regarding a few issues.
 - o **Role of the Student Regent:** **Regent French** asked MAS about the group's desired degree of involvement from the student regent. **Regent French** inquired about her involvement thus far (if it has been too much or too little) and what MAS expects of her. **President Rasmussen** responded by acknowledging her efforts as being exemplary and that he appreciated the current level of involvement and participation from **Regent French**. MAS members agreed and thanked **Regent French** for bringing her thoughts on this matter to the board.
 - o **Transferability and System-wide GPA:** **Regent French** informed MAS that they would be meeting with faculty members, department chairs, and academic senate chairs from across the state to discuss transferability issues. **Regent French** explained that **Chair Mercer** charged both students and faculty representatives to begin discussions regarding transferability issues. The meeting would be conducted immediately following the MAS luncheon.
 - o **Fee Waivers:** **Regent French** disseminated a more detailed break-down of fee waiver information and inquired about the level of progress of each individual campus' research on fee waivers. A general consensus of the board was that research is in process.
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MAS LUNCHEON TOPICS:

- **President Larson** called for topics to be discussed with the Board of Regents at Thursday's MAS Luncheon.
 - **President Price** suggested that we finalize discussions on the legislative session and if time allowed, briefly discuss issues of transferability and the system-wide GPA issue. The board concurred with **President Price**.
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MAS CAMPUS REPORTS:

- Presidents from each campus delivered a report on their respective college's campus life.
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ADJOURNMENT: **President Larson** ended the meeting at 7:40 p.m.