

MAS Minutes August 19th 2004

Members Present: Price, Larson, Lucido, Rasmussen, Krnavek, Kapperud, Dane, Student Regent French,

1. Meeting called to order by Price at 2:05 p.m.
2. Presentation of lobbyist proposal
 - a. Price read a brief proposal which outlined a coordinated lobbying effort and highlighted two main areas of importance.
 - i. The first section discussed the hiring of a professional lobbyist. In order to ensure our campus voices are heard, student interns from each campus would work under the lobbyist.
 - ii. The second section discussed a Student Ambassador program. This program would use student volunteers from specific districts to get student messages to legislators.
 - iii. The proposal was authored by Price on May 19th, 2004 and sent to all members of MAS before the meeting.
 - b. French felt that a head student ambassador was need. Lucido agreed with this and felt a head ambassador position could be added to the proposal.
 - c. Rasmussen wondered what each campuses role was for finding ambassadors.
 - i. Price discussed that each campus would play a part in arranging ambassadors for each district.
 - ii. French made a recommendation of Valerie from Bozeman to head the Ambassador program.
 - iv. Price reminded everyone that the leader doesn't have to be a MAS member.
3. Price asked if everyone was on board with the concept.
 - a. Lucido pointed out that Billings is still reluctant to fully pursue the coordinated lobbying effort.
 - i. Billings is worried about the shared leadership program and how MAS will support the program.
 - ii. Billings is still deciding on if they should work together with MAS or have own lobbyist effort in support for the shared leadership program.
 - iii. Lucido asked if MAS would lobby exclusive for shard leadership.
 1. Price discussed that the lobbyist effort would not be exclusive. The lobbying effort would on united student issues.
 2. Larson asked if schools by keeping a lobbyist would defeat the purpose of a MAS lobbyist.
 3. Price discussed that each school has issues of their own and guide lines would need to be set.
4. Cost
 - a. Bozeman feels that they can contribute \$5,000.

- b. Dawson Community College inquired if contributing to the cost will be required or volunteer by MAS members. Dawson pointed out that a set fee of any about can be a large chunk of the smaller schools budgets.
 - c. French discussed that Commissioner Steers hinted towards funding for higher education thru state funding is going to major topic during this legislation. French talked about the importance to make sure the funding is taken care of and to prepare for a battle with a lot at stake.
 - d. Rasmussen questioned the total cost of the proposal.
 - i. Price discussed that it would be a part-time position in November and December, than become full-time for January, February, March, and April at \$3,000-\$4,000 a month depending on experience and expenses.
 - 1. Price pointed out that this was not just for a salary, but also for all the other expenses attributed to lobbying.
 - e. Dawson wondered how by making a sacrifice of a large proportion of their budget and other smaller schools will be touched by the effort.
 - i. Price discussed that not all schools may see direct results, but that all Montana students can or will be touched by the effort.
 - f. Larson suggested that each member of MAS take the issue of cost back to individual senate and come up with a figure by September's meeting.
 - g. Lucido and Price felt that MAS could form a committee to help determine, schools that would be exceptions because of budget, for paying required amount.
5. Employee oversight: Price asked who will oversee the daily activities of the lobbyist. Who will direct the stances the lobbyist takes? Do we want a committee? Or will the MAS president suffice?
- a. French discussed that it needs to be a joint effort and not just one individual. French recommend forming a committee.
 - b. Price asked if MAS should set the direction and take care of small details or if a committee should be formed to oversee the duties of the lobbyist.
 - i. Price read a brief description from Krnavek's description of what is being overseen.
 - c. Price reminded everyone that MAS officers are just interim positions until reelections in September.
 - i. Price suggested a legislation action committee be formed at the next meeting to oversee the duties of the lobbying effort.
 - d. All members of MAS present at the meeting agreed that the job description was acceptable for the moment and would be reevaluated at the September meeting.
6. Recruitment
- a. Price discussed that there are option around the state for filling the position and that a hiring process be developed and conduction it by October be a goal of MAS.
 - i. Lucido suggested posting openings for the position on Monster.com and in local newspapers.

- ii. Price suggested that MAS take care of some of the cost to advertise the position.
 - iii. Lucido suggested reviewing the list of registered lobbyist in Montana and look at other campuses around the nation and their programs developed for lobbying.
 - iv. Bennett from Montana Tech suggested posting the position with Career Services in the Montana University system.
 - b. Kapperud wondering what the requirements are for the position.
 - i. Lucido suggested that the requirements be developed as MAS gains candidates.
 - ii. Larson suggested that only a resume be the initial requirement to start off the process. Then develop questions for a formal sit down interview.
 - c. Price asks to have everything in line by September's meeting so advertising for the position can begin right after the September meeting.
 - d. Price urges all MAS members to seek senate approval and discuss with senate what each school can budget towards a united lobbyist.
- 7. New Business
 - a. Lucido brings up the idea of reorganizing MAS and Regent relationship.
 - i. Lucido would like to see regents more involved with MAS meeting instead of the time put aside for a luncheon discussion.
 - 1. Lucido feels this will be more productive working with the Regents.
 - 2. More campus issues can be discussed instead of just campus wide issues that are often repetitive.
 - b. Price agreed and suggested putting the issue to a vote at the September meeting.
 - c. Price also will put an invite out to Regent Foster to attend the September MAS meeting along with any other Regent interested in attending.
 - d. French urged MAS to extend the invite to all Regents and try developing a rotation that would allow the Regents to attend a MAS meeting.
- 8. Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

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