



September 27, 2006

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM

II. Introduction

III. The following Presidents from each campus were present:

UM-Missoula – Andrea Helling

MSU-Billings – Kevin Majewski

MT Tech – Chris Mjelde

UM-Western – Vice President Crystal Kain (sitting in for President Whitney Wines)

MSU-GF COT – AJ Hernandez

MSU-Bozeman – Cole Arthun

MSU-Northern – Samantha Clawson

IV. Approval of Minutes- July

ASUM- Missoula Vice President Cedric Jacobson moved to approve the minutes followed by a second from Kevin.

V. Public Comment

ASUM-Eric Schults expressed concern with state resolution in opposition of CI-97. Tuition is of the utmost importance. CI-97 is a copy of TABOR where a crisis occurred in Colorado state and government spending. If we as a state pass this, we will have worse problems with educational funding. Apathy is not an option, we must take a stand.

VI. Presentations

A. Commissioner of Higher Education Sheila Stearns –Q&A

Sheila stated that she has been working with Cole for the meeting. It was also during this time that a public appreciation was extended to the MT-Tech hosts for setting up the meeting. There was discussion of how OCHE works and preparation that needs to be made for the legislative session. It was mentioned that MUS tuition pays 4000 of the 9500 total bill. In preparation, we questioned as to what approach to take to keep costs down and more affordable. “CAP” is the proposed executive budget to slow the fast increase of tuition. Commissioner Stearns thinks that this is the best deal for students. There was further questioning of the \$50 million “CAP” for education funding. Tuition will stay maintained; however, no extra programs or projects will be funded from this. The plan also doesn’t bring in new money but rather changes the sources it is coming from. For non-residents, fees will increase just as they would have, but cannot make up for anything else. Fees also won’t increase beyond inflation. Equipment and deferred maintenance funds will possibly be only exception. The final question asked was how long the “CAP” will be in effect. The answer was that it would be in effect for two years and then there could be an attempt to continue it another two years. It was stated that Governor Switzer’s plan would not be able to go through to reduce the increasing tuition rates if CI-97 passes. The Board of Regents has followed suit in opposing it.

B. Raise Your Voice- Kasandra Lundquist

Kasandra gave a brief description of what Raise Your Voice was all about. They are currently in their 4th yr since 2001 in MT as part of Campus Compact. She expressed that RYV & MAS can work together in representing all students from around the state including the ones attending private and tribal colleges. Kasandra mentioned the kind of impact the student cohesion could have at the state legislature. She passed around sheets that gave more information what RYV does and upcoming events such as conference calls, site visits, and an event called “Day at the Statehouse”. (See attached)

VII. Elections

A. The following nominations were made for MAS President:

Cole Arthun nominated by AJ Hernandez and Cedric Jacobson

Andrea Helling nominated by Kevin Majewski and Cedric Jacobson

Each candidate performed a platform presentation about their visions and goals for MAS.

They each answered questions by MAS members. Members cast in their written ballot to Student Regent Heather O’Laughlin to count and announce the new MAS President.

Andrea: 4

Cole: 3

B. The following nominations were made for MAS Vice President:

AJ Hernandez nominated by Cole Arthun and Cedric Jacobson

Kevin Majewski nominated by Cole Arthun and Cedric Jacobson

Each candidate performed a platform presentation of how they would be of assistance to MAS. They each answered any inquiries from MAS members. Each member again cast in a written ballot to Student Regent Heather O’Laughlin to count and announce the new MAS Vice President.

AJ: 5

Kevin: 2

C. The following nominations were made for MAS Treasurer:

Kevin Majewski nominated by AJ Hernandez. Since there were no other nominations, Kevin Majewski is the new MAS Treasurer.

VIII. Regent O’Loughlin

Heather O’Laughlin is the Student Regent who sits on the Board of Regents along with the MAS President. She first made everyone aware of the Governor’s announcement earlier this morning, and stated she had met with him to try to work out some more details of “CAP”. Heather gave the definition of what “present law” meant which is inflation. The Board is taking a proactive step with the plan by holding down tuition increases until the plan goes into effect. She further explained how the Board is broken down into four committees; they are the workforce and development, finance, staff and compensation, and academic committees. From the finance committee, there was discussion of the need to bring executive salaries including faculty to a level compared to other states. MAS was also informed that a UM-COT in Bitter Root Valley would need \$4 million for funding the project while still maintaining a receptiveness of the community needs. The next item Regent O’Loughlin wanted MAS to be aware of is the upcoming legislative session. If any of the campuses hired lobbyists, the lobbyists either should collaborate with Heather or with each other so there is cohesiveness among campuses during the session. Lastly,

Heather stated email has been a very effective means between her and any students during the Board of Regent meetings.

IX. Old Business

A. CI-97 presented by Cedric for Andrea (see attached Resolution)

The motion was made by AJ to approve the Andrea's resolution and seconded by Samantha. After a round table vote, the motion passed with one abstention. For any further information regarding this ballot initiative, contact Cedric or Andrea.

B. Food Policy

Cole reported that he has been working with Kathy Swift at OCHE regarding MAS's money spending. The issue was brought to the Board at the May/June meeting in a former member's report. Cole stated that MAS could lock their future members against rising costs and inflation if a set amount was fixed. Discussion ensued regarding a clause being inserted in to the MAS Constitution that members should spend the money within reason. Dinner is considered a form of payment for MAS since their time is voluntary. One thing that was agreed upon was that the matter does not need to go to the Board but to just inform them that it is being attended to. Chris mentioned that the dinner following this meeting would be about \$18-\$20 per person. Andrea suggested waiting to make a decision until the November meeting in Missoula. All agreed.

X. New Business

A. Spending Money

Kevin reported that all dues from the campuses were accounted for except MSU-Northern which sent an email regarding payment that would be settled later. He suggested that the account stay at one campus and any MAS Treasurers who are not from the campus can coordinate finances with the host campus's business office. The motion was made to have the account stay at the Billings campus where it currently resides now. The motion passed unanimously. A question was raised as to how MAS should spend money. So far the only money spent has been on the website that hasn't been updated yet. Andrea suggested that we get further information by contacting the campuses between now and the November meeting. Discussion continued from the fact that we must do our duty of representing all students even if other campus presidents are unable to make it, to offering the campuses money to come. Kevin moved to approve the use of MAS funds for one time to bring schools who weren't at this meeting to the November meeting with the stipulation that these schools show agreement with MAS. Chris seconded. After further debate, the round table vote resulted in a 2 yes, 4 no, and 1 abstention vote. What would be done is a conference call in November before the meeting in Missoula.

B. New Time to meet with Regents

The campus reports will be at 11:15 a.m.

C. Website Updated. Goals/ Strategic Plan

Cole moved to have funds to update for all students. Kevin seconded. AJ moved to have the decision be a unanimous consent. Motion passed.

XI. Luncheon Topics

During the 45 minute lunch with the Regents MAS decided to discuss the Governor's proposal, the Bitter Root Valley Community College, the MAS food policy, and Executive salary increase.

XII. Student Reports

It was decided that each member campus give a thirty second report since everyone will be hearing a full one either at dinner or at the meeting tomorrow.

XIII. MAS Reports

Andrea will be giving the MAS report to the Boar of Regents tomorrow.

XIV. Other

None

XV. Adjourn to Dinner.

8:30pm at the Acoma-60 East Broadway 782-7001

Cedric again thanked UM Tech for the meeting set up and snacks. AJ motioned to have the meeting adjourned. Kevin seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 P.M.