

Montana Associated Students
Minutes
January 8, 2009
(Conference Call)

Members Present: The University of Montana, Montana Tech (Butte), Great Falls COT, Montana State University-Bozeman, Montana State University-Billings, Montana State University Northern

Members Absent: The University of Montana-Western, The University of Montana COT-Helena

Meeting convened at 11 AM

Minutes

Since UM-western is not present, UM (Siri) will take minutes. Minutes for this meeting as well as the November meeting will be approved at the March meeting.

Public Comment

(None)

Treasurer's report (Rob, MSU-Billings)

All dues are in

Rob will send out a balance sheet to all

President's report (Trevor-UM)

Board of Regents meeting 1/07/09

- OCHE Legislative bill tracking can be found at www.mus.edu, click on the "2009 Legislature" link
- Bills of special interest to MAS include:
 - HB 5: Long-range building appropriations -- include energy conservation
 - HB 13: Pay plan for state employees
 - HB 91: \$1 an hour raise for state employees
 - SB 41: Clarify community college district approval process
 - SB 49: Energy efficiency standards for construction of state buildings
 - SB 80: Elect Board of Regents
 - SJ 12: Approve Bitterroot valley community college
- Great Falls Wind Turbine approval
- Northern Tier Intercap Loan authorization
- Approval to spend UM-Western student computer fees and MSU-Billings Student Equipment fees
- Budget and tuition outlook:
 - Mick Robinson gave a report to the Regents about what the Governor's budget looked like for MUS. The revised (December 15) budget does not include enough to cover

present-law adjustments for 2010 and 2011, so funding at these levels is essentially a cut.

- OCHE is still working toward a plan that will be a 5% tuition increase at 4-year institutions and a cap on tuition at 2-year institutions.
- Regents wanted to know what the system can do without having any increases, and also whether there might be creative ways to mitigate the tuition increases with reduction in services
 - Rob expressed concern with the idea of cutting services
 - Mike relayed President Gamble's message that he would like to see no change in services – growth or cuts – in this situation

Update on MAS supported bills:

- LC 1012-Changes to the Mold registry bill draft make it weaker than originally hoped for
- HB 188- Treble damages for wrongful withholding of security deposits (Kottel) and HB 189- Revise landlord-tenant laws (Kottel) are up for hearings in House Judiciary on January 15
- Opportunity Montana – Sen. Brueggeman has expressed interest in carrying this bill. Senator Brown also has a draft (LC 0770) called “Keep Our Kids Here Act” which is very similar and Eric Anderson, lobbyist from MSU-Billings, has begun conversations with him about it. Lucas Hamilton (UM lobbyist) and Mo Weiland (MSU lobbyist) also plan to meet with Sen. Brown about this bill.
- LC 0542 – Online Voter Registration – Draft request from Sen. Wanzenreid, Rep. Sands is a probable sponsor. Due to the cost associated with updating the DOT registry program required to get drivers license signatures online, this bill faces more trouble than we originally thought. Plans for meetings with the Secretary of State's office as well as County election administrators with concerns are under way.

Other Legislative news:

- Eric Anderson (ASMSU-Billings lobbyist), Lucas Hamilton (ASUM lobbyist), Emily Koffler (ASUM intern), Maureen (Mo) Weiland (ASMSU lobbyist), and Ivie English (ASMSU/ MSU intern) are settling into Helena and are excited about working together throughout the session
- OCHE hosts daily strategy meetings at 1 pm in their new office – all student leaders are welcome at these meetings
- Committees of interest:
 - House Appropriations meets M-F, 8 am
 - House Education meets MWF, 3 pm
 - House Transportation meets MWF, 3 pm
 - Joint Subcommittee on Education meets M-F, 8 am
 - Joint Subcommittee on Long Range Planning meets M-F, 8 am
- MUS budget system to present to the Joint Education committee January 21-23
 - If possible, everyone should try to attend these and bring students for possible testimony and conversations with the committee
- Joint student Lobby Day in mid-February

Other

Next BOR meeting March 5-6 in Helena

- MAS will need to select a new student regent
- Each campus can send up to 3 applicants to MAS, MAS will choose 3 to send on to the Governor
- We need to determine how the interviews will go prior to the meeting, either by email or another conference call

Meeting adjourned at 11:38