**Montana Associated Students**

**Retreat 2018**

**September 11, 2018**

1. Call to order: 1:12PM
2. Attendance:
   1. Mariah Welch (UM), Hannah Johnson (Helena College), Hallie Keltner (MSUB), Stanley Munson (Helena College), Alex Butler (UM), Daisy Ward (UM Secretary), Collin Miller (Northern), Christopher Brekke-George (Northern), Taylor Blossom (MSU), Lizzy Thompson (MSU), MSU Senator, Savannah Merritt (MSUB)
3. Value of MAS:
   1. What do you value in MAS?
      1. Perspectives are different on each campus; however, we all face the same problems. With the help of MAS, students can collectively unite to combat similar problems.
      2. Cross campus collaborations make MAS unique.
   2. How do we make MAS a value organization to be able to make a difference?
   3. Current issues:
      1. Past MAS has been a waste of time, nothing really gets accomplished.
      2. PAst administration has not seen MAS, they pass along the value of disregarding MAS to future generations
   4. How do we get colleges involved?
      1. Prove to students/student leadership that MAS is something beneficial and worth while.
   5. Potential financial support of MAS:
      1. Introducing MAS fee ($1/person?)
      2. Incentive for students to be a part of MAS
      3. Will provide financial stability for organization
      4. Will incentive inactive schools to have a present voice (Dawson, Flathead)
4. Student Regent Update:
   1. Approving higher education funding across the state of Montana
   2. 1+2+free Dual Credit
5. Joe Thiel and Brock Tessman advisor search:
   1. Brock Tessman: Deputy Commissioner
   2. Joe Thiel: Director of academic policy and research at OCHE
      1. Currently separated from students and campus life in position
         1. Values student voice and presence
   3. Current MAS issues: Why isn't MAS being effective? Engagement and buy in?
      1. What purpose does MAS serve?
         1. What could we accomplish as group instead of on individual campus level?
      2. How to increase duration that students could interact?
         1. Ie. students could connect with directly with OCHE and Regent
            1. OCHE fellowship (example)
         2. Students could see actions go through effectively and know what they are getting into before they are involved in MAS
      3. Brainstorm initiatives that involve all campuses
         1. Ie. sexual assault on campus, smart building initiative
      4. Focus on recruitment and delegation to future student leadership
      5. Focus on creating individual MAS involvement or potential committees on individual campus
      6. Potential academic credit of MAS involvement with OCHE support
         1. Ie. political action advisor, additional senator representation at meetings
   4. 6 Mill Levy
      1. Large MAS involvement
   5. Legislative session
      1. What will it mean if MAS doesn’t send a lobbyist?
         1. Over 40,000 students will not have a voice.
         2. Large budget cuts will be expected due to previous Legislative session
      2. This year: schools have not giving/receiving dues
         1. Schools aren’t willing to pay into an organization
      3. Flagship lobbyist/Tyler Trevor: what is the best model for a student lobbyist?
         1. Flagships focus on different issues than MAS lobbyist (ie. environmental)
         2. MAS lobbyist works on single issue (student voice), influences all legislative representatives differently
      4. MAS lobbyist has normally came from flagship school, all schools are encouraged
   6. Tessman will address OCHE cabinet about MAS Lobbyist.
   7. Open educational resource (OER)
      1. Online textbooks (open textbook networks), other student resources
      2. Single repository and schools can become members
      3. Will save students over hundreds of dollars
      4. OCHE initiative - strategic initiative
         1. Optional
         2. MAS should be present in discussion
      5. Will ease transfer processes
6. Day of Action Discussion:
   1. Current date: sept. 25
      1. National voter registration day, won’t have any resources
   2. New Date: Sept. 27
   3. Individual campuses will face different problems, how will MAS combat this?
      1. Northern:
         1. Small school, mixed feelings about 6 mill levy
         2. Lots of community members are uneducated
         3. Students have little interest in Day of Action
         4. Do you talk in your classes about current issues?
            1. ASMSUN is not taken seriously be administration and sstudents
         5. MontPirg will talk with specific senators about talking in classes (Class rap?)
      2. Helena College:
         1. Commuter campus
         2. Large group of student diversity
         3. Would benefit from community involvement
            1. News, papers, etc.
         4. Also would benefit from class raps
      3. MSUB:
         1. Have several faculty and staff that work with 6 mill committee
         2. Letters to the editors
         3. Drop literature in classrooms and tabling around campuses
         4. Would need yard signs
         5. High nontraditional population, would benefit from influencing each building on campus
         6. MontPirg editorials
      4. MSU:
         1. In touch with MontPirg representative
         2. Support with alumni foundation
      5. UM:
         1. Press conference
         2. Letter to the editors from senate
   4. MontPirg provide any resources that campuses need
      1. Press releases, phone calls, knock doors
7. Discuss MAS lobbyist within organization:
   1. Advisor will provide stability throughout organization
8. Discuss fees and finances for MAS:
   1. Based off of projected budget from treasurer (Hallie Keltner)
      1. MAS is in debt over $8,000
      2. Future MAS fee will eliminate the problem, but we are still stuck
      3. Option 1: all school dues increase $500, except Dawson
      4. Option 2: increase dues by $100, and 4 year schools donate $600 each.
      5. Option 3: increase dues by $100, 4 years donate $650 each
      6. Option 4: increase dues by $100, 4 years donate $725 each
      7. Option 5: increase dues by $100, 4 years donate $850 each
   2. Current lobbyist projected expenses: $15,760
      1. Based off 2017 Legislative Year
   3. Equally funded through percentages of students (ie. 25 cents/ each student) (Headcount Method)
      1. Would have to be handled internally at each campus
      2. Would need to be voted on ASAP, brought to individual senators, and make set date to come back to MAS with decisions
         1. **DECISION DUE: OCTOBER 14th** 
            1. **Motion to accept fee proposal with the approval of all schools on OCT. 14 with the involvement**
            2. **Chris: motion**
            3. **Hallee: second**
            4. **All in favor: passed unanimously**
      3. Temporary fix, will hurt 4 years on long run. Benefit 2 years
9. Talk through advisor for MAS:
   1. Joe Thiel and Brock Tessman
   2. Joe: has been through MAS process and is now in OCHE
   3. Brock: Knows institutional knowledge
   4. Potential co-advisors?
   5. Potential conflict of interest?
      1. OCHE Humans resources issue
10. General Discussion
    1. BoR: Lunch with Regents tomorrow 9/12
       1. Come ready with questions!
    2. Chancellor Investiture
       1. Putting new chancellor ideals in place