

Montana Associated Students Report

Submitted: July 10-11, 2003

- MAS discussed the different possibilities of improving the funding for higher education. Possible solutions discussed involve the idea about incorporating a public relations campaign informing communities that higher education is an economic must, and without state support the demise of the Montana University System is inevitable and it ultimately could adversely affect the state. An argument illustrating this concept can be seen when viewing the amounts of state funding given to Health and Human Services as opposed to Higher Education. The trend over the past several years has been a continual increase in funding for Health and Human Services, whereas Higher Education has remained much more constant. MAS expressed the interest in putting together a letter which would be sent out to the different newspapers around the state. Although the letters given to the newspapers would essentially all state the same thing, they would be sent solely from the Student Body President from that area and tailored to each community. Such letters would hopefully become a start in informing communities about the situation which would ultimately encourage more allocation to the Montana University System.
- Members of MAS will be traveling to Washington D.C. at the end of July. While there they will discuss the possibility of receiving more money for grants and other issues that relate to tuition and Higher Education. This will essentially be a similar action as was stated in the above argument, but at a much higher level. MAS feels that by taking these concerns to all levels, perhaps the voices of the students will be better heard in regards to the unending tuition concerns with the students.
- Members expressed concerns regarding the Budget Committee's proposal to move the time for presenting final budgets to the legislature were expressed. These essentially involved the concern that without legislative funding that closely resembled what was presented by the Board of Regents, students could face extreme raises in tuition. These issues were presented to the Regents in the MAS Luncheon. The idea that this issue, as well as the tiered tuition possibilities, could be further discussed in the September Regents meeting appealed to the members of MAS.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott McCarthy

Montana Associated Students President

July 10, 2003

Montana State University-Billings Student Report

TO: Commissioner Krause and Members of the Montana Board of Regents

FROM: Ray Champ, President, Associated Students of MSU-Billings (CC)

- The Associated Students of Montana State University-Billings will next week host the annual Summerfest celebration which is an event open to the community of Billings. This is a family oriented event featuring activities for children and the general public. We anticipate over 1,000 people will attend. This is an annual event which has been sponsored by the Associated Students of MSU-Billings for many years.
- I am delighted to report that in addition to a very successful Summer Session for the students of MSU-Billings, a host of summer programs and activities for younger children in our community have been very well received. These include sports camps, recreation classes, and career exploration days.
- In a couple of weeks, our Big Horn Teacher Project will host a major week-long symposium dealing with best practices in teaching Native American elementary and high school students. The pre-registration for this workshop has been very positive.
- Our campus is hosting Shakespeare in the Parks for two performances to which the general public is being invited. This is a very popular event in Billings, and we are delighted that it will be held on campus in our Peaks to Plains Park.
- You may have heard reports from the news media that a former inmate who served time in the Montana State Prison for a felony he did not commit intends to attend classes at MSU-Billings starting this fall. The legislature approved a bill that would provide five years of post-secondary education at no cost to persons who served time for crimes they did not commit. The legislature, however, neglected to fund this measure. Several members of the MSU-Billings Foundation took it upon themselves to start a scholarship fund for such persons. To date, many hundreds of dollars have been given to this scholarship program, much of which has come from our Foundation Board members themselves.
- Summer Orientation for incoming freshman and transfer students has been going very well throughout this summer. We as students are spending two to three days each week helping out in these orientations.
- We are finishing up a project to provide internet access to students living in our Residence Halls, something our students are very excited about.

- We have completed our first full year of providing child care service on campus to our students who have small children. The service has been very well received and we are looking forward to continued growth and service in years to come.

Montana State University – Bozeman
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- ASMSU is continually trying to reach out to new, incoming students to Montana State University through Summer Orientation programs. During orientation sessions, ASMSU runs a booth which informs incoming students about the ASMSU organization. Information which would help the prospective students can also be attained at these booths. This increases the awareness that students have for ASMSU and will hopefully bring about a greater appreciation of the services that are provided.
- Members of ASMSU attend informative sessions with parents of new students during orientation sessions. This enables parents to have one-on-one conversations with student leaders about issues that concern them for their children in regards to the new college environment they will be facing. In addition to these sessions, a breakfast is held where parents and students have the opportunity to eat with individuals who are involved around campus and with ASMSU. This provides an even more informal way getting to know parents and students alike, which makes them feel more comfortable going into the new environment.
- Summer blood drive numbers have been the highest ever, due to continually improving efforts from the ASMSU Community Outreach committee. The two blood drives this summer have averaged around 50 units of blood each, and due to the success of this program, ASMSU is planning two more blood drives this summer.
- ASMSU decided to support the purchase of a much more powerful antenna for the student radio station, KGLT. In order to drastically improve the situation for what seems to currently be a dying radio station, the investment was made for an antenna which would expand the listening area from just the town of Bozeman to cover the entire Livingston area and even have the possibility of reaching to Townsend.
- The ASMSU program, Cat Cab, which is responsible for ensuring that students who have had too much to drink can have a safe ride home for only \$1. The current ASMSU administration is a major supporter of this program and is currently traveling to bars and other organizations around Bozeman to continue finding funding for this program to keep it going strong.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott McCarthy

ASMSU President
Montana State University - Bozeman



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July 10, 2003

Chairman Jasmin and Members of the Board:

The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) are gearing up for a productive year with the Board of Regents. ASUM Vice President Gale Price, ASUM Business Manager Averiel Wolffe and I are excited about working with the new Commissioner of Higher Education, Sheila Stearns.

The July board meeting is sure to have some positive developments for the Montana University System. For the University of Montana, we are happy to see some key items on the agenda that will benefit UM students. First up, ASUM stands in strong support of the proposal to lease a small portion of property at Dornblaser Field to the Missoula- Ravalli County Transportation Management Association (MR TMA). The development of a south side transfer center for the Mountain Line transit service and ASUM's Park-n-Ride will enhance transit service for University students, faculty, as well as the Missoula and Bitterroot communities. ASUM's Park-n-Ride service carried over 74,000 riders in the 2002-2003 academic year. The development of this transfer center will ease the pressure on campus parking, and will help provide additional services to the up and coming UM built Lewis and Clark student housing village.

Second, ASUM stands in strong support of UM Administrators and their proposal to re-institute the PhD in history. The University of Montana is the pinnacle of a liberal arts education in Montana and would serve as a model home for a PhD in history.

I also would like to update the Regents on a program that has had enormous success on the University of Montana campus. Last semester ASUM, along with financial support from the UM Administration, community groups and businesses, ran a late night bus service for students to and from downtown Missoula. In one semester ASUM gave nearly 4,000 safe rides home. During it's operation there were no DUI's in the university area. The students voted to keep this program running in the future by passing a two dollar fee increase via referendum last Spring. At a time when Montana has received low marks for efforts to crack down on drunk driving, UM students are crafting safe alternatives.

We will listen with great interest to two proposals on the agenda at this week's meeting. ASUM is thankful that the Regents are looking at a proposal to provide tuition relief to Montana students. We are also excited about the Economic Road Map discussion. The Board of Regents should be praised for putting this meeting together. ASUM Business Manager Averiel Wolffe is working on an idea to have a Higher Education- Economic Development Summit at UM later this Fall. Montana students will serve as great assets to the economic development discussions sure to take place over the coming months.

Thank you all for your commitment to serve Montana students. Please feel free to contact ASUM with any concerns, ideas, or suggestions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron Flint".

Aaron Flint
ASUM President

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Respectfully submitted,



Scott McCarthy

ASMSU President
Montana State University - Bozeman

Student Report

Associated Students Great Falls College of Technology
July 10-11, 2003 Board of Regents
President Sara Anderson

The executive cabinet has planned a retreat for this weekend. We are planning for the fall and spring semester senate meetings. At this meeting we are also setting our budget.

The senators came and helped out with Early Bird Registration, giving tours, and answering questions.

The ASMSU-GF COT has planned to set up a Welcome Booth for the fall and spring semesters for new students. This is to help with involvement with the senate and general information about the college.

The Associated Students at Great Falls have gone on break for the summer semester, they begin again in September.