

October 2, 2012

MAS Minute

Welcome!

This is our first ever MAS Minute, a bi-monthly publication put out by the Montana Associated Students to allow for updates from all of its member universities.

We'll be sending out the MAS Minute the first and third Monday of every month to allow for adequate communication between students, the Board of Regents and the Office of the Commissioner of Education.



Questions for MAS?

This year in an attempt to increase communication between MAS and OCHE and the Board of Regents we are having a trial run for a new position. This position, the Vice President for External Affairs, will be working on the MAS Minute and coordinating outreach to all stakeholders in the MUS System.

The MAS Executive team can always be reached at mtassociatedstudents@gmail.com.

Please feel free to email with questions, comments or concerns.

Upcoming Campus Events!

- White House Project Training
 - A wonderful leadership development for female leaders in the State of Montana! The training will take place at MSU on October 20, 2012 from 11:15-5:00 p.m.
 - More information about the White House Project can be found [here](#) and information on registration can be found [here](#).
- ASMSUB Legislative Forums
 - The MSU-B student government is hosting legislative forums highlighting the Montana elections. On the 2nd of October they will be hosting the U.S. House debate, On the 8th of October they will be hosting the Senate Debate, and on October 9th they will be hosting the Gubernatorial debate. All of the debates are free and open to the public.
- ASUMW will be presenting the Casey Donahew band at the Beaverhead County Fairgrounds on Wednesday, Oct. 3 at 8 p.m.

MAS Lobbyist Update

MAS's lobbyist, Blake Bjornson, resigned this past week in order to spend more time focusing on school and sustainability issues. This week we will be working on developing a new lobbying strategy. One thing we guarantee is a voice for the 47,000+ students in the Montana University System.



Increased Recycling on Billings Campus

Increased Recycling at Billings!

The MSU-B student government has purchased new recycle bins to place around campus to increase awareness of recycling on campus. The recycle bins are in complement to a recycling initiative that will be implemented in the coming weeks to increase sustainability at the university.

Students Programs Busy at MSU

ASMSU's Student Program Directors have successfully pulled off multiple

ASUM Holds Joint City Council Meeting

ASUM is holding their first-ever joint meeting between the ASUM Senate and the Missoula City Council this coming Monday to discuss off-campus student housing and neighborhood quality of life issues.



The ASUM Senate

ASUM Neighborhood Ambassador Program

ASUM recently expanded their Neighborhood Ambassador Program to include 7 Ambassadors—student employees that are staffed in order to:

- Encourage Neighborliness between student renters and permanent home owners

- Educate students on renter rights

- Create Programming to curb disturbances

- Promote Campus Programs

MAS Announces Task Forces for the Year

1. Annual Student Driven Fee Review by BOR

Currently all fees are reviewed biannually during the May meeting by the Board of Regents. MAS is going to work to either change the BOR policy to review student driven fees annually or ensure that student leaders know they cannot bring fees to the board on off years.

2. Common Exec Election Times

In order to make MAS more efficient, this task force will be researching an effective common election time for all MAS institutions to elect their executives. The hope is that this task force can identify an election time that will be better for individual campuses and MAS alike.

3. Student Experience Research Courses

This task force will be working to develop a replicable research course in which students can explore how their peers experience their campus in the Montana University System. The resulting research will be beneficial in decision making by OCHE and student governments across the state.

4. Student Activity Fee Dispersal

events since August -

- Campus Entertainment has had over 6 local artists play at campus events
- The Spirit Director pulled off another flawless homecoming
- Our student gallery has had 3 successful shows!
- Our Procrastinator theatre has had record attendance!
- Our Elections director raised voter turnout to 14%

Student Union Renovations Across the State!

Montana State University Billings and Northern have had student Union Building Renovations! This is exciting news for both campuses, and their students, as this allows them to expand their studying, tutoring and leisure space.

Montana State University - BILLINGS

The big news around the MSU-B campus is the newly renovated Student Union Building, Liberal Arts building eating area, and the moving of the Academic Support Center into the Student Union Building. The renovations have given new enthusiasm to student life at MSU-B. All of the students are very supportive of the new changes and are enjoying their new spaces. The use of tutoring on campus has increased noticeably now that it is centered at the heart of student life. The Liberal Arts building eating area is seeing increased customers and high student satisfaction with the changes.



**ASUM also recently got a \$10,000 funding commitment from the Missoula Mayor John Engen to expand the Neighborhood Ambassador Program.*

Montana State University - NORTHERN

Students MSU Northern in Havre are enjoying renovations to their SUB that help the building to look more unified!



The University of Montana - WESTERN

Montana State University Northern is in the process of renovating their Student Union Building!



Many of the students in the Montana University System pay tuition at one school but attend, live, play, and work on another campus. MAS will be working to have the fees students pay for activities, student health, the gym, ect. dispersed to the campus the students are living on rather than the campus they will get their degree from.

Campus Briefs

-ASUM is in the process of hiring 6 senators right now, which will increase the size of their Senate to 26.

-ASUM and UM Administration are hosting an Open House for the community regarding the Missoula College Building Plan

-ASMSUN representatives are working on the Alma Mater and fight song!

-ASMSU has 2 student representatives on the Romney Renovation committee!

-ASUMW is allocating 30 active clubs on campus \$48,000.

-ASUMW supported and proposed a student driven project to put water filtering stations on campus and were successful.

ASUMW completed Senate elections and is in the process of creating a text-book buy back program within the students.

-ASUMW sponsored student tickets to an Indie-Folk rock band, Andy Hackbarth. It was a well attended student and community event.

Upcoming with MAS

We'll be having a conference call Wednesday, October 3 at 8 p.m. We'll be discussing our future plans with the lobbyist and touching base with our task forces.

As always - we can be reached at
[mtassociatedstudents@gmail.com!](mailto:mtassociatedstudents@gmail.com)

Thanks for reading!

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