Saturday May 25, 2013

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Great Falls College - Room G45/46

Introductions and Ice Breaker

**What you want to bring to the organization**

**Kiah** - Experience and broad network, help to facilitate this for others.

**Mary** - Facilitate compromise and do what’s best for everyone in the System.

**Chad** - Make MAS more open and available to students so those who traditionally haven’t come to MAS or seen it as relevant to them can be empowered and involved.

**Lindsay** - Bring a lot of energy along with experience and constructive criticism from last year to improve this year.

**Joe** - Act as a resource, gained a lot of understanding and want to help others feel comfortable asking questions and getting history.

**Brittanie** - Be involved in MAS more and give more non-trad points of view, because it’s not as heard as it needs to be.

**Greta** - Wants to represent the students who aren’t always heard and addressed because they haven’t been heard for a long time.

**Seamus**- Passion, advocacy and excitement - bring my skill sets to help MAS grow into larger and more successful organization.

**Ryan** - Real source of communication - wants everyone to fill their specific roles San Antonio Spurs style.

**Asa** - Snarky style of self deprecation and institutional history behind MAS... knowing where you're going helps if you know where you’ve come from.

**Mariah** - Bring a sense of groundedness, step back and look at all ideas and strategically place resources into things we’re working on to plan success. Creative problem solving [accomplishing or funding].

**Jamie** - Worker bee mindset... there’s already a ton of ideas on the table, and she’s willing to get the work done.

**Lukas** - Best set of eyes is a fresh set of eyes - bring lots of support and use follow through to implement changes.

**What you hope your organization can take from MAS this year.**

**Kiah** - Support for my independent initiatives this year - mental health awareness, sexual assault prevention summit, work for non-discrimination policy

**Mary** - Learn all I can, see what I can do for my students.

**Chad** - See how we can use your experiences to improve ours at Great Falls.

**Lindsay** -Want to feed off of everyone else’s ideas and energy.

**Joe** - By the end of next year, have a few solid wins under our belt and a lot of good changes to show student’s were making a real difference.

**Brittanie** - Networking resources, build credibility and empowerment for Helena College

**Greta** - Power to reorganize senate, ideas tools and resources to do that from meeting with MAS.

**Seamus** - Show how MAS is representative to all campuses, and networks for future leaders.

**Ryan** - Take sense of accomplishment because things are left better than they were and they have grown for the betterment of the students.

**Asa**- A sense of hope, not just hoping that it’s better but it’s better setup to significantly grow as well.

**Mariah** - Knowing each body of students walks away with allies across the state - not by simply people but by organizations of students.

**Jamie**  - Take ideas to come back with as president!!

**Lukas** - Sense of accomplishment.

**Introduction to the System -** [**Joe Thiel**](mailto:joseph.thiel@msu.montana.edu)

Linked here and also attached in [Prezi form](http://prezi.com/xfn5pt8tvtvd/edit/?auth_key=lrwpkdu&follow=yrsda2440gx0)

Discusses how each of our respective campuses fits in - feel free to share this information with your own respective senates to raise awareness around MAS and how it fits in.

*University system* - 1.4 billion dollar enterprise and 60k people associated with it - that’s the size of the second largest city in Montana. It’s a huge part of Montana’s economy and fabric.

New constitution changed how it was governed - BOR has more authority to govern than any other state - really neat and powerful.

*Citizen Board of Regents* - meaning it’s not their profession - 7 members, 6 seven year members and one student who can serve for 1-2 years.

Board functions through commissioners office. Commissioner's office works with campuses to carry out those wishes to rep the taxpayers of montana

Separated into 4 divisions -

1. two year and community college support - Leads to transfer, non trads and workforce education.

2. academic research and student affairs - Catch all group - manage grants, approve proposals for new academic programs, creates financial aid policies and stuff on research and outreach.

3. Staff and Compensation - Pretty self explanatory.

4. Administrative Audit and Budget Oversight Committee - Where student fees and tuition are approved.

***It’s the commissioners and the boards job to get info from their constituents - it’s our job to continue keeping them involved and engaged***

Filters down to all of the different campuses -

**UM Side**

University of Montana - Missoula

Missoula College

Montana Tech - Butte

Highlands College

University of Montana Western - Dillon

Helena College - Helena

**MSU Side**

Montana State University - Bozeman

Gallatin College

Montana State University - Billings

Billings City College

Montana State University Northern - Havre

Great Falls College MSU - Great Falls

**Community Colleges**

Dawson Community College - Glendive

Miles Community College - Miles City

Flathead Valley Community College - Kalispell

**MAS** - representative of 47,000 students. Can also serve as advocates on behalf of 7,000 faculty and staff who make their living off of serving us.

**University System Funding**

Lots of authority to self govern, but not as much with money. We must set budget well so some component of state funding is set to higher education. All campuses set budget and we send to governors office and then legislature. Legislature block grants the university system and can’t say how we can use money - University System has a lot of leeway to use as best they see fit

**Joe’s Preview for the Upcoming Year at BOR:**

Big Conversations for the next year - most of you have seen some of a board meeting, some more than you want to. important because will have lasting effect on the university system

- [Performance Funding](http://mus.edu/board/performancefunding/PerformanceFundingTaskforce.asp) [talk to [Seamus Manley](mailto:s_manley@umwestern.edu) or Joe with more questions]

- Developmental Education

- [Affordability Taskforce](http://mus.edu/board/AffordabilityTaskforce.asp) [talk to [Lindsay Murdock](mailto:asmsupres@msu.montana.edu) or Joe with more questions]

If you haven’t had time to think about a lot, use the website - www.mus.edu

[BOR tab](http://mus.edu/board/default.asp) is really great

Taskforce tabs -

**Affordability** [Lindsay and Adam Cook as student resources] - MT has little financial aid and high student default loan rates, top to bottom thinking about how we do financial aid

**Performance Funding** task force - [Seamus is the student rep]- short term model has been developed but the long term model is going to change. we need to be strategizing about how students can be involved in

**Developmental Education** - task force with recommendations to go into effect over the next year.

OTHER IMPORTANT LINKS ON OCHE WEBSITE

[OCHE staff directory](http://mus.edu/che/che_staff.asp) - Get to know them. They’re on the front lines of changing policy [use Amy Demato, Lynette Brown and next student regent as resources as well]

[Data and Reports section](http://mus.edu/data/dataindex.asp) - 1 page briefs for what goes on in the university system - this is your crash course

Questions for Joe

**Kiah** - Could you explain the politics of board?

**Joe** - This is a board with a lot of different constituents and a lot of different political views. We have to be cognizant of how many different issues confront their plate and be targeted in what we present as our big issues. Not always best to go right to the top with the commissioner, but rather start with his staff and build those relationships. I will say this - we don’t get something done unless we find a way to insert ourselves into the conversation. Get on to task forces and get people participating in these discussions

**Seamus** - In terms of financial aid - what is the biggest issue with debt?

**Joe** - Completions are the way to solve that. Debt isn’t a failure, the students we fail are the ones who take out debt and don’t graduate. Let’s make it transparent to discuss what it looks like to take more years, be more efficient with dollars we have, and look at why people are dropping out. How do we get more people through is going to be the biggest issue.

**Kiah** - Giving more description around the 70/30 idea and how now we’re more at 40/60 always state, then students. When older legislators went to college and said they could pay for it with work over the summer, the state was paying more then so they could accomplish that.

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**Year in Review - Past MAS Vice President** [**Kiah Abbey**](mailto:kiahtotheabbey@gmail.com)

We have a website now - [www.mus.edu/mas](http://www.mus.edu/mas)

It’s not totally updated, but getting there. We have our governing documents, MAS minutes, meeting minutes, and contact info on the website.

You can find it in MAS initiatives add student government support.

Brainstorm throughout the rest of the retreat anything to add to this.

Leadership module through website... link database for leadership stuff [ex. student empowerment training]

Front door to organization so it’s important to realize what we did this year.

**MAS Mission statement**

*MAS shall provide fair and equal representation for the students in the Montana University System. MAS shall function autonomously of the MUS Board of Regents and shall serve as advisor to the MUS Board of Regents in matters directly and indirectly affecting the students of the MUS. MAS shall also function to coordinate system wide initiatives, programs, and activities of a common interest to the student associations of each of the individual campuses of the MUS. Finally, MAS and its member institutions shall provide support to each other through the transfer of information surrounding best practices, duplicable efforts, and current initiatives.*

Mission statements are an important part of the organization and we want it to represent and reflect the reality of the organization.

Rewrote the [Governing Documents](http://mus.edu/MAS/governing.asp)

As with any constitution and bylaws can always be changed

Seamus and I have discussed putting a conflict of interest clause into constitution

Made VP’s of campuses voting members and created a second VP position within the MAS exec team

Helped for VPs who are generally less busy to be involved and with the ethic of mentorship.

Helped to make exec jobs more do-able and set execs up for success

[Code of Ethics](http://mus.edu/MAS/governing.asp#ethics) - things that we should all embody when representing MAS formally. Built from BOR’s so it helped with representing MAS formally

[Advisor](mailto:nmoisey@montana.edu) - Neil Moisey - Seamus, Nic Wong and Kiah developed this as part of the job description to the Academic and Student Affairs Deputy Commissioner to ensure for smooth transitions. as he gets more experience in serving as an advisor can help to provide history and institutional insight.

Task forces from this year -

Elections Cycle - all elect at different times [MSU earliest, UM latest] presents a challenge to MAS we’ve got new execs at different times, different times, is it May or March? …. we tried to get all execs elected during same few weeks span but schools found it challenging because it was in their constitutions or interfere with senate. *Should try to continue pursuing, but provides a month to shadow and really transition, so could be beneficial for all execs*

BOR policy 940.12.1 - bi-annual fee revision changing to annual revision for student driven fees - still working on it but want to ensure language is specific and exact and reflects reality of situation. working with mick robinson and paul tuss. Mariah will be taking over for Bryn to get voted on in Sept.

Fee Distribution - ex. nursing students at MSU but on campuses elsewhere. Nic Wong was doing research on how to ensure activity fees were moving forward... challenging task force, we didn’t accomplish this year but there is a huge return for students in accomplishing this task force

Student Engagement Project - Joe and I were working on and couldn’t make the time for. Lumina concept about how valuable it was for meaningful input from students, but it was so complex and difficult for students to input themselves into so there’s not often a mechanism for good feedback, or it’s students who aren’t representative for students at large. Project looking to see if we could create research courses to have students focusing on questions important to campuses - ex. non-discrimination policy, have a student work on that in a more depth situation and provide more informed feedback. Joe has good info, contacts and potential funding sources but it fell by wayside because everyone was so busy.

Other project not a taskforce, but became associated with MAS and it wasn’t a taksforce - Non-discrimination policy. becuase of the politics and timing around legislative session this got pushed back till after the session. now is moving forward later because comissioner and kevin mcrae are aware of the relationship with the legislature. in that being pushed off there was a 703 equality group created to help with activism, which is really important in changing policies to show numbers and passion for htis, when you move forward with initiatives like this it’s important to see the roles people play - ex. internal liaison, activism, policy review etc, and how do all of those work together strategically to ensure we get the change we want to see. now that legislative session is out there’s a taskforce for the implementation plan and there will be a vote in september and it might be expanded to include contracts for the university system.

Also organized a student day at the capital - shout out to lobbyists who slayed it. Had close to 100 people overall. Next session lets aim for higher. legislators receptive and excited about students and their students engagement. Students stoked on getting involved. legislative session and how we approach it can only get better. We purchased a banner! Big step as an organization!

Another initiative that was pushed through, was the smart building initiative. It wasn’t specifically MAS but we got MAS support behind it to ensure that it got accomplished. Was only successful in university system, not statewide though.

Got students on Performance Based Funding task forces and Affordability task force. important and those students are respected. it’s important for us to continue doing this and recognizing students strengths. also review of presidents and commissioners. MAS as a whole should also provide commentary on the administrators because we’re on the front line of this.

A lot happened and a lot was accomplished and we can only grow from here.

Another task force we can have - get a student “intern” on each of the big 4 committees by the OCHE so we can be briefed by those before the MAS meetings so that MAS can be more informed and we can get more student input. Neil is working on discussing this more, but we haven’t gotten much further past the idea phase. We’re the recruiting ground for the regent position, so it’s critical MAS takes that seriously. We must get people involved as sophomores instead of seniors so they can get more involved and be better prepared for moving into the student regent position.

If we want everyone to continue re-vamping by-laws, constitution, elections etc. the Gould brothers could help. MAS experts to help all campuses along the way - but at some point we have to learn a way to transition these issues because they can’t always get done in a year.

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**VISIONING -**

First vision - own personal vision - this can help to find that personal core and who you are

second - synthesize with all of those around us. It’s important to be thoughtful with the future of your government, your montana, your MAS whatever that looks like.

Key Phrases from visioning to allow for synthesis -

* Kiah - personal boundaries
* Lindsay - wake the sleeping giant
* Lindsay - personal responsibility for organizational success
* Joe - [what he wants to see out of MAS]
  + student regent candidate from every school
  + scope successful and statewide
  + nondiscrimination and SBI
  + board committee interns
  + more students running for statewide office
  + legislators coming to MAS for info
  + 100 students at MAS retreat
* Brittanie - HCSGA inspiring and help get people involved, available and recognizable as VP, have faculty and staff see as peers and not as just students
* Greta - house built, grad diploma, emotional balance
  + HC - leave behind a next group of strong leaders to build upon what they grew
  + from MAS - keep smaller schools in check so they don’t slide to where they are now. Need a way to take the schools temperature to ensure that happens
* Seamus - wants silence to fall over room when all students take podium at BOR and that to continue so people are thoughtfully internalizing what students are saying
  + energetic exchange of ideas at all BOR lunches for passion about education
* Asa - ASUM and MAS - shining light. you can’t have success without excitement. organization that’s a beacon of hope for students across the state if they feel disenfranchised or that there’s no point for them having a voice because they’ve been so disenfranchised.
* Mariah - vision for MAS can’t be accomplished in a year, but overall, don’t want MAS to just be an association of the student governments rather an institution within Montana for others to come to with and for student issues. Institution is organized, structured, advertised and out there. Does it in more than a room with paper, name tags and pizza - do more organized and take more public comment forward as a body. How meetings are structured is important, but whether it’s more members from school or a staff member from OCHE we can centralize some of our services for students across the state. Ex. getting residency - MAS should be involved as it goes to BOR level.
* Jamie - general for everything that I do - we’re all here to help others. so we must think about inspiring, everyone has goals and dreams and that’s why there working, in school, capitalizing on that. Help people to realize the stars they’re reaching for aren’t that far away.
* Lukas - World vision, related to MAS’s impact. Acceptance and equality, little issues that seem like big issues or even education should just be basic. Outside social pressures for going to school immediately, in the ideal world there’d be no outside pressures. Success comes when you’re ready to work for it and you want it - understanding is really important. We must lead by example and exhibit change we want to see - these are huge steps and we need to run before we jump so we don’t fall short.
* Mary - encompasses individual and institutional - education is important to me and i want to become a teacher - education is empowerment and I want to instill that in others. great value in education. Reach out to those who need our help the most, our communities and campuses. In my ideal world, if you could ask people who makes a positive impact I want them to think of our institutions of higher education.

Credibility, structure, providing foundation to accomplish bigger goals. In moving forward from that, to accomplish goals and move forward with vision you must develop, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

**Strengths** -

* unified
* knowledge
* network
* strengths in numbers
* passion
* open to new ideas
* innovative
* helpful
* willing to work together
* vulnerability
* youth/ naivety - fresh eyes

**Weakness**  -

* organized database for knowledge
* as an organization it survives and thrives based on the people - must be personality proof
* busy schedules
* completely made up of campus execs [senate liaison - or preparing the students to take our place]
* branding and ads
* no face for them to connect with [link MAS website to our websites]
* vulnerability
* youth/ naivety - inexperience

**Opportunities** -

* passion
  + and using it to empower others
* current BOR
* wins this year
* clean slate with constituents
* professional learners
* reaching huge spread of people and ideas because of traditional students and non-traditional students
* more intention surrounding personal relationships
* lots of room to run - more active role from MAS has been a long time coming
  + learn from other states and statewide advocacy groups

**Threats** -

* structure
* no transition pipeline
* type of people involved with AS’s and MAS
* lack of funding
* networking - how can we leverage that more? [ex. banquet with few regents attending]
* credibility is easy to lose and hard to build
* legislative attitude towards education

**Summer Time Line -**

* linking MAS website to associated students website
* Visiting with OCHE
  + everyone email Commissioner and all of the Deputy Commissioners
  + set up your own meetings with as execs with the OCHE admins
    - [ask for the regents training]
    - before this, everyone set goals for homework to discover before that - 1 page briefs - look at [www.mus.edu](http://www.mus.edu)
    - 2 days, one night - end of June
      * July 15-16 BOR planning retreat {**Lindsay to do**}
  + then in Aug/Sept. meeting talk with OCHE as MAS
* Set up conference call for MAS execs soon - maybe bi-weekly over the summer to keep updates in between each meeting we have.
* admin of the year - campus based one for the system and those are the ones who move up to compete system wide
* student regent visiting campuses over the summer
  + MAS needs to start budgeting for or the specific campuses that are inviting the regent should help to sponsor
  + senate liaisons and ex-officio members of MAS - or maybe not even senators. make them freshmen for our own respective recruiting and for MAS recruiting. or just anyone, each campus has one ex-officio seat
  + we should work on paying the student regent
* student government swap - plan for this at August retreat and get dates on the calendar for the year

**Expectations for execs**

* good schmoozing
* open communication to the rest of MAS - minutes, re-caps
  + some level of trust, but MAS needs empowerment
* plan on living out the term out
* passion
* collaboration between exec team and always being open to new ideas
* keep us in the loop
* support and patience

**Asa’s expectations from MAS** - very active involvement, this is the role we have to assume, but I expect every campus to be represented at each meeting, and other work for others to take on. No point in putting out these goals if people aren’t going to work on them.

**Joe** - Really important and worthwhile but it takes time, and our time to pull it off. THis can be our legacy, making changes for students, but it’s important to be as dedicated as Kiah, Asa and Lindsay have put it.

End of Retreat :)

Remember to contact any member of the exec team with questions - email [mtassociatedstudents@gmail.com](mailto:mtassociatedstudents@gmail.com)!