

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF
IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
SHIRLEY SARGENT FAMILY BOARDROOM, PSU
5:30PM
FEBRUARY 13, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:47pm by Finance Officer, Ganesh Sapkota.

ROLL CALL

ASISU Secretary, Hannah Livermont, took roll. All Finance Committee Members were present except Vice President Sargeant, Senator Bailey, and Senator Thapa. Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Lowell Richards, was present. **MOVE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 6, 2019.** Schmidt/Sargeant. Unanimous. **MOTION CARRIED.** **MOVE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.** Schmidt/Bailey. Unanimous. **MOTION CARRIED.**

CHAIR'S REPORT

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER

1. Bengal Newspaper, Logan Ramsey- He just became the new Editor-in-Chief of the Bengal Newspaper and today he would just like to report his plans for next year. So far this year, they have only used 5.5% of their part time employee budget so he hired three new staff writers. He also plans to purchase new equipment as well as hire a photographer. He also plans to create content classes at ISU in order to improve the quality of the newspapers. Since this is his sophomore year, he plans to work for The Bengal newspaper for two more years. Logan presented his new design for The Bengal newspaper and his ideas for making it look more professional. In past summers, The Bengal newspaper only put out an 8-page summer issue. This year and in future years, he plans to publish a 25-page summer issue. They are already preparing for it by looking for stories to put in the summer issue now so they aren't scrambling when the time comes. President Schmidt asked if he has plans to utilize social media more. Logan- The ISU app has an option for receiving news so his priority is having The Bengal newspaper be on that app. Senator Breuker asked what the cost of product is. Logan- If The Bengal newspaper were only digital copy, they wouldn't have the same level of legal protection and their advertisement wouldn't be the same as it would be with a physical paper. He doesn't plan to eliminate printing physical issues, but instead he would like to present more content and spend more on advertising. Senator Breuker asked what the newspaper will do if their budget is cut. Logan- If that happened, he would distribute the paper himself, there would be less staff writers. There would also be less content and the quality of the newspaper would decline drastically. Senator Breuker asked if they have career path interns in their organization. Logan- No. Senator Breuker asked if they explored that option. Logan- No, but it is a possibility in the future. Senator Alvarez asked if there would be student interest for the classes he previously mentioned. Logan- They have been corresponding with professors through email. It seems that there would be a lot of student interest because CMP students need to be more involved with the paper. It is difficult for graduating students to find job because they don't have the necessary experience. The Bengal newspaper would help eliminate that problem and because of that, many students will be interested. Senator Alvarez asked if they have thought about including the media and journalism

- classes, which already exist. Logan- He discussed that possibility with Lucas Gebhart, the previous Editor-in-Chief, but, unfortunately, those classes have a lower writing standard and is not sufficient for The Bengal. Finance Officer Sapkota thanked Logan for his time and said ASISU will soon reach out to him about their budget.
2. KISU, Jerry Miller- This is his 18th budget presentation and it is an honor for him to be here. He plans to retire by the end of this fiscal year. Jamon Anderson is the program director and has been with KISU for 17 years. He has started out as a student employee and has now been program director for 11 years. Jerry submitted KISU's budget and the revenues they hope to have. He did not change the programming cost because it will most likely go up about 3-5%. When calculated by Newscast and the Public Annual Service, the dollar value of KISU was estimated to be a million dollars. One of the most striking things to come out of that report was the number of hours that people spend listening to KISU each week. Listeners who donate to KISU tune into the station approximately 18 hours per week. Non-donating listeners collectively tune in to KISU for 8 million hours per year. Senator Breuker asked if they get other funding besides that which ASISU grants them. Jerry- ASISU used to spend much more money on KISU than they do now. They are somewhere in the range of \$20,000 right now. Recently, they were able to settle a dispute with the tower. It was demanded of them that they pay back the leasing charges. Thanks to ISU, another \$50,000 has helped them to settle that account. That \$50,000 put them over budget for the fiscal year. If that happens three years in row, they will lose their grant. When the station was created, ASISU agreed to fund KISU by using student fees. He cannot tell ASISU how many students actually listen to KISU because he doesn't know. Student organizations such as the Dietetics Program utilize the radio station to provide information to the community. It is obvious to him that the majority who listen to the KISU are community members. From year to year, the makeup of ISU changes and from year to year there is quite a bit of resistance in funding KISU because it doesn't meet the students' interests. He has been trying to figure out ways to help the radio station have a more stable budget. He would like to see the radio station receive funding that is not related to student fees so that they can have a more stable budget. Finance Officer Sapkota thanked him for his time.
 3. Idaho Falls SAB, Kyra Bensing- They are proud of their accomplishments would like to share a few highlights. During the fall semester, they funded 20 events. This semester, they had a projected attendance of 2,750, which is a 2% increase from last semester. The reason for this increase is that SAB added 9 additional events. In comparing last year, the average cost per event has gone down slightly, they have received co-sponsorships, and they have successfully stayed within the budget. Since students are very busy, the To-Go meal activities have been very successful. Last semester, they held a "Stranger Things" themed carnival, which received a lot of participation. If ASISU gives Idaho Falls SAB a budget increase, their first task will be to replace the old computers. Current programming makes it difficult to print things and advertise. Ches- They did not ask for an increase in the past because IT Services gave them refurbished computers. President Schmidt asked if their biggest need is a set of new computers. Ches- Yes. Finance Officer Sapkota asked if they have any other funding options for buying new computers in case ASISU does not fund it. Ches- They will cut down the quality or quantity of their events in order to put the money towards new computers. Kyra- They are forced to go online to design posters because their current computers do not have the software necessary. Senator Dhakal- He was able to attend the last Idaho Falls Carnival and it was well planned. Kyra- Idaho Falls campus appreciates all those who came to help with the Carnival. This semester the Carnival will be circus themed and they are very excited about it. Volunteers are welcome. Finance Officer Sapkota thanked them for their time.
 4. Student Activities-Meridian, Ali Crane- She has been part of Meridian student activities for many years. The majority of their events are lunch activities and many students as well as faculty show up. Next week they plan to have a soup lunch because the weather has been so cold. Vice President Sargeant asked if Ali expects members of Meridian student activities to plan any new activities besides lunches. Ali- They have been talking about having a Pie-in-the-Face activity in honor of Pi Day. There will probably be other new activities besides just lunches. Senator Bailey

- asked if she has an estimate for how many students attend the activities. Ali- 143 students got tickets to the Steelheads game and 200-225 students attend lunch activities. Senator Kay- Those turnouts are very impressive considering that is a third of the Meridian campus student population. Finance Officer Sapkota thanked Ali for her time.
5. ASISU, President Schmidt- ASISU provides leadership opportunities, teaches about how student government works, and bridges the gap between students and upper administration. ASISU allocates funds to different ISU organizations, which affects nearly every student on campus. ASISU does not need a budget increase but President Schmidt would like to decrease the telephone budget from \$3,000 to \$2,000. With the extra \$1,000, he would like to either increase organization budgets or fund incentive points. Senator Bailey asked if students see the impact that ASISU has on them. President Schmidt Logan- It depends on who they are. Meridian students probably aren't aware that ASISU exists. The people who are involved will know and understand how ASISU works, but hopefully a greater awareness will come in the future. Senator Breuker Liz asked what the Awards Banquet budget goes towards. President Schmidt- The purpose of that budget is to fund the Benny Awards, fund the End of Year BBQ, etc. Senator Breuker asked if ASISU could cut the telephone budget to \$1,500 instead. Lowell Richards- ASISU could probably cut the budget down to \$1,000 and be safe. Senator Kay- It would be great if the money that ASISU cuts from the telephone budget is put towards the onetime expense, such as replacing the couches in Reed Gym. President Schmidt- ASISU already has budgets for those situations. Turner Day is coming up on March 6 and the money raised from the Ambush will help fund it. Lowell- The Contingency Fund contains \$200,000 that is meant for projects like that. The money cut from the telephone budget could fund clubs or graduate student travel. Finance Officer Sapkota thanked President Schmidt for his presentation.
 6. International Affairs Council, Bryce- The Frank Church Symposium just held it's 48th annual event and they really appreciate ASISU's support. Tonight they would like to focus on challenges and achievements. During the 2019 Symposium, advertising was difficult. They were able to use social media and big news channels to help advertise for them but according to surveys, advertisement needs to be stronger. This year's Symposium was livestreamed and well attended. They had 80 people in the first panel and 63 for the second panel. Funding is crucial in order to provide quality symposiums. The quality of their key note speakers has been going down with each budget cut. Without adequate funding, it is difficult to bring people to Pocatello and make them feel comfortable. It is a struggle getting students to participate in the Symposium but the community is always involved. Senator Breuker asked which person they want to bring in as a keynote speaker. Paige- In the past we have had people come from other countries. Last year they had the president of the US International Security come speak and they are hoping to get someone from that same kind of stature back to ISU. Senator Breuker asked what the cost would be to get that level back. Paige- The minimum would be \$3,000. Most of the time they can't get quality speakers because the individuals want a greater payment. They are then forced to bring in local speakers which is not what they want to achieve. President Schmidt asked what their one-time expense would be. Bryce- To bring in one speaker who has a big name. This would cause bigger attendance. Paige- They used to be able to fill the ISU Ballroom but now they can't even fill the Salmon River Suites. Since they expanded the Symposium to be a Southeast Idaho event rather than just a Pocatello event, they have seen a huge number of people come from Blackfoot, Inkom, and Idaho falls. President Schmidt asked what other funding they receive. Paige- This year they received a Provost donation of \$5,000 but they do not receive it every year. They really need a budget increase because in 2021, it will be the Frank Church Symposium's 50th anniversary and they plan to make it big. They are often required to reserve speakers two years in advance. Finance Officer Sapkota thanked them for their time.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVE TO ADJOURN. Kay/Dhakal. Unanimous. **MOTION CARRIED.** ASISU Secretary, Hannah Livermont, took roll. All Finance Committee Members were present. Meeting adjourned at 6:31pm.