SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 4
DATE 2-16-05
BILL NO. SB-263

With the application and interview process for student regent applicants being nearly six months from start to finish, the newly appointed Student Regent has only three meetings to attend before the year is over and new students begin applying for the position. They have only 15 days to prepare for the first meeting, to understand the procedures, the agendas, meet the other regents, and be actively involved in the meeting. To affectively represent the students, the regent must have adequate time to learn in their capacity as a regent. Student Regent members are equal to all other Board of Regents members and have an equal voting power.

"We view the Student Regent as one who is equal to other Regents. The Student Regent has a first and foremost responsibility to represent students in the Montana University System."

By taking the power away from the governor to appoint the regent for 1 to 4 years, as the current statute now states, we are thus paralyzing the power of the student regent. They are given such a limited amount of time to even learn their position, they are far less affective as they could otherwise be. The power of the governor to appoint 1 to 4 years allows he or she discretion as to appoint a student from any of the 11 units for whatever length of term they see fit.

As a student, as well as the representative of 12,003 other students, I am concerned that power will be limited for our sole voice of representation on the Board of Regents. We have only one member on the 7 member board, we want that member to be well educated and versed in the issues being brought before the regents at each meeting. Though in the past, often regents have been only one year, I urge you to vote no to SB263 and in effect, strengthen the position of the student voice on the Board of Regents.

Student Regent Application Process

1. The student regent applicants must first apply at the campus level. They complete an application in January for the Associated Students and are interviewed generally at a February meeting. The Associated Students then choose up to five applicants to send to the Montana Associated Students.

2. Currently Montana Associated Students interview the student regent applicants from around the state in March. With eleven units eligible to apply for the position, they can have as many as 55 applicants to interview. They then make a selection of three top applicants out of that group who they then send to the Governor.

3. The Governor Interviews the three applicants between April and June and by June 30th, a new applicant is chosen for the Board of Regents Student Regent position.

Current Montana Associated Student Representation

MAS President

Matt Larson
Associated Students of Montana Tech (Butte)

MAS Vice President

Adam Lucido
Associated Students of Montana State University Billings

MAS Treasurer

Justine Kapperud
Associated Students of Montana State University Great Falls College of Technology

Blake Rasmussen
Associated Students of Montana State University

Kelly Paul
Associated Students of Montana State University Northern (Havre)

Frank Blegarde
Associated Students of University of Montana – Helena College of Technology

Gale Price
Associated Students of University of Montana

Ashley Shillcox
Associated Students of University of Montana Western (Dillon)

Taylon Bain
Dawson Community College (Glendive)

Tracie Belfey-Beltrand
Flathead Valley Community College (Kalispell)

Roxanne Lowney
Miles City Community College

Board of Regent – Student Regent Current Duties

Board of Regents Meetings:

The Board of Regents meets every two months from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for three days. (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday)
The meetings vary in location across the state.
This year meetings will be held in Helena, Billings, Great Falls, and Bozeman.
Though travel expenses are covered the student regent position is unpaid.

Other Regent Responsibilities:

The current student regent, as with all other regents, sits on many other committees dealing with education above and beyond their seat on the Board of Regents.

Current Student Regents Committee Assignments:

I. Academic Student Affairs Committee
II. Montana Family Education Savings Program Oversight Committee
III. Workforce Development Committee
IV. Board of Education
V. Student Assistance Foundation
VI. Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program Advisory Board
VII. Montana Higher Education Student Assistance Board

Regent History

Wayne O'Brien (Butte)
7/73 to 11/74
1 year 4 months

Sid R. Thomas (Bozeman)
12/74 to 1/78
4 years 1 month

Laura W. Briny (Dillon)
2/78 to 2/79
1 year

Shelley A. Hopkins (Missoula)
3/79 to 1/82
2 years 10 months

Darla Keck (Havre)
2/82 to 1/85
2 years 11 months

David Paoli (Missoula)
2/85 to 5/86
1 year 3 months

Scott Birkenbuel (Bozeman)
6/86 to 6/87
1 year

Leslie Kehoe (Bozeman)
7/87 to 5/88
10 months

Lee Ann Riley (Melrose)
6/88 to 5/89
11 months

Vickie Rae Clouse (Havre)
6/89 to 6/90
1 year

Brad Musgrove (Bozeman)
7/90 to 7/91
1 year

Kathy Rebish (Missoula)
8/91 to 6/92
10 months

Travis Belcher (Missoula)
7/92 to 5/93
10 months

Shane Coleman (Bozeman)
6/93 to 6/94
1 year

Jim Brown (Butte)
7/94 to 6/95
11 months

Mike Green (Bozeman)
7/95 to 6/97
11 months

Jason Thielman (Missoula)
6/97 to 6/98
1 year

Kim Cunningham (Billings)
6/98 to 5/99
11 months

Jeremy Fritz (Bozeman)
5/99 to 7/00
1 year 2 months

Jessica Kobos (Missoula)
7/00 to 6/01
11 months

Christian Hur (Billings)
7/01 to 6/03
7/03 to 6/04
2 years 11 months

Kala French (Kalispell)
7/04 to 6/07
2 years and 11 months