

## Student Senate Annual Report

2014 – 2015

During the school year of 2014/2015, Student Senate took an approach that expanded student involvement on campus. We designed committees, which included community outreach, fundraising, advertisement, and student involvement. The school year started by having meetings with the incoming freshmen class, as well as existing students who displayed an interest in student government. The meetings were held in order to place each student in the appropriate committee. Once the committees were formed, we delegated day to day tasks, which brought structure to the Senate. An existing student was selected as a leader for each committee to insure success. The committees were created in hopes of following through with these goals. The community outreach committee was meant to serve as a bridge by bringing together students and those in the Great Falls community. Fundraising was put into place in order to bring in more funds for events put on by student senate. Advertising was implemented to bring awareness to the events on campus. Lastly, student involvement was formed to increase excitement in students and bring support to various activities such as athletics.

Next, we allocated funds for active clubs on campus, if they fulfilled the new requirements we implemented. These requirements included each club having one fundraiser, community service project, providing information that indicated means for the money, and meet with Senate to present their club. Throughout the year, we met with the President to create a union between him and Senate. This allowed for a good partnership as well as a bright future.

Our goal was to have one large event each semester, which served as an effective way to increase student involvement. During the fall semester, we held a first ever Student Senate hosted Roommate Challenge at the McLaughlin Center. This was a pioneer event, which would

create community within the McLaughlin Center. This included an ice cream social, how well do you know your roommate section, and how well do you work with your roommate. Prizes were given to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners. This event went from 9:30pm until 12:00am on Friday November 14<sup>th</sup>. There were roughly 75 in attendance, which was a good turnout for a University of Great Falls event. During the spring semester, we held a semi-formal dance at the Holiday Inn. This included food, a photo booth, dance floor, poker and blackjack tables for Argo Bucks, and a DJ. This event ran from 9:00pm until 12:00am on Friday March 27<sup>th</sup>. We had over 110 people in attendance, which showed improvement from our fall event.

In addition to these large events, we hosted smaller events as well. In October we held a costume contest for Halloween where we selected a winner and gave them a gift card to Applebee's. During this event, there was also a pumpkin chuck to raise money. Next, we provided funds for all of the candy used during Spook-A-Roo. We also hosted the Midnight Breakfast, which is held the Sunday night before finals week. Lastly, we supported the debate contest by providing funds for catering.

Finally, we sent two of our members, Kat Martini and Brittany McKenney, to a national leadership conference in Orlando, Florida. At this conference they learned and brought back many incredibly useful techniques for bettering our Student Senate. They were able to use these skills to better help govern and improve the above listed events. This conference was a useful tool that should continue to be attended by University of Great Falls Student Senates in the future to continue to improve the quality of governance by Student Senate.