Good Evening ASUCM Senate and the Public,

First off, I want to wish everyone a Happy Wednesday, and I hope everyone is doing well in their classes. I just have a couple updates to share with y’all, and then I’ll briefly talk about my veto. I will have time later to go into deeper details.

This past Saturday the heads of each branch, along with the Director of Student Activities, Inter-Club Council Chair, and Senate Pro-Tempore met to brainstorm some goals for the upcoming week. We also had the chance to get to know one another by answering really abstract questions. I think the highlight of the in-service was a video we watched, Start with Why by Simon Sinek. I would highly recommend you watch. You only need to watch the first 8 minutes, or you can go through the Bobcat Leadership Series. One of the short term goals we came up with was weekly addresses. This will be spearheaded by the Internal Vice President and Senate Pro-Tempore, along with support from the DOC. We expect these weekly addresses to be through the eyes of the individual who is being shot. They will be contacting you soon. At one point in the retreat Chief Justice Shanahan made a very good point, and I would like to share with you what she said, verbatim, “ I don’t think the vision is wrong. I think its how we’re modeling those values. If we’re passionate and excited about our jobs then we will be doing our jobs well, but we need to be committed. If they see us tabling and such then they will do the same. We just need to model good leadership.” I agree with her wholeheartedly, and believe that in order for this organization to succeed we need to model superb leadership. I hope do that in the coming weeks, so that we may accomplish a lot more than what we have already done. Overall, it was a good retreat and I’m happy an opportunity presented itself for us to get together and brainstorm.

Next, I’d like to update y’all on some discussions I’ll be having over the next couple of weeks with the Office of Student Life. Ideally, I picture an ASUCM that will eventually have autonomy over a lot of its operations, specifically regarding purchasing. Over the course of the year Steve and I have been discussing potential ways to hire a professional staff, and initially I was intending to find money in our budget to fund the position. We pay for two positions in the Office of Student LIfe, and I thought that this would be the area where funding can be withdrawn. Unfortunately due to changes in the Office of Student Life I do not believe it would be the best move to pull that funding. Instead, there is a possibility we will be increasing student payroll to hire more student interns which allows us to employ more students. I’m currently working out the logistics with Steve, but plan to have it all sorted out soon.

Also, the Multi-Cultural Student Council, has fulfilled its role in what I envisioned it to be, and i couldn’t have done it without the Commissioner on Diversity. Savier Osorio. Starting in the month of February MCSC will be be hosting two smalls events in honor of Black History month and is using funding to support several organizations on campus for their events celebrating this month. Furthermore, Savier has dedicated each month, until the end of the semester, for a specific group on campus. I just thought I’d give him a shout out, and want to thank him for creating an MCSC that works to support clubs in their efforts to provide a vibrant and educational student environment.

Finally, I’d like to briefly mention my veto. I vetoed the ICC Proposal for Hip Hop Movements White Out Night Out event. I thought about it over the five days I am allowed, and came to the decision to veto this because I do not believe it would be in the best interest of ASUCM, not just ICC, to fund the large purchase of equipment. In the past we’ve passed legislation for expensive equipment, and I will admit that I approved an ICC proposal earlier this year for a 3D Printer. From what I can recall, it has been the only expenditure for equipment. Before we open the door wide open on the purchase of equipment, I’d at least like to have some discussion over this. It’s not the event I disagree with or the purchase of equipment; it’s the idea that we may be purchasing equipment for clubs in the future, and not have any mechanism for accountability. Clubs should have to the opportunity to purchase equipment, but I believe we should hold off any more equipment expenditures until we implement a system of accountability. This is one goal I’d like to accomplish by the end of my term, and I know a couple of Senators that I believe would be interested in helping.

Also, briefly, do not forget to tell clubs about the budget proposal. There is a possibility they might receive more funding for their event, if they have the money allocated to them during the budget call. IVP Mondo, and I plan to go to the Tri-College center on Monday to take inventory. I’m excited to see this project finally come together, and I look forward to your support. Also I will be attending a pre-consultation meeting tomorrow for the three development teams that were selected for the RFP process. We only have a couple months, so lets try to finish up strong. If you have any questions feel free to contact me. Thank you.