
1. **Patricia Swatfager-Haney opened the meeting** and everyone introduced themselves.

**Discussion Item**

- **Budget Consultation Process and Timeline**
  President Afolayan asked about funding for this year and next fiscal year. Rick Straka indicated this is a bi-annal budget year. Budget submissions will go to the Board in May or June, 2007. Rick will work with MSSA throughout the year to discuss the current year’s budget. He offered to come to any meetings with Senate members to discuss process, etc. MSU will start to set targets when the revenue forecast comes out, which will be either in late January or early February. He recommended MSSA talk about overall goals throughout the year and look at an approach. February and March are usually the timelines for lobbying. Concrete testimony usually happens in April or May.

- **President Davenport** addressed the focus for the Diversity Commission this year, which includes short-term and long-term recruitment and retention plans for students, as well as faculty and staff of underrepresented groups.
  
  - Regarding Enrollment Management, President Davenport indicated that Dr. Scott Olson will have a title change to Provost. There will not be an additional Vice President position created. President Davenport indicated that there will be two Co-Chairs of Enrollment Management and he discussed offices to be involved.
  - President Davenport stressed the importance of good communication between the administration and the Senate.
  - The issue of students being required to live on campus their freshman and sophomore years was brought up. President Davenport indicated there has not been any further discussion on that recently, but he would like to set a timeline so the university can let prospective students know about the requirement, as he would like to give them at least one year notice. He feels this would enhance retention. Dr. Swatfager-Haney indicated there is a proposal being worked on, but it has not been brought to Cabinet yet. Dr. Olson was concerned if there was enough time to do research on how such a requirement would affect enrollment. President Davenport indicated Dr. Olson, Dr. Swatfager-Haney and Rick Straka should do the research.
C. **MSSA President Gabe Afolayan** thanked the administration for the warm welcome and reception for MSSA.

- All the Senate seats are filled.
- President Afolayan went over some of the highlights of the survey MSSA did. He will also e-mail the results to the Cabinet.
  - There were over 2,000 responses.
  - Students indicated the primary focus of MSSA should be textbooks, improving academic standards and increasing student friendly services.
  - Close to 50% of the students stay in Mankato on the weekends.
  - E-mail is the preferred communication when receiving information from MSSA.
  - Most of the respondents listed school pride as a 2 or 3 on a scale of 5.
  - 94% said they plan on attending at least one event this year.

- President Afolayan stated that it is not the view of the Senate that “faculty are lazy and need a pay cut”. A short discussion followed regarding MSU administration supporting freedom of speech, but with that freedom comes a certain level of decorum. It was also suggested that President Afolayan have a discussion with Faculty Association President Steve Bohnenblust to let him know the comments in the “Reporter” are not endorsed by the MSSA.

**Vice President Chris Frederick** recognized President Afolayan’s many accomplishments over the summer. President Davenport agreed, saying he has never seen a group work so hard on issues over the summer.

D. **Vice President Swatfager-Haney**

- Campus Security
  - MSU is not pursuing the use of police officers to patrol campus.
  - Security is adding one evening supervisor and one patrol officer position.
  - Rick Straka toured Security’s office space and the administration knows there are issues regarding lack of space, confidentiality, etc.
  - MSU has hired a Consultant Psychologist for emergency situations and working with students who have been referred from Student Health Services for 2006-2007.

- Regarding Homecoming, Dr. Swatfager-Haney said she was looking forward to an exciting time. She also congratulated the Senate with getting “up to speed” so quickly on issues, the professionalism of their meetings and said she looked forward to working with them during the year.
2. Discussion Items

- President Davenport inquired about the poster policy and would like to revisit that issue so that MSSA would have more visibility and be able to get their messages to students. There are over 250 clubs and organizations on campus and he does not want MSSA’s posters/messages to “get lost” amongst all the other postings. President Afolayan did comment that it was a challenge getting the “Did You Know” campaign posted. He stated they could not post the posters in academic buildings. Both MSSA and the administration felt it is very important that the Senate be able to post their messages on campus, especially with the upcoming elections in November. Both felt it was essential to do all that was possible to encourage students to vote.

- Dr. Olson indicated that students are interested in the +/- grading system. Regarding the course repeat policy – MSU needs to look at the whole picture to see who is advantaged/disadvantaged. He handed out academic calendars. There are going to be two doctoral programs: Ed.D. Program in Counseling Student Personnel and a Doctor of Nursing Practice. These will be applied doctorates. The Doctor of Nursing Practice is in conjunction with Winona State University, Metro State and Moorhead. Proposals are due to the Chancellor’s Office by September 30. The administration will come to the Senate with tuition proposals for doctorate rates. It is common practice to charge more for doctorate programs. Dr. Olson also told MSSA to let him know whenever they have any questions on anything.

- Update on dirt removal/fencing for Trafton Addition
  Larry Kohanek handed out a site plan for Trafton which also showed proposed pedestrian circulation. It is anticipated that the fence will be put up in the middle of November. The area will be fenced off for approximately two years. It will be a 6-foot high chain link fence. Larry estimates 500 truck loads of dirt will be removed from the site. The dirt will be dumped south of Gage on a site that will be made into two new softball fields.

- Outdoor Recreation Proposal
  Todd Pfingsten started by acknowledging the work the Committee has been doing and recognized Jered, Gabe and Chris’s involvement on that Committee. The Committee has had 8 different layouts from the architect. Todd handed out the most recent layout. Estimates have been received, but Todd stated there are a lot of questions regarding some of the cost estimates that need to be looked into. President Davenport inquired about the cost of the new lights for the football field. Larry stated the cost was $113,000. MSU was able to reuse the poles, foundation and underground wiring to save on cost. In the future we may need to get shields for the individual lights to help with light pollution. These would cost around $30,000. President Davenport then informed Todd that the city and county have once again approached MSU about Stadium Road. They are asking MSU to reconsider a south road to manage the Stadium Road traffic and safety concerns. Rick
Straka indicated that the traffic lights have helped, but an under/overpass at the intersection of Warren and Stadium is something to look into. Some possible funding is tax increment financing the city has. MSU needs to talk about more of a long-term approach and consider the Campus Master Plan. Carol Jensen indicated there is still a concern about pedestrian safety with the traffic lights. People cross against red lights; cars don’t slow down if they have a green light, etc. Chris Frederick indicated a safety concern for people going from Gage to the CSU. President Davenport wants safety concerns for both sides (East and West) of Stadium Road to be addressed. He feels MSU needs a skywalk from Gage to the CSU. An underground bridge/walkway would help the east side.

- **Textbook Policy**
  The policy was withdrawn on Wednesday (September 13, 2006). It was stressed that anyone can author a policy, but there are processes to follow in getting that policy supported and implemented. Dr. Olson stated that MSU has a policy committee and MSSA can appoint one person to that committee.

- **Update on policies/dispensing those polices for review by MSSA**
  Malcolm O’Sullivan was unable to attend today’s meeting. He will be invited to present the policy process at the next MSSA Meet and Confer.

- **Pandemic Planning Update**
  Carol Jensen informed the group that the 2nd draft has been forwarded to MnSCU. The deadline was September 15, 2006. MnSCU knows this plan is a draft and has not gone to any of the Meet and Confers yet. Carol will e-mail the 2nd draft to MSSA for their feedback. The creation of this plan has lead the way for basic emergency response procedures on campus also.

- **President Afolayan inquired about the forecast of legislative appropriations for Campus Recreation. President Davenport stated that the funding would not go through the bonding process but rather through the Student Revenue Fund. President Davenport said some possibilities are from the city and private funding to help off-set the costs. He assured MSSA that all possible areas would be looked into.**

**Next MSSA Meet and Confer**
**Thursday, October 19, 2006**
**12:00 p.m.**
**WA303**