MSSA Meet & Confer  
Thursday, October 19, 2006  
Meeting Minutes


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

2. MSSA President and Vice Presidents Remarks
   - Gabe: Report of MSSA Activities:
     ✓ The MSSA had a meeting with the IFO President and discussed the textbook issue.
     ✓ The MSSA has 2 Senators running for seats at MSUSA.
     ✓ MSU Senators will attend the Penny Fellowship.
     ✓ The MSSA is starting a “Student Debt Campaign” in conjunction with the MSUSA. Student debt stories will be taken, pictures taken, and a book created.
     ✓ There will be a MSUSA conference on Oct 27 and 29.
     ✓ Meetings for Homecoming planning have been set up.
   - Kristeen:
     ✓ Invitation for Brenda to attend AAC meeting(s) has been extended.
     ✓ Met with IFO President about developing a committee to explore textbook cost containment.

3. Vice President of Student Affairs
   - Pat:
     ✓ Family Weekend, which happened concurrently with the Admissions Open House, went very well.
     ✓ Cindy Janney has a slide show to present that will show the upgrades to and services available from the new dining service.

4. Discussion Items
   - Update on Policies:
     ✓ Pat: The Policy Committee has the current policy reviews on a website.
     ✓ Scott: The policy committee invites both students and staff, to view this site and contribute their comments or suggestions to the committee. This is everyone’s opportunity to weigh in on the policies.
   - International Education:
     ✓ Pat: Introduced Brenda Flannery.
     ✓ Brenda: Brenda is working with International Education (and a variety of other university academic areas not directly part of one of the colleges). She
would like to see an increase (to 10%) in student interest in study abroad. It would also be good to find ways to interest our domestic students more in special international events sponsored at the University and locally in the community. Tom Gjersvig is working on learning programs that pair up international and domestic students.

- **Kristeen** asked about exploring more funding to help students avoid the large debt that can discourage plans to study abroad. It was noted by others present that students often overlook, or do not know where to look for assistance and that perhaps there were ways to make this information more available.

- **Diversity Enrollment Update**
  - **Pat:** Gender numbers remain static, geographical numbers have increased and international numbers are up slightly. **Gabe** asked how the international numbers compared with a few years ago. **Scott** explained that the Patriot Act, after the 911 event, forced a drop in international students able to come to the United States, but that our numbers were coming back up slowly. Also, we are being more aggressive in recruiting transfer international students to help increase their presence on campus. **Pat** added that some Strategic Priority funds have gone to help with international student enrollment.

- **Interior Design Program**
  - **Scott** informed us that there was a great amount of inconsistency in what the students are hearing about the suspending of the Interior Design program. The University would like to schedule a meeting and invite the MSSA and interested students to come and get information and ask questions. One thing the current ID students need to know is that they will be allowed to complete their degree.

5. **MSU President’s Report:** President Davenport and VP Rick Straka had just returned from the Chancellors Office. Our Annual Audit of the entire University was the best ever (much thanks to the leadership of VP Straka).

- **Other Issues:**
  - The city and county have about $1,000,000 available to assist in building an underground walkway across Stadium. In exchange, they would like another road built directly to Warren that would relieve the traffic on Stadium. A downside to this is it would affect the intramural area. This is under review.
  - **Campus Master Plan:** Pat is seeking input for the second phase of the Housing Planning. We need to gain enough additional housing to replace both towers of Gage.
  - The discussion at the Budget and Tuition meeting at the Chancellor’s Office was how much money should the state university system ask for? The funds we seek compete with other state needs such as health care issues. The students are encouraged to question political candidates serious on their funding stance.
✓ In Athletics, the NCC (original 10 members, now 8) is facing the possibility of being reduced to 3 or less members. The conference needs at least 6 member schools to compete. We would then have to decide how to resolve this problem – change divisions, seek another conference, possibly in another state. The University is looking seriously at this issue, as it can have a notable effect on the budget.

6. **Vice President of Finance and Administration:**
   - **Rick Straka:**
     ✓ The FY07 budget could be down another $250,000.
     ✓ Sean McGoldrick took advantage of low gas prices to purchase ahead which will help the budget.
     ✓ Engineers inspecting the KMSU tower feel it could be damaged by adverse weather, such as a severe ice storm. We may need to remove or replace it with an appropriate tower.
     ✓ Overall the budget is in good shape for FY07, but we need to continue to increase our reserves and the overall financial health of the University in order to protect our future financial status.
     ✓ **Gabe** asked how enrollment affects the budget. **Rick** and **President Davenport** explained that enrollment does not directly affect how much money is allotted to the University system, but does determine how big a percentage of that money MSU would receive.

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