MSSA MEET & CONFER  
November 6, 2008  
12:00 – 1:00pm  
CSU202  
Minutes

Present: President Davenport, Vice President Swatfager-Haney, Vice President Straka, Brian Schneider, Mike Hodapp, Avra Johnson, Kevin Thompson, President Ryan Anderson, Vice President Murtaza Rajabali

I. Meeting Chair – Vice President Swatfager-Haney

II. Information Items
   A. Approval of Minutes-Minutes stand approved
   B. MSU President’s Remarks
      Legislative outcome-DFL controlled legislature. Governor retains veto power. Most of the legislatures acknowledge that the solution to the crisis is higher ed. Estimated 16 million students by 2025 that will provide workforce for future. The legislators will be looking at ways and access for students to keep education affordable. We will not be seeing any double digit tuition increases.
      Not sure if 3% will hold when the Board of Trustees looks at that. Tuition position-keep it as low as possible. Board of Trustees position currently is 4%, 3% for two year colleges. The Board does have a stipulation, if legislature is unable to fund our request, to come back and review tuition.

      Enrollment management is key to stable budget plan. 2% drop in retention. MSU is still the highest in all state institutions. We saw a decline in transfer students which tends to be across the board. We came in under our maximum projection. Budget was built on 300 students. Key is to maintain stable enrollment. We are working with two year colleges. These students tend to be non-traditional, adult, working full time, underrepresented students that cannot afford to come to campus. 7700 France built on a business plan that does not take resources away from the university. Early indications are very positive for that site. It is about establishing relationships and partnerships. Mission is to establish a good relationship and a strong message that we want to work with those colleges. Vice President Olson follows up with very specific programs: Transfer programs, new degree programs, on-line learning. This is part of our financial future. Great check and balance in regard to quality of instruction both on and off campus.

      Board of Trustees retreat-Board came up with 6 goals that are being ironed out. They are bold and courageous and consistent in the direction students might want to go. Innovation and flexibility is applied across the board

   C. MSSA President and Vice President’s Remarks
      President Ryan Anderson
      MSSA Legislative Coordinator did a great job with election. Went to both precincts, very few problems, relatively quick lines. Great student enthusiasm. Former President Frederick came very close to winning which says students are interested. Hope successor will push, when the lines are redrawn, to get the neighborhoods into a single ward. Election has shown that we need student voice on the council. This community on the hill should qualify as a special neighborhood and deserves its own ward.
MSSA Survey-31% of students disagreed that general education courses are valuable. The number of students that were not getting things out of general ed courses was alarming and deserves further discussion and research from all of campus.

Advising-making good progress.

Enrollment Management Meeting, most interesting thing was the higher success for students under contract as compared to those close to it but not under contract. We should look at expanding that program. Helps make students successful and keeps access open. Important to our core mission.

Alcohol Policy-Senator Andy Wilke participating in the drafting.

Ride along very soon with Mankato Police Dept. to get perspective on issue. Alcohol Forum planned for Nov. 20.

Mav Textbook Reserve Program-$2,000 from MSSA, $3,500 from Barnes and Noble to expand. Will be targeting general ed courses. Over 400 books have been checked out. Looking for permanent funding source to sustain program.

Long term-MSSA member coordinate program. Work with ITS so students would know when they register for a course they are eligible for the book program.

Hope to fill MSSA Executive Director position by first day of session.

Vice President Rajabali-Reviewing SAC guidelines. We should be at a 5% reserve. We are looking at guidelines to allow better allocation.

Environmental Committee hoping to start week of Nov 16.

Meet Your Senator Week-Week of events starting Monday A.M. Thursday Open House planned with Reporter 2-4 PM.

Got a Gripe Campaign. Posters provided for students to write responses on a variety of topics. MSUSA next weekend in the Twin Cities.

We are trying to implement a question of the week on our web site. We want a question up so that we can get good feedback on different topics.

Vice President Straka- 5% reserve is reasonable and consistent with general fund and that is appropriate. Laura King, systems office, would like 10-15%. Nationally we have the lowest reserves in our general fund.

D. Vice President for Student Affairs Remarks-Vice President Swatfager-Haney

Thank MSSA on Get Out the Vote, it showed a real effort.

Failed search on Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs. FYE director search also failed.

President took E-application issues of students trying to apply online to leadership council and the system is trying to find resolutions to overall application process.

Contract program of underrepresented students, working on targeted interventions.

E. Policies Presented for Informal Review  (Informal Review runs from October 31-December 4, 2008)  
(Copies of the policies may be accessed at http://www.mnsu.edu/acadaf/policies/)

A. Revised Policies
1. Undergraduate Satisfactory Academic Standing: Probation and Suspension
2. Post-Secondary Enrollment Options
3. Bicycles
4. Rollerblades/Skateboards/Bicycles and Personal Assistive Motorized Devices
5. Protection of Human Subjects in Research

B. New Policies
1. University Sponsored Education Abroad Programs

C. Current Policies Presented for Elimination as University Policies
1. Abandoned Bicycles (content incorporated into revised “Bicycles” policy)
2. Cell Phone Personal Use (content prohibited by new MnSCU Board of Trustees policy)
3. Letterhead (recommended for divisional policy status as part of the Graphic Standards Manual)
4. Faculty Availability for Office Hours (partially included in the IFO contract)
5. Greek Community Alcohol (recommended for divisional policy status)
III. Action Items

IV. Discussion Items

A. Budget Update-Vice President Straka
   Not a lot has changed. The governor is talking about 5% reduction across the board for all state agencies. The House and Senate will be much more kind to education than the governor. There will be some services we may have to look at reducing. The Vice Presidents have been asked to look at 3% reduction. We think new successful initiatives need to have a level of support. 5% budget cut will put pressure on tuition. We are entering it as healthy as any of our peer institutions. Bargaining units feel there has to be a recognition of inflation in the economy. We are switching to a deflation mode in the economy. We will all have to make some tough decisions. Tuition may go up a little higher. Salary negotiations may be a little lower than we had hoped for them to go in order for this to balance.

   1. Budget Planning-The key is what kind of discussions can the university budget take? Brand new process with input into information. Need way in campus community to talk through the process. There will be a link on the main Finance & Administration page that will go to budget suggestions and cost containment.
      Two big dates: Dec 1st is November forecast and sets the governor’s check book. End of February is revenue forecast that sets legislature checkbook. April/May we will have a better idea of where we will be.
      The senate is the ceiling, the house is more favorable to us. Legislators don’t see higher ed taking a share of budget problem that the governors office might see. We will probably get a little less money from the state. 1 or 2% cut. 1 or 2% is a high end in a salary increase. If we don’t get the money asked for we can’t hold tuition to what we would like. Strategy on personnel-we need to look at all budgets including personnel. We will look at areas least tied to strategic initiatives and cut there. We will put our budget structurally in balance. If it is bad we may need to have a short term hiring freeze.

   2. Student Pay Advisory Group Recommendations
      Good discussion on why we should increase pay and why we shouldn’t. There is a split vote now of 1-2% increase of student pay. There is concern with student success. With higher rate students have to work fewer hours to earn financial need base, financial aid, to earn more student success. If we cut budgets what does it mean to pool of employment on campus? Pay increase could lead to smaller pool meaning less people actually get to work.
      President Anderson-We hear more and more from work study and international students that this is their only option for work. We do not want to see a reduction in the number of jobs. State wide-level is discussing ways for international students to get jobs off campus.
      Vice President Rajabali-International students need a SS# to get a job but you need a job offer to work off campus to get a SS#, it is a cycle. To work off campus you have to apply for a permit and it is $340.00.

B. Drafting Process for Alcohol Policy-Dr. Swatfager-Haney
C. Student Forum on Alcohol Issues November 20, 2008
D. MSSA Survey Results – President Ryan Anderson
   1200 students responded, which is in line with previous surveys. Results were within 2.7% margin of error.
   Top issues-tuition and fees, book prices and parking
   Advising-3-1 students prefer professional advising
   Academic issues-32% disagreed or strongly disagreed that general education courses are valuable. 31% agreed with that statement. 31% disagreed with the statement that general eds are more challenging than high school. 36% agreed. 26% agreed with the statement that writing intensive courses improved writing abilities. 39% agreed.
59% said their degree has prepared them for a job or grad school. 
Changing gun policy-75% felt less safe if guns were allowed on campus. 
School pride-not everybody bleeds purple and gold but numbers were up. 
Student life-ACC and Library, D2L, On-line registration, Campus Hub scored high. 
Center for Academic Success, FYE and Career development- students were largely indifferent. 
Campus Dining had highest negative rating, although more positive than negative. 
Vice President Straka’s Triangle of parking-42% said maintaining free lot was top priority, 34% said proximity, 14% said increasing green space was a priority. 
In area of general ed it did not prove anything-we need to look into this further. 
There are specific courses that are doing very well, we just need to figure that out. 
Need to do anything we can to shrink number of students that feel general ed courses are a waste of time. 

E. New Secure Password Standard –Kevin Thompson 
Passwords will be changed in January. Office of Chancellor has come out with new rules on how passwords are constructed. MnSCU System Guidelines as well as the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard require that passwords be configured securely. MSU has one set of rules that encompasses both of those. New passwords will comply with new rule and will only be good for 180 days. We do not want everyone’s password to change on the same day. We will change to new standard when your password expires. New password will have to be stronger than it was in the past. 8 characters long, 3 character types-upper & lower case, numbers, special characters. Requirements will be on page when you change password. 

Fall Meet and Confer Meetings 
December 4, 2008, 12:00-1:00, CSU202