MSSA MEET & CONFER MINUTES  
DECEMBER 4, 2008 – 12:00 – 1:00 P.M.  
CENTENNIAL STUDENT UNION #203

PRESENT: Richard Davenport, Pat Swatfager-Haney, Ryan Anderson, Mike Fagin, Brett Fleck, Mike Hodapp, Avra Johnson, Ted Johnson, Lori Lamb, Doug Mayo, Scott Olson, Murtaza Rajabali, Brian Schneider, Rick Straka

Student Affairs Vice President Patricia Swatfager-Haney chaired the meeting.

I. Information Items  
A. The November 6 minutes were approved and accepted.  
B. MSSA President Ryan Anderson Remarks  
   • Ryan welcomed the group and thanked everyone who showed up for the alcohol forum on November 20. The Student Senate understands that the administration is doing what they feel is in the best interest for the students, and the students look forward to working with the administration on this issue in the future.  
   • The Senate passed the Residence Hall recommendations on rates and feels they are justifiable; supports Residential Life’s move toward environmentally friendly practices; would like to see a break out of rates showing why students pay more living on campus and what they get for living on campus versus off-campus housing; and would like to see flex dollars stay at a minimal.  
   • The students would like to see a “question of the week” program started. It would get the students thinking, cause discussion and see reactions. Keeping topics as non-controversial as possible.  
   • Discussion took place on an expanded night-time pilot project of Route 1 bus services that goes around the campus. It will run Monday – Thursday, 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. during Spring Semester. Ridership will be monitored to see how much it is being used. Route 6 to the parking lots also should have the ridership monitored.  
   • The general education requirement for the writing curriculum timeline should be looked at. Currently, it can be taken in the fourth year and should possibly be taken earlier as some students may need to work on writing before their last year of college.  
C. President Davenport’s Remarks  
   • President Davenport shared that a statement regarding budget would be coming out to the university shortly. He said a Free Press article regarding the State’s budget situation needed further clarification. Even though the System appropriation from the State may be cut 15%, this would result in a decrease in our MSU budget of approximately 7%. The December State forecast predicts a deficit of $425 million for
the remainder of FY2009 and a shortfall of $4.847 billion for the 2010-11 biennium. MSU is being extremely cautious even though Mankato’s financial condition is very good. Our reserves are high and our enrollments are solid.

- The President would like to add a sub-committee to the Great Place to Work Group to look at bullying and intimidation. This subject is taken very seriously.

D. Vice President Patricia Swatfager-Haney’s Remarks

- Vice President Swatfager-Haney thanked the students on the alcohol forum and how we will continue to work together in the future.
- Consultants will be coming in to review our current dining services. If you have any issues on this, please talk to Pat.
- At the Student Leadership Forum, there were several representatives from different student organizations on campus. The students would like to see more transportation at night and afternoon. Great time to see where the ridership is at.
- We need to look at better ways of marketing student events to off-campus people. Look at possible ways of doing joint activities with other institutions.
- We need to work hard on the e-application issue.
- Foot Wash Installs – This is a controversial issue and it’s basically a matter of educating the public and continuing communication with the Chancellor’s Office. Safety issues need to be thought through as far as possible slips and falls.


1. Alcohol and Other Drugs
2. Locks, Keys and Electronic Access Control
3. Data Practices (formerly “Student Records)

Please take a look at these policies on line at:

http://www.mnsu.edu/acadaf/policies/ and look for passing motions in the next semester.

II. Action Items

A. Revised Policies Presented for Information Review

(info received in hard copy from Ryan Anderson)

1. Undergraduate Satisfactory Academic Standing Probation & Suspension

   Academic Affairs Informal Policy Review Recommendations:

   - In section I., part B.; remove A(+) from grades which could be received in a course
   - In section II., part B.; change the GPA required from 3.0 to 2.67 to reflect the fact that a 2.67 is a B(-) average which is still technically above a C average in the new grading system.
   - In section III., part A.; Consider adding an additional application deadline of November 1 for academic reinstatement to compliment the proposed deadline of the second Monday in June to take into account those students who would like to come back to school after a long hiatus or are under certain circumstances.
• In section III., part C.; review the paragraph, we believe it is a duplication of what is being said in section II., part B.
• Reinroduce a statement explicitly notifying students that if they fail to meet the terms of their reinstatement contract, their career at the University will be terminated.
  (This clause was deleted from the current policy for some reason)

2. Post-Secondary Enrollment Options

• The MSSA supports the majority of changes to the PSEO policy. The MSSA recommends changing to the PSEO Policy by striking the line: “PSEO students are not allowed to receive special “Permission to Register” from Faculty or Departments.” And replacing it with “PSEO Students are allowed to receive special “Permission to Register” from faculty or a department only after the first class meeting has elapsed while giving priority to full time students”

3. Bicycles

• The MSSA supports the changes to this policy

4. Rollerblades/Skateboards/Bicycles and Personal Assistive Motorized Devices

• The MSSA supports eliminating references to bicycles within the policy

5. Protection of Human Subjects in Research

• The MSSA did not offer any recommendations.

B. New Policies Presented for Informal Review

1. University Sponsored Education Abroad Programs

• After review of the policy, the MSSA Academic Affairs Committee has no recommendations for this new policy. The Committee would like to note their appreciation for a comprehensive course fee which makes the entire financial process for the student more streamlined.

C. Current Policies Presented for Elimination as University Policies

1. Abandoned Bicycles (content incorporated into revised “Bicycles” policy)

• The MSSA supports the elimination of this policy.

2. Cell Phone Personal Use (content prohibited by new MnSCU Board of Trustees policy)

• The MSSA supports the elimination of this policy.

3. Letterhead (recommended for divisional policy status as part of the Graphic Standards Manual)

• The MSSA supports the elimination of this policy.
4. Faculty availability for Office Hours (partially included in the IFO contract)

- The MSSA Academic Affairs Committee believes it would be in the best interest of students if the policy would remain. It is of our understanding that the policy is being proposed for cancellation because it is redundant noting a similar clause in the Faculty Association’s contract. The Committee feels that if issues regarding this policy were ever to come up and it was no longer in official University policy that we would have no say in the matter because students have no representation in union contract negotiations. If it remains University policy, students would have an ability to voice their opinions in support or objection.

- On a further note, the Committee would like this policy enforced more adamantly noting many student complaints that faculty members are not in their offices during office hours or are routinely scheduled with other issues requiring them to be away from their offices during posted hours.

5. Greek Community Alcohol (recommended for divisional policy status)

- The MSSA supports the moving this policy to a divisional policy within the Office of Student Affairs.

III. Discussion Items

A. Budget Update – Implication of Board of Trustees Budget Recommendation (MsSCU Budget Request /Tuition Cap)

- There is a $425 million dollar deficit for the remainder of this year and $4.847 billion for the next 2010-11 biennium.

- Don’t know where MSU’s percent will be, but it will not be 15% -- looking maybe around 6% – 7%; hopefully, can hold it somewhere between 2% – 5%.

- Tuition has a big factor on where we’re at; how the economy and inflation are doing will be big factors.

- Need to work towards maintaining a 7% reserve.

- We may need to have a hiring freeze, equipment freeze, travel/expense freezes; but we need to hold back to see where we are before we start any freezes.

- The bottom line will be determined by how much we are going to be cut.

B. Student Forum on Alcohol Issues – Debriefing Discussion

- The alcohol forum was appreciated. MSSA will do their best in coming up with ideas in areas that are in disagreement. The views that were heard from the students did not necessarily represent all students. The forum was definitely worthwhile; it received good press and it does show that it is OK to disagree.
C. Great Place to Work Task Force Update/Bullying Survey Update

- The consultant’s final report on the bullying survey should be coming shortly – hopefully by the end of the week (December 7). It has a number of recommendations that have been reviewed by the bullying work group. The President has indicated that he will add the report to the Great Place to Work Task Force’s agenda to look at what we can do to improve the work environment on campus. Follow up on the consultant’s recommendations will be taken very seriously. Small group discussions are planned to take place. The Great Place to Work Group has looked at getting these started this spring.

D. Other

- Presidential Scholarship Awards and Endowment Issues – Vice President Doug Mayo will get information to Ryan Anderson as to how things are supported.

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**Spring Meet and Confer Meetings**

- **February 5, 2009**  12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.  CSU 204
- **March 19, 2009**  12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.  CSU 238
- **April 9, 2009**  12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.  CSU 202
- **May 7, 2009**  12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.  CSU 204