

**74th MSSA Senate
February 07, 2007**

74th Senate called to order Speaker Jered Jackson

Roll Call (present-absent-proxy-excused)

Jessica Kallio 19-0-0-1, Taitum Thompson 11-8-0-1, Casey Carmody 19-0-0-1, Brett Fleck- 19-0-0-1, Nikki Hanna 16-0-0, Brandon Ross 17-3-0, Jenna Ault 19-1-0, Katie Ischkin 14-1-0-1, Kristeen Giese 17-2-0-1, Murtaza Rajabali 2-0-0, Oliver Okoye 16-4-0, Kenneth Willaert 15-1-0, Peter Jennings 19-1-0, Ryan Anderson 20-0-0, Brad Kraus 4-0-0, Kathryn Pase 20-0-0, Evan Trosvik 20-0-0, Jennifer Hansen 13-1-0, Jon Sands 14-0-0, Cole Fink 9-0-0, Abbie Hill 2-0-0, Michael Norton 9-0-0, Allan Gould 18-2-0, Jon Hurm 18-2-0, Jason Schilling 20-0-0, Caroline Kornowicz 16-4-0
President Gabe Afolayan 20-0-0, Vice President Chris Frederick 20-0-0

Open Forum

MSU Repertory Dance-Nicole Curry. I am here today to address the faculty funds being cut for the American College Dance Festival. Last year when MSU attended ACDF we placed in the top 8 out of 60 pieces brought from the Midwest. This is a huge accomplishment and a major honor for our school. Our success at ACDF is not even possible without our professors. Our success is only a fraction of what this does for the university and recruitment. As a member of the dance program I have several problems with the cutting of funds for this event. First and foremost there has been a precedence set for nearly 20 years of the school providing funds for us to attend this event as well as our teachers to attend. Secondly when the dance program requested funding we asked for notification of our financial support by December, however our department did not find until the end of January that our funding had been cut. When I first found about this issue I contacted a few of the senators in order to seek support for the dance program. I was very grateful for the quick response and the willingness to help from my fellow students that I contacted. However, I was disappointed when I received this reply, "I can't guarantee support of your matter due to my lack of information from both sides". I don't see how a decision could have been made in the first place if all of the senators were not given all the information. As a dance major I am inviting you to come and attend our performances, our classes or even rehearsals so you can see faculty involvement is crucial to the success of our program. Lastly, I am uncertain why the dance program is asked to fundraise to bring along our professors to ACDF when other student groups, such as sports teams, are not asked to fundraise to bring along their coaches. Not only are our professors important to us as students of MSU but they also teach master classes at ACDF. This is further recruitment for our school and to improve diversity at this school which is part of MSU's mission statement. So on behalf of the students attending ACDF this year and all the dancers at MSU, I am asking you to please reconsider this funding.

President Afolayan-You spoke about fundraising not coming from Athletics, where did you get that information?

Ms. Curry-I spoke with my professors and other people that they work with.

President Afolayan-Are you aware that Intercollegiate Athletics actually receives only 62% of it's budget from tuition and fees?

Ms. Curry-No, I was not aware of that.

Senator Schilling-In lieu of the senate's decision has there been any efforts to fundraise in accordance to the policy?

Ms. Curry-We just found out. We had such short notice that we have not done fundraising.

Senator Anderson-As far as academic curriculum-do you receive funding from your department not from student activity fee dollars? Is this part of the academic curriculum?

Ms. Curry-In order to attend ACDF you do have to audition.

Senator Anderson-Do you receive funding from the dance department to attend this event?

Ms. Curry-In previous years we always received funding from student senate, so no.

Senator Pase-Are you aware that although sport clubs do not have to fundraise that all the requests that we have received so far have done fundraising?

Ms. Curry-No, I was not but I have trouble comparing our selves to an athletic group because we are not an athletic team. We are not a recognized student organization. We are a group of people that want to do this to represent the school.

Senator Schilling-Is this invitation or is this voluntary?

Ms. Curry-For the school is it an invitation? I am not sure.

Senator Carmody-Do you have to be a dance major to attend this?

Ms. Curry-No, dance majors are required to audition in the fall. Not everyone is allowed to go from that audition,

Senator Fleck-The original motion was amended to have no faculty funded and that is why you are here. That motion went through well over a month ago and was brought back last week for reconsideration. Were you never notified that the funding for faculty was not approved?

Ms. Curry-We were not notified of that until a week and a half ago.

Approval of Agenda Strike Senator Jennings report. Strike Parking presentation Under appointments add Mike Norton to the Election Committee, Budget Sub Meet & Confer-Jason Schilling.

Approval of Minutes 01-31-07 Minutes stand approved

Presentations

SAC Policy – Gabe Afolayan and Chris Frederick (see handout)

Vice President Frederick-There have been some issues with the SAC Policy that have come up.

President Afolayan and I took some time over winter break to go through it in detail and to look at irregularities. In the handout you have an outline of the major changes. I did go to SAC with this for consultation and they gave us a lot of feedback. We will go through from the top of the list. There was an addition to the guidelines to add a MSSA fee, similar to the MSUSA fee. It is recognized that MSSA is the bargaining unit for students similar to IFO for faculty. They pay dues to belong to that. There was also an addition to add amendments to the policy that all amendments will be approved by a simple majority of the MSSA Senate. There was clarification added regarding travel for MSU administrators. Basically stating without specific approval SAF may not be used to fund travel for faculty and administrators to go on trips if they do not accompany students. This says we don't have to but we can. Also there was a change made to the Parking permits. The original motion

stated that SAF funds may not be used to purchase individual parking permits for MSU employees.

This addition was created to allow for purchasing a stall like many departments have on campus.

All depreciation funds were changed to repair and maintenance. A deficits portion was added stating that if a line item goes into a deficit that their account will be froze until they give a presentation to SAC and Senate on why it occurred and on how it will be corrected.

President Afolayan- The old policy had grey areas for tournament travel and RSO travel. We have now itemized this so it has Competition/Tournament Travel

- 1) Cannot be an Intercollegiate Athletic Team.
- 2) Is an organization/team which has qualified or is invited to participate in a tournament
- 3) Each individual/participant may receive up to \$100.00 per student
- 4) Up to \$100 for each professional staff. (SAC reserves the right to determine if SAF funds may be used to pay for faculty, staff, or administrators on a case by case basis.
- 5) An organization/team may be eligible for funding above the \$100 per student limit if the organization/team has raised at least 1/3 of the total trip cost from funds other than SAF funds. Not to exceed \$400.00 per student. (eg. If a group requires a travel budget of \$1200 the group must raise at least \$400 in order to be eligible for funding over the \$100 per student limit.
- 6) The allocation of SAF funding shall not exceed \$400 per student.

We added Leadership/Conference travel. Recognized Student Organizations may request funds for travel to events and conferences. Before being considered for funding they must be recognized by MSSA and be classified as Independent Student Organizations; Department Affiliated or Indirectly Affiliated Student Organization receiving less than \$500.00 per year from their respective departments. Department affiliated or indirectly affiliated student organizations must provide

written documentation from their respective department showing that they receive less than \$500 per year from that department.

The new one coming on the heels of our Homecoming Task Force recommendations is an RSO Homecoming Event Sponsorship Incentive, this should attract several organizations. Typically we have had a lack of man power for homecoming activities and student engagements. In order to foster the environment of student organizations getting involved and volunteering we are throwing out an opportunity for organizations to get involved with homecoming. The university wide committee will finalize an official list of events to be on the student end and then RSO's will apply to sponsor a particular event and justify why they feel they can put on the event. If they get the event, it will appear as their sponsorship in the Homecoming correspondence. The kicker is that afterwards they can then qualify for up to \$1,000 after giving a report and that \$1,000 can be used for travel for their organization or for on campus programming. Of course SAC specifications apply to that. More or less it is an easy way for RSO's to get out there and fundraise and contribute to homecoming. Vice President Frederick-Leadership/Conference Travel and Competition/Tournament travel, the entire policy is in the office.

Senator Trosvik-This is important, can you email the documents to us?

Senator Anderson-Is there a guaranteed minimum RSO's will receive if they sponsor an event?

Senator Gould-No, there is no minimum, that way there is no rubber stamp. They will have to do the work and show what they did.

Senator Gould-So we are going to rate the allocation on how well they participated up to \$1,000?

President Afolayan-I didn't explain that as well. Pretty much the university wide committee would draft a form where organizations would list their rationale as to why they can put it on and afterwards they would do a summary of how it went, how many people participated, and based on that SAC would make their recommendation.

Old Business

Student Affairs (regarding residence hall rates)

Chair Hurm-We have had two meetings and have gone over all the residence hall rates. It turns out there was a lot more than we thought. We have gotten all the statistics finally and we have a motion coming up later that will ask to extend the motion one more week so that we can come up with suggestions on how to lower fees. We discussed workers comp which is going up 20% next year. We have other figures to go over. If this passes we will give you this next week.

Senator Schilling-Is the debt service for the Julia A. Sears tower on expenditures for Gage towers and Crawford/McElroy Hall for fiscal year 2008?

Senator Hurm-Yes, I believe so

Academic Affairs (regarding motion #1.24.07

Motion 1.24.07A Academic Profile Senator Norton/Senator Fleck

Whereas: The academic profile of this university is a top priority for the current administration

Whereas: The background and profile of the faculty is directly related to the quality of education and opportunities provided for the students

Whereas: Enrolled students would benefit academically from an increase in faculty excellence

Whereas: Alumni would benefit from an increased academic profile through the value of the degree

Whereas: The community would benefit from an increase in academic prestige.

Be It Resolved: An exploratory committee be formed with the charge of determining the feasibility of hiring a high profile faculty member to the university.

Senator Anderson-This motion was brought to us two weeks ago and it was decided we would come now and give a report. We had Walt Wolff here last week and we talked about the Admissions Policy so we were not able to have anyone come in from the faculty and discuss its merits. It was discussed at length today and we agreed with the sentiments for raising academic standards with a high profile faculty. We just don't know if the exploratory committee is the way to go about it. The vote put forward was 1 yea, 5 nay and 3 abstentions. That is all I have for now.

Senator Norton-Amend motion to include the exploratory committee to include faculty, administration and students.

Senator Anderson-My perception from the committee is that they felt the wheels are in motion to have this sort of thing done but I am more open to general student consultation in the future.

Amendment passes

Senator Carmody-I was in the Academic Affairs Committee. I think the general feeling of the committee was that we would like student consultation instead of the exploratory committee.

The wheels are in motion with the administration and the faculty. Personally I would like a new motion saying that we want student consultation. The wording of this motion is not correct.

Senator Anderson-I echo the idea of students wanting to take issue and raise academic standards but a committee at this time is not the way to approach it.

Senator Norton-I just want to stress again that the committee is exploratory there is nothing firm that will come except student involvement. The motion that the speaker eluded to is the same, it is just not a formal motion.

Senator Fleck-In Academic Affairs today people were not in support of forming a committee because things might already be turning in this direction and we should be in contact with the administration before we form a committee.

Senator Schilling-If we formed this committee we might be retracing the steps that have already been taken to attract a high profile faculty. I think we need to look at what has already been done and move forward from there.

Senator Kraus-One of the things we discussed was giving the administration time to come in and explain where they are in their venture in regard to this motion. I think we should let some one tell us where the ball is starting to roll.

President Afolayan-For everyone speaking against this motion does anyone plan to formally make a motion to have student consultation?

Senator Anderson-I think the general feeling is that no one has volunteered to do that but that we just need a little more knowledge before we would continue.

Senator Norton-Turning down this motion or creating a new motion is just wasting our time. If this motion had not been brought up there would not even be discussion on what the administration is or is not doing. If we fail this we are wasting our time.

Senator Carmody-I would agree time is of the essence, but I think time would be wasted if we are retracing steps that have already been taken.

Senator Trosvik-Call the question, second Senator Pace

Motion fails

New Business

Motion SAC.02.07.07A Mudworks

Student Allocations Committee recommends allocating up to \$550.00 to Mudworks to attend the National Council of Education for the Ceramic Arts Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.

Chair Pace-This was actually easy, they create pottery and then sell it to use for their organization. In this case they used a lot of it towards fundraising. They raised \$600.00 which is more than they requested. This was a quick decision for us to recommend.

Senator Fleck-Can you go into further detail about why they are doing this?

Senator Pace-They are going to Louisville, Kentucky. This is a conference where they will learn new methods of teaching art and will come back and share with people in their department. They will obtain networking that they can use later.

Senator Schilling-They also plan to do two more sales this semester to increase their fundraising.

Senator Trosvik-How many people are going?

Chair Pace-11.

Senator Norton-Does this go back to the artists or students going on the trip?

Chair Pace-Yes it goes to the artist to go back to those going on the trip.

Motion passes

Motion SAC.02.07.07 B Student Nurses Association

The Student Allocations Committee recommends allocating up to \$400.00 to the Student Nurses Association to attend the National Student Nurses Association Annual Convention in Anaheim, CA.

Chair Pace-They raised an impressive \$3,500 from hotdog sales and t shirt sales. This is significantly more than we see a lot of RSO's raise. That led us to ok their allocation. They will be learning new nursing practices they will be able to use and come back and share with others in the department.

Senator Rajabali-What is the cost of the trip?

Chair Pace-\$6,490.00.

Senator Anderson-It is really refreshing to see organizations doing this kind of fundraising.

Motion passes unanimously

MSSA Motion 02.07.07A MSSA Resources Senator Norton/Anderson

Whereas: An increased availability of resources in regards to political awareness would benefit senators

Whereas: An increased amount of valuable reading materials in the MSSA office would likely increase time spent in the Senate Office

Whereas: Each senator could have an impact on future senators by donating books they find to be appropriate

Whereas: Reading is fundamental

Be it Resolved: The MSSA recommends that CSU 273 have added a bookshelf to be filled with books donated by current and former senators. Likewise the President will be charged with the task of leaving one book at the end of his/her term. It would also be required that any book donated include a note as to it's significance and the name, date and title of the donor.

Senator Norton-This would be a leaving a legacy for future senates to read.

Senator Fleck-Who will provide the bookshelf?

Senator Norton-We will look into that.

Senator Carmody-I like this and we could call this the Gabe Afolayan Leadership Bookshelf.

Senator Trosvik-I think that if someone were to donate a bookshelf, the bookshelf could be named after them.

Motion Passes

#02.07.07 B Parking Lot President Gabe Afolayan/Vice President Frederick

Whereas: Over 70% of surveyed students do not support a \$40 permit fee for paving of Lot 23.

Whereas: Lot 23 accommodates students who cannot afford the current prices of other campus permit lots.

Whereas: Lot 23 accommodates individuals visiting the university on a brief or short-term basis.

- Whereas: MSU, Mankato has historically recognized a need to have a free parking lot on campus.
- Whereas: Currently, the campus pay lot does not meet supply necessary to provide close in parking for university visitors and guests.
- Whereas: The campus pay lot caters to visitors who potentially contribute revenue to the Centennial Student Union while attending conferences and special events.
- Whereas: Increased space utilization and revenue would come to the Centennial Student Union by providing more pay lot parking.
- Whereas: Increasing the number of available pay lot spaces will generate substantially greater income from the pay lot.
- Be it Resolved: The MSSA recommends the following provisions to the university parking advisory committee and university administration:
- Convert 40 stalls from Gold Lot 4A into pay lot stalls.
 - Fund the paving of lot 23 with increased revenue from pay lot stall conversion
 - Maintain the current pay lot fee levels
 - Convert 40 stalls in on the east end of Light Green Lot 13 to form a new Gold Lot for displaced Lot 4A permit holders
 - Maintain current parking fine levels
 - Reduce the Orange Permit price from \$94 to \$80

President Afolayan-We have had a history of a free lot. The money would come from converting some of the gold stalls to pay lot stalls. How would that work? A little known fact. Every one of the pay lot stalls generates \$1600. For every 10 stalls that is \$16,000. By getting rid of 40 stalls you potentially get revenue of up to \$52,000. To pave the free lot they are looking at about \$24,000 for ten years. We also have an issue of providing close in parking for visitors. Revenue is brought in to the university and student union by conferences and we do not have enough parking for the visitors and guests. So this provides more room for that. Also by moving those to the east end of the Green lot which is by McElroy it might be an issue of removing those stalls but in the long term we will have a much bigger issue because the new residential hall of 600 beds has no parking built into that. With the orange permit, you can go 20 feet and have a free lot. It is one of the most vacant lots. Putting this price down would make it more enticing for people to buy a permit for this lot.

Senator Fleck-What kind of lost revenue would there be if the price was lowered from \$94-\$80.00?

President Afolayan-I don't have those statistics. My thought was that more students would then purchase permits for that lot.

Senator Trosvik-There will be a slight loss in lowering the orange permit. The Parking Advisory Committee wants to raise the visitor's lot because it does generate revenue. The revenue does help keep the lots looking good and raising the fees for the pay lot would also help keep those people that have permits out of the pay lot and available to others.

Senator Norton-One of the key aspects would be to keep the free lot free, correct?

President Afolayan-One proposal was to increase the pay lot fee to \$3.00 for the first hour and \$2.00 after that. I would be concerned about outside guests and visitors that would have to pay \$5.00 for a two hour time frame.

Senator Fleck-We are going to have a residential parking problem, why would we want to remove more residential parking stalls in favor of gold?

Senator Pase-Res Hall constituents have already expressed concern about people parking in their lots, how do we explain this proposal and making a bigger issue for them?

Senator Norton-It is my opinion that by keeping the free lot free we are encouraging driving

to campus and not taking advantage of bus services and things of that nature. Essentially we are making other people pay for free parking of some students. That is a very socialist argument for you to make. For you to say 80% of students should pay for 20% of students is not valid in my opinion. Senator Anderson-This university serves many non-traditional students that only come to campus one or two days a week and this is a valuable resource for them.

Senator Trosvik-You could conclude that our entire student fee process is socialist considering how people pay fees and they don't always use everything where the money goes. That is how the university works.

Senator Fleck-As far as the non-traditional students, has there ever been a proposal for a very nominal fee for the free lot for those non-traditional students only?

Senator Schilling-We represent students. We want to keep things as cheap as possible. This would be the best for the most amount of people. This motion would free up money without raising parking fines, without charging a fee for the free lot, which is a very big issue. According to the students very many students want the free lot to be free. By passing this motion we would be doing so.

Motion passes

#02.07.07 C Student Affairs motion

Whereas: Student Affairs needs more time to make a recommendation about the dorm rates.

Whereas: It would give Student Affairs more time to make recommendations as to how to lower dorm rates in the future.

Be it Resolved: Student Affairs be given one more week to make their recommendations to the MSSA regarding the dorms rates. Student Affairs will give their recommendation to the MSSA on February 14, 2007.

Senator Hurm-We met with Director Janney and there a tons of reasons why they want to raise it and we want one more week to give the right recommendation.

Motion Passes unanimously

Motion 02.07.07D Senator Carmody/ Senator Kraus

Whereas: The Academic Affairs Committee has adequately reviewed the proposed Admissions Policy.

Whereas: The proposed policy promotes an increase of academic standards.

Whereas: The proposed changes coincide with the mission of MSSA.

Be it Resolved: MSSA fully endorses the proposed Admissions Policy.

Senator Carmody-Academic Affairs looked at this closely. We got justification from Director Wolf. We feel this is in the best interests of increasing academic standards.

Senator Kraus-This will strengthen the academic standards of the university.

Motion Passes

Officer Reports

President Gabe Afolayan

The Open Forum went quite well. There were a lot of questions that were answered and the administration was well prepared to answer student questions. We covered everything from long term university planning and short term planning. We discussed Strategic Initiative of the university

and what students need to do to address the high cost of tuition. We also talked about the Campus Recreation Outdoor Plan.

Rally Day-next Wed. at the Capitol, lunch provided.

University Master Planning-The responsibility for the University Master Plan shifted from Vice President Sean McGoldrick to Vice President Straka and Dr. Avra Johnson. They have contracted Paulsen Architects to consult and develop a master plan. A representative from Paulsen Architects met with me Tuesday and discussed possibilities of master planning. I would suggest talking to your constituents so that everyone knows about the things that will be planned.

Appointments: Elections Committee: Mike Norton, James Dye, Constitution Commission: James Dye
Dining Service Advisory Board: Murtaza Rajabali

Vice President Chris Frederick

We attended Meet & Confer last week. We discussed briefly the Governors budget and we will be look at tuition at something a little more definitive on where tuition will be going for the next couple years. The Missed Class policy for athletes will come out in the next two months. We are looking at an attendance where athletics will not be penalized for going to an event representing the university in the classroom. This will be encompassing for all students. The Homecoming Task Force, and Open Forum were also discussed. There are two policies in formal review which we just passed.

The Athletic Conference-The Northern Sun accepted our application and will be going into formal review. We did get information on a tuition time-line. We will be hearing about division goals for the next five years at an enrollment summit

Senator Hurm-What are they doing about the Northern Sun for sports that the Northern Sun does not have?

Vice President Frederick-There has not been anything done at this time. They will be looking at Independent affiliations so that they can still compete.

Senator Hurm-Would this be in different conferences?

Vice President Frederick-Potentially. We have nothing officially.

Speaker Jered Jackson

Senator reports next week: Senator Norton, Senator Kallio, Senator Pace, Senator Fink, Senator Ischkin, Senator Schilling, Senator Kraus

Senate meeting next Wednesday will be at 5:00 PM due to Rally Day.

Senator Reports

College Of Business – Brett Fleck

Past:

Attended the Tuition and Fees forum Monday

- Pleased to see it drew more students than the last forum and that there was some informational dialogue
- Disappointed that there wasn't a stronger student voice for issues such as the free-lot, book prices, the rec. proposal or tuition and fees as many of our surveys indicated there might be
Consulted Dean Johnson about the laptop fee
- Talked about getting a breakdown of the laptop fee online. He followed through and there is now a percentage breakdown online under the ITS Initiative link on their webpage
Attended the Student Technology Fee Advisory Committee meeting Friday
- Vice President Schneider and others gave us a tour of their facilities on the third floor of the library. We discussed services provided by ITS as well as heard an interesting presentation from Mr. Sharp. I encourage others to join that committee

Present:

- Still taking in surveys for the plus/minus grading system; just looking over them. I get the impression that people do not want it changed but it's too early to tell

- Academic Affairs recently reviewed the Admissions Policy as well as went over the motion concerning 'high-profile faculty members'
- SAC has been busy with many funding requests and we are currently discussing our budget and how new requests fit into it.

Future:

- Getting ready to start a campaign to meet with the College of Business RSO's to remind them of who their Senators are and to listen to questions, comments and concerns from them
- Look forward to presenting the results from the plus/minus survey within the next week or two.
- Will try to get the actual total dollar expense breakdown of the laptop fee online as well

McElroy – Jennifer Hansen

First of all, my first report this semester is rather short. The Crawford door of the McElroy/Crawford horse shoe is finally fixed. No more walking all around the horse shoe.

On a side note, besides the most common issues among students, tuition, parking and etc., one issue came up that people should think more about and consider. The treadmills w/Television and computers for students at the rec center. Many people like it, but think it's not necessary. The issue is that the money for this can be used for other things that are more important, than being able to check your e-mail while working out.

Arts & Humanities – Casey Carmody

MSUSA Conference in Winona

- Unsurprisingly, not entirely satisfied with the actions that were taken at the conference, but it has been better than many. We are starting to make some friends.
- Team Winona, which I was on, making it somewhat ironic, cleaned up with the lobby game.

Rally Day

- It is next Wednesday, and we need people to show up. If you can go, please come. Senator Anderson and I are feeling the pressure from the MSUSA, and it isn't good.

Meetings

- I have a meeting with Jane Earley, Dean of Arts and Humanities tomorrow, February 8th. We'll be talking about issues that concern my constituents.
- Textbook Price Containment Committee will be starting in about two weeks. Hopefully we will do some effective work.
- I went to the Open Forum and discussed the 67/33%. I asked what the university is doing about that. I don't feel I got a clear answer. I think we should continue to focus on that. This is a big issue.

Senator Gould-Is it true you don't have to be a senator to attend Lobby Day?

Senator Carmody-Yes, invite all your friends.

Senator Rajabali-Go back to the 67/33% and explain that.

Senator Carmody-This is a state statute although Vice President Straka says that this is not the case any more. I had not heard that. There was a statute that said that 67% was to be funded by the state and 33% by students through tuition and things like that. Since 2001 it has gone to about 50/50%.

I would like to get back to about 33%.

Senator Trosvik-In your opinion would lobby day be a good place to bring a date?

Carmody-In my opinion going to any government function would be a great date.

Off-Campus – Al Gould

I attended MSUSA in Winona. I felt Gabe and I represented team MSU, Mankato very well.

We had some team members and other things that contributed to our demise but ultimately I felt we contributed very well. I attended the Open Forum this week and I was surprised at the number of people stopping and they were fairly interested.

Try to make an effort to attend Rally Day, my professors have been very receptive and accommodating Since this is good for the school.

Off-Campus – Caroline Kornowicz

We have had some complaints about students that live down from Gage hill on James Ave. The sidewalks are not getting shoveled and this makes it very difficult for those students to get to school. Also Highland Hills residents are complaining their sidewalks are not getting shoveled.

Committee Reports

Legislative Affairs – Ryan Anderson

MSUSA Federal Legislative Platform

At the Winona conference the delegates voted to accept the proposed legislative platform. In Washington our talking points will be an increase in the Pell grant pool and maximum, support of the interest rate proposal, and enacting the Federal Dream Act. The Mankato delegation wanted to add FAFSA reform to the platform, but lacking extensive knowledge of the federal tax code, we did not have sufficient specific proposals to satisfy the other campuses wishes.

House and Senate Activity

There are currently 34 bills in the Senate concerning Higher Ed, so it will be a while before a clear picture of what will take shape. There are individual bills supporting every one of MNSCU's requests. I would assume some compromises will be needed to be made, we are still a long way from getting the full request. The first house action affecting students was HR8, a bill allowing students or parents who are paying tuition to deduct up to \$4000 on Minnesota Income Tax Returns. Average savings is expected to be \$165 dollars. The measure was passed unanimous support in the house or senate.

Interest Rate Cut

On the National scene House Democrats followed through on a campaign promise and cut student interest rates. Originally they had pledged that Interest Rates for both "need" and "non-need" students would be cut, but the final proposal only affects students who qualify as need based. As the House passed it, the proposal will cost six billion dollars and affect 5.5 million students. The president opposes this bill. Chairmen of the Senate Committee Ted Kennedy, along with senators Russ Feingold, Susan Collins, and our own Norm Coleman are also pushing for an increase in the Pell Grant maximum to be part of the proposal. The increase would be up to \$5100 dollars. I am unsure if all this will be accomplished in one bill, the bill relating to interest rates is still in committee.

Governor's Budget

Not surprisingly the Governor's office did not budget for MNSCU's entire request; however some initiatives were funded . \$60 million for technology upgrades for MnSCU, about \$10 million less than requested. The budget also gives \$12 million to recruit and keep under represented students, about half what MnSCU hoped for. But he did not grant some \$55 million that would cover inflation budgeted at 3.25 percent. The Governor has traditionally ignored inflationary requests so this isn't a big surprise. This presents major concerns going forward with lobbying. The governor made no mention of the additional \$73 million dollars, we are requesting for a tuition freeze. It is my hope that the legislature will ignore the governor's proposal and fund the additional dollars for a tuition freeze, however that becomes unlikely if they are forced to raise taxes, or not fund the other system requests. This budget projection is also problematic because it does not fund all of MNSCU's operating requests, so the coalition asking for more money will be divided. Faculty want staff needs protected, administrators would like there interest protected, and obviously students want tuition and fees as low as possible. Our tuition and fees only Become important when our parents get concerned enough.

Senator Trosvik

Senator Anderson

Announcements

Senator Carmody-Rally Day February 14.

Senator Ischkin-For those attending the Cultural Diversity Conference please talk to me
Senator Hurm-Tuesday at 5:00 Student Affairs
President Afolayan-This senator get more ink than Dan Quail when he misspelled potato.
He is hardcore on the MSUSA lobby core and openly admits that government functions make for a
good date. The January Senator of the month is Casey Carmody.
Senator Casey - Senator of the Month

Roll Call

Senators Present

Jessica Kallio, Casey Carmody, Brett Fleck, Nikki Hanna, Brandon Ross, Jenna Ault, Katie Ischkin, Murtaza Rajabali, Kenneth Willaert, Ryan Anderson, Brad Kraus, Kathryn Pase, Evan Trosvik, Jennifer Hansen, Jon Sands, Cole Fink, Abbie Hill, Michael Norton, Allan Gould, Jon Hurm, Jason Schilling, Caroline Kornowicz

Senators Absent

Taitum Thompson, Kristeen Giese, Oliver Okoye, Peter Jennings,

Executive Staff Present

President Gabe Afolayan, Vice President Chris Frederick

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM