

## 74th MSSA Senate April 4, 2007

### 74th Senate called to order Speaker Jered Jackson

#### Roll Call (present-absent-proxy-excused)

Jessica Kallio 25-1-0-1, Casey Carmody 26-0-0-1, Brett Fleck- 26-0-0-1, Nikki Hanna 23-1-0, Brandon Ross 24-3-0, Jenna Ault 26-1-0, Katie Ischkin 21-1-0-1, Kristeen Giese 23-3-0-1, Murtaza Rajabali 9-0-0, Oliver Okoye 23-4-0, Kenneth Willaert 22-1-0, Peter Jennings 24-2-0-1 proxy Pyong, Ryan Anderson 27-0-0, Brad Kraus 9-2-0, Sanju Nepal 4-2-0, Evan Trosvik 27-0-0, Jennifer Hansen 20-1-0, Jon Sands 21-0-0, Cole Fink 16-0-0, Abbie Hill 9-0-0, Michael Norton 16-0-0, Allan Gould 21-6-0, Jon Hurm 24-3-0, Jason Schilling 2670-0, Caroline Kornowicz 19-8-0  
President Gabe Afolayan 27-0-0, Vice President Chris Frederick 27-0-0

### Open Forum

Rhea Whyss-I am from the LGBT Center. I am an officer of SAGE. We are here for your support for the request of our funding from M&E dollars. The document we have passed out was from information that Deirdre has shared with us. We are in the process of getting information from ISO, as you requested last week. There are extreme differences between the Women's Center and the LGBT but basically they are comparable offices. The differences between the LGBT and the Women's Center is that the Women's Center has \$28,000 and we have \$1,000. We need funding.

**Approval of Agenda** Approved with correction of Senator Trosvik name spelling

### Presentations

#### Vice President Straka – Tuition

There have been some changes in the senate. I would like to present a quick summary of where we are at with the senate and the house. Overall we are seeing increases to higher ed funding. That is good news to us. What that means to tuition is that we should be down in the level of tuition. The House has a provision to spend \$18 million to buy down tuition to 2%. Instead of the 4% MnSCU request, the House has put in money to replace tuition increase and give money to MnSCU for that 2%. That would keep tuition at 2%. The Senate has a buy down to hold tuition to 3%. I need to add that appropriation tied directly to that is tied to the tax increase bill which the governor has said he will veto. I think the chance of the senate version going through are pretty slim. This sets up an interesting conference committee for the house and senate to talk about. I think the students appreciate all the lobbying that has gone on by the statewide student association to try to get that tuition buy down and to go with understanding that it needs to go with funding from the legislature so that it does not hamper the overall budget that we get our revenue slashed or revenue changed without revenue to cover that, so I appreciate the statewide association and their position in trying to get that done.

What does it mean for us locally; 4 different scenarios. I think it is safe to say that we are within a 4% tuition increase. The appropriation assumption looks good based on where everything is at. We should see 3.25 for inflation. What is difficult is if you look at the house and senate and governor's recommendations, they all have different things, they have laid out their funding sources much differently. It is important for us to see the technology initiative, and exactly how the Board of Trustees decides to fund the technology initiative. They have asked for \$70 million dollars. Nobody is giving them that much. What will we do in the case? How much will come off the top? We are comfortable with the 3.25%. Saying that, if either of the two tuition buy downs pass, it will move money from the 4% line for tuition rate assumption and the appropriation assumption will increase. It will just change those two things, it will not change the bottom line. Given that assumption and with salary and compensation adjustments, we will be at about 4%. We have some other items in here. Compensation contracts, we were low on that last year, so we had to adjust the budget. We are looking at utility increase, some library materials, talent grant scholarship, and grad assistant inflation. The only thing I have changed is what enrollment will be. We are down about 150 students from last year and we have made that adjustment in our budget. When we get back to that base enrollment we are at a break even status quo budget. I know you have seen significant increases in what is being asked for in SAC. We have seen the same thing. We had on the general fund side requests for about \$4 ½ million. We can only look at reallocation to fund

those requests. We are not coming to you as students and ask for more tuition to do that. If we institute any of those we will have to find ways to do that out of our budget. With admits the 150 looks reasonable. With that we should have a status quo budget with about 4%. We will get more specific numbers from the Office of the Chancellor later this week. You will see a lot of me until we are done and know where we are going. 4% looks like what we will be asking right now. Senator Anderson-In the MnSCU request both the House and Senate have a request for the Biosciences and the Allied Health curriculum. Is there a chance that we will be getting either of those? Vice President Straka-The senate has said that if we are going to put money into those kind of strategic advancements that we would have to reallocate that money from existing budgets and not put any of the new money that the senate puts in. There is a lot of debate on this because they have set themselves up with different priorities from the governor, the house and the senate. They will have a lot of room to negotiate. I would hope that we would get some of that money but my hope is tempered somewhat that it would not affect our overall inflation line. If it came on top of our 3.25 % I would hope we would get some of that money.

Senator Fleck-What is the reason for the 8% inflation in library materials compared to a 3-5%?

Vice President Straka-There is a huge inflation on books, just like you see for textbooks. When we purchase them we are seeing that as well. We are trying to do what we can to keep their spending power equal. The price index for allocations is a completely different scale.

Senator Schilling-Can you explain the debt service?

Vice President Straka-We have spent money related to bonds on Trafton. Our debt service now kicks in. We are now starting to pay off the bonds.

Senator Schilling-Is it one third that will be coming out of M&E dollars?

Vice President Straka-No, the 200% is what we will pay out of M&E dollars. That is actually 1/6 of the debt service payment. The State of Minnesota pays 2/3rds, MnSCU as a whole pays 1/3. MnSCU then takes 1/2 of 1/3<sup>rd</sup> off the top and the remaining 1/6 goes to the institution. We pay 1/6 of the debt service.

### **Mark Schiller – Student for Sustainability**

We did a petition this semester. . We received 1,014 signatures.

*[We, the students, faculty, and staff of Minnesota State University, Mankato, demand that MSU take responsibility for its impact on global climate change and create a working group (made up of representatives from the offices of facilities planning and management, finance and administration, dining services, and faculty from the colleges of science and engineering) Heavily involved with the MSU administration, to take inventory on its greenhouse gas emissions and formulate projects to reduce the greenhouses gases to zero.]*

I will explain the language. We demand that this happen. This calls for action.

As higher education we should set the example, we should be the most green. We should set the example for the entire community. The group from administration would be made up from: Facilities Planning, Finance & Administration, Dining Services and faculty from the College of Science, Engineering & Technology. They divide the campus into four main groups: Solid waste, electricity and other fuels, sequestration (how much carbon dioxide or greenhouse gas emissions) are being upscaped into the ground from trees, from natural landscape into the ground, if we are going to make this a pedestrian campus, is it going to be all pavement? Do we want natural landscape versus the flowers that we have to replace each year or something more native to Minnesota that does not take a lot of maintenance, time and money and we only do it once. This group would get together about 2-3 times a semester. We need to find out what effect our energy production has on the entire production of the global atmosphere. Things that could reduce our consumption down are little things. We are not saying the school should put solar panels on every single thing. We need projects to conserve reserves, sustainable projects, things that could be repeated over and over. We want to be as sustainable as possible. One little thing-hot lunches to go in the cafeteria-cups and Lids in the cafeteria, we use 400 of those a day. If we institute a Nylgene policy, everyone would get a little bottle to go. I have reduced the cost down. At 400 cups per day that is \$45.30 for a case of cups and \$24.56 for lids. 83 days in a semester, we would save \$10,150.86 from just not using cups, and this would cut down considerable on waste. That is \$20,321.00 a year. In five years that would be \$100,000 from using simple,

sustainable processes over and over. So that is one major thing. Things that will always cut down on cost on campus and cut down tuition-Reduce, Reuse, Recycle  
Senator Anderson-Do you think students would be willing to pay a little more to attain some sustainable practices on campus?

Mark Schiller-Yes, one of the main people on this group would be the office of Finance and Administration. We don't want tuition to go up. We can earn money instead of wasting.

Senator Ross-How many of these students are actually valid on the petition?

Mark Schiller-A lot of students do not like to put down their tech ids.

Senator Anderson-I believe you are not seeking an amendment?

Mark Schiller-Not now, currently we are just working with administration, students. We are trying to get very precise.

Senator Norton-Would you be willing to work with the senate to go through the committee?

Mr. Schiller-We are open to whatever.

Senator Trosvik-In the last part you are asking for greenhouse gas emissions to be zero. Do you think the institution has the infrastructure in place to do that?

Mr. Schiller-Absolutely not. We are not trying to break the entire school down and build it up. This group is going to work with new on-line events, new buildings, new food provider, those kinds of things. A lot of things are going to be factored in to this.

Senator Schilling-Very good presentation-have you looked into costs of cups in the CSU?

Mr. Schiller-No

Senator Trosvik-If you are looking to reduce greenhouse gases to zero, this whole institution is heated by natural gas. How would you answer to that.

Mr. Schiller-We could build a product to use waste for energy, also purchasing grain energy, wind turbine-U of MN Morris has hired a coordinator whose whole job is to find ways of making the campus sustainable. Instead of saying we should hire someone we should just involve people, and it should be their jobs already to do this.

**Approval of Minutes 03-28-07** Minutes stand approved

### Old Business

#### **M#03.28.07B SOAFC Funding Senator Anderson/Carmody**

Whereas: The current student organization activity funding model lacks efficiency and consistency.

Whereas: Student activity funding would be more accessible from one source.

Whereas: The MSSA takes very seriously its duty as the watchdog of student fees

Move: To amend Article 5, Section 1, Subsection 2 of the MSSA Constitutional Bylaws to be written as follows:

The Student Allocations Committee responsibilities shall include but not be limited to student travel and programming.

Furthermore, the Student Allocations Committee policy shall be modified to facilitate allocations to recognized student organizations.

Senator Anderson-This is to cut down on bureaucracy. SOAFC has not been doing their job and we think this is the best move.

**Motion Passes 18 yea 2 abstentions**

### New Business

#### **SAC M# SAC Motion #04.04.07A**

Student Allocations Committee recommends allocating up to \$436.00 to the MSU Marketing Club to travel to St. Louis, MO.

Chair Fleck-They requested \$1,000. There are 32 people attending, all members pay club fees and student fees. They are going to network global businesses and network possible employers so they might possibly come to MSU and recruit. Travel expenses are taken care of by the Marketing Dept. This is for lodging. It is in line with other requests.

Senator Norton-One of the reasons for attending is to attain jobs like a job fair?

Chair Fleck-It says they will be networking businesses, yes they could apply.

Senator Norton-We are paying for Marketing Club to go to a job fair. It is unfair just because they have organized themselves to job search.

President Afolayan-You could safely say that most academic RSO's have the objective of networking with students that have similar majors as well as career opportunities through academic interest, this is no different than Finance club. This seeks the opportunity to better their club and individuals. This is not exclusively for networking.

Senator Norton-While other groups have done this, it is not right. Under the guise of MSU Marketing it should not be going out to job seek. We should not be forced to pay for a job fair, even though I respect Marketing Club.

Senator Ross-We should not put down groups that are willing to go out there and market and better themselves. This is an adamant group and they have been on top of this whole thing.

**Motion Passes**

**Motion 04.04.07B          Senator Trosvik, Vice Chair, Technology Round Table**

Move to: Support the current student technology fee (\$7.00 per credit—\$84 maximum per semester) and recommend staying within the 2007-2008 budget.

Senator Trosvik-This is the Tech Fee recommendation. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year we have remained at \$7.00 with no increase. There is talk that other schools will be raising their fee.

President Afolayan-Was there an opportunity to explore a decrease to stream line the budget in the fee?

Senator Trosvik-There was discussion but because of increases next year we felt that would be a perfect opportunity to look for ways to prioritize any decrease.

Senator Anderson-Move to table this for a period of one week.

**Motion passes**

**M#04.04.07C          LGBT Senator Sands/Senator Kallio**

Whereas: The LGBT Center provides education, resources, and programming for all MSU students, not just those who identify as LGBT.

Whereas: The LGBT Center increases diversity on the campus and community settings and produces and provides educational materials to students not likely to receive knowledge of LGBT issues and concerns elsewhere.

Whereas: The LGBT Center was recently listed under the Top 100 LGBT Friendly schools in the nation, though it does not experience parity of funding with similar offices within the University settings, nor does it receive equal funding to LGBT offices and centers serving other universities.

Whereas: The LGBT Center needs a source of permanent funding substantial enough to provide a sufficient operating budget to properly implement its mission and goals to the full potential.

Be it resolved: MSSA supports the LGBT Center on its quest for more M&E funding that will provide more resources for diversity operations and programming here on the MSU campus.

Senator Sands-It speaks for itself. What LGBT has been asking for is backing as they try to

get M&E funding. There is no amount attached to this. This would just say the senate supports LGBT funding from M&E. This will save time for them having to come to senate all the time for student fee funding.

Senator Kallio-I do believe the center is underfunded.

Senator Norton-Move to table this motion for one week .

**Motion passes**

## **Officer Reports**

### **President Gabe Afolayan**

The interviews for The Vice President for Strategic Business Education & Regional Partnerships will be next week, there are 3 finalists. I will see what they have to offer the university.

The Open Forum on Elections and facilities proposal was today. We had senator candidates there that were answering questions on the spot. That was pretty impressive, if that is indicative of the entire elective body, the senate is looking pretty good. The Outdoor issue was dealt with in the second portion of the forum. Vice President Straka and Todd Pflingsten were there to answer questions.

You can vote next week at [www.mnsu/mssa.edu](http://www.mnsu/mssa.edu) 8AM-6 PM

You can vote no, or yes to proposition A which would be \$80.00 and B which would be \$130.00.

Awards presentation April 29, 4:30-6:30. You are welcome to bring a guest.

Senator Hurm-Do you think in regard to the rec proposal- it would be appropriate to put the fees down per semester instead of per year as that is how our fees are assessed? Also some students may only be going for one semester and when they see that big amount they may think that is what they have to pay.

President Afolayan-I thought about that as well. I think it is more prudent to let the student body know the fees for the entire year. All the documents do say that this is based on a full year enrollment. If they are not going to be here they should be able to figure out what they would pay.

### **Vice President Chris Frederick**

We attended Spring delegates in the cities. We elected a new Chair and Vice Chair, Treasurer and approved some key legislation. The new platform is much more representative of students. We turned an 18 page document down to 4 pages thanks to Anderson and Carmody and Schilling. The new Treasurer is Jason Schilling from MSU.

Senator Norton-As far as Senator Schilling, would you say the senate has lost someone wonderful to the MSSA?

Vice President Frederick-It is sad to hear his voice will leave the MSSA senate but his voice will represent us even stronger at the state level.

### **Speaker Jered Jackson**

Senator Reports next week: Fleck, Hanson, Carmody and Gould

Campus Rec will be conducting a search for a new Program Coordinator for Fitness, Wellness and Special Programs. Is there anyone interested in being on the committee? Contact Todd Pflingsten or the President or Vice President.

Recognized Student Organization Initial Recognition-MSU Cigar Aficionados

Senator Ischkin-Are they going to oppose laws?

Senator Rajabali-I don't agree with the mission statement. Legislation is doing a good thing by banning smoking. It is not a healthy habit. Second hand smoke is bad for everyone.

Senator Trosvik-How many members are on the list of members?

Speaker-About 126.

Senator Norton-In regards to the objective comments, I agree but this is within their rights. We should have a smoke free campus but we can't force them to not exist because we disagree.

Senator Trosvik-Not everyone falls into College Republicans, College Dems. Not everyone agrees with them or fall into these groups. There are 126 people in this organization and

how would they feel if you were not represent them?

Senator Carmody-I don't agree with several RSO's on this campus but I do believe the first amendment allows for peaceable assembly and being the strong advocate of the Bill of Rights that I am I say we should let this go through. They will be peacefully assembling as long as they don't burn down buildings with their cigars.

Senator Trosvik-Will the Speaker please read the Advisor name and from what office?

Speaker-Joel Jensen, Office of Security.

Senator Sands-There are a lot of laws that allow them to congregate and freedom of speech but speaking from Colleges against Cancer I think it is sad that there is a group that supports smoking instead of wanting to achieve a healthy environment for us all. It is sad to allow groups to stink up the air and every year people die from lung cancer and much is due to second hand smoke.

### **Motion passes**

### **Murtaza Rajabali – Science, Engineering & Technology**

Firstly I attended the enrollment management retreat. It was well thought out in terms of the thought process they wanted us to go through. A lot of amazing points came out of there and it's good to know that Dr. Davenport and the university has a pretty good plan to take this university towards the top.

I attended half of the MSUSA conference at the Double Tree Hotel in St. Paul. It was unfortunate I was not able to stay and watch tempers flare. It was a good experience knowing that there are others out there ready to help us develop and with similar visions and goals. Also I congratulate Senator Schilling on being elected as treasurer of MSUSA. This was a very well deserved appointment. The only down side to the conference was hearing VP Fredrick snore like crazy.

I was asked to talk on a panel by the ethnic graduate association about increasing people of different ethnicity, what the university is doing about it and what impact it would have on us. was a very interesting discussion.

I attended Africa night and I thank those of you who attended. That was truly a taste of Africa. For a few hours I actually felt like I was home. Amazing!!

As you are all aware elections are coming up and I have been talking to quite a number of people and found out that the senate is not liked by all the students. some students actually think we waste time and do nothing. I would encourage all the senators to challenge all these ignorant individuals and explain to them what we have been doing or trying to do. And also the amazing job that our president has done this year. I respect him for that.

President Afolayan-In regards to Enrollment Management do you think the university strategy is effective in recruiting international students?

Senator Rajabali-It needs improvement. The university never goes out there, you have to go to get them.

President Afolayan-In regards to the same subject- Do you think we have the infrastructure and the welcoming community to encourage more international students to be here?

Senator Rajabali-In talking to Dr. Flannery in Academic Affairs, they are talking about increasing globalization, I think that will help.

### **Brandon Ross –College of Business**

In the College of Business, all students with laptops will be allowed to keep their laptops but they will have to get them checked out by ITS to make sure they are capable of handling things that we do in the College of Business. However, the new policy that will be grandfathered in will be that all students will have to buy a new Dell laptop because some computers do not work well with the systems on campus.

I have been working with my management instructor on internships at Taylor Corp. It is going over very well. We are writing job descriptions of what a student expects and what Taylor Corp. expects out of the intern.

With my constituency, many more students are aware of MSSA. We are telling students when elections are and how we can support people. Next Tuesday we will be working with Campus Kitchens at the Civic Center in cahoots with the College of Business, basically this is a big spectrum of businesses. We are going to be promoting the College of Business and MSU as a whole.

MSUSA-big issue, they took out the word cultural and just have diversity. Cultural does not encompass diversity as a whole. MSUSA-Southwest State April 27-9.

President Afolayan-In regards to IT initiative, has there been any discussion since we decided to prorate the fee?

Senator Ross-People don't know about it, basically the constituency have not heard of anything.

President Afolayan-What was the reaction of College of Business students?

Senator Ross-They were overwhelmingly against it. They are now taking more credits and they felt that would defeat the purpose of taking more credits.

Senator Okoye-Are there any other options such as IBM?

Senator Ross-The school contracted with Dell. I believe they have never required it but now they are.

Vice President Schneider-The policy has always been there, but now they are going to tighten up the restrictions. You do have to have a standard computer.

Senator Okoye-What do they mean by standard?

Senator Ross-I can keep my computer, it will be grandfathered in, and any new student will have to buy a Dell.

Senator Schilling-Is it true that there are two new sites for printers for the College of Business?

Senator Ross-Yes, Armstrong and Morris.

Senator Norton-Would Vice President Straka and Bryan Schneider also have to purchase those Dell computers?

Senator Fleck-Are you aware that the printers are double sided and are people excited about that?

Senator Ross-I am aware of that. I think students welcome that when they hear about it.

### **Oliver Okoye –Science, Engineering & Technology**

John Frey will be retiring and there will be a send off for him.

### **Evan Trosvik – Gage A**

I have been working hard lately; I'm still going to all of my committees. As always I have been working closely with LTR, the Tech Fee Advisory Committee put out their final recommendation. It was approved unanimously by the LTR. We put a lot of time into this proposal and we are happy that the tech fee will be staying the same. Everyone had an opportunity to attend those meetings. I was disappointed that Senator Fleck and I were the only ones that showed up to the meetings.

I went to MSUSA last weekend and I must say it was the most enjoyable conference all year. We cut a lot of fat out of the student platform; unfortunately we didn't get rid of it all.

I am the Vice Chair of MSU Cigar Aficionado's. I am glad the senate approved their RSO status.

### **Announcements**

Senator Ischkin-This week there will be over 800 students competing in the AFA

National Speech Competition here on our campus. Finals will be Monday at 3 and 4:00 PM

Senator Fleck-Budget Hearing in three weeks, I encourage you to dress up.

Senator Norton-Senator Hurm and myself have made opposing facebook

We need to get the word out.

Senator Sands-April 14. Relay for Life, Myers Fieldhouse. Tomorrow-Real World

For Eliminate Hate Week. Many issues from women's issues to LGBT.

Senator Carmody-Academic Success-program review, 3:15 in the library. They are

looking for student input.

Senator Hill-Happy Birthday to Senator Carmody.

Senator Hurm-If you choose not to join the facebook, at least go on and read the walls.

Senator Carmody-I am 22 and that means only 3 years until I can run for the House of Rep.

There is no other way that I would like to spend my birthday then being in the Senate.

President Afolayan-Neutral facebook. Tell students about elections.

High turnout is more important than the Outdoor Rec Proposal.

Senator Sands-8:00 Ballroom, Margaret Cho. \$5.00

## **Roll Call**

### **Senators Present**

Jessica Kallio, Casey Carmody, Brett Fleck, Brandon Ross, Jenna Ault, Katie Ischkin, Murtaza Rajabali, Oliver Okoye, Kenneth Willaert, Ryan Anderson, Peter Jennings-proxy Pyong, Sanju Nepal, Evan Trosvik, Jennifer Hansen, Jon Sands, Cole Fink, Abbie Hill, Michael Norton, Jon Hurm, Jason Schilling

### **Senators Absent**

Nikki Hanna, Brad Kraus, Allan Gould, Caroline Kornowicz

### **Executive Staff Present**

President Afolayan, Vice President Frederick

**Adjournment** Meeting adjourned at 5:38 P.M.