

**74th MSSA Senate  
April 25, 2007**

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

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

Jessica Kallio 27-2-0-1, Casey Carmody 29-0-0-1, Brett Fleck- 29-0-0-1, Nikki Hanna 25-2-0, Brandon Ross 26-4-0, Jenna Ault 29-1-0, Katie Ischkin 22-3-0-1, Kristeen Giese 25-4-0-1, Murtaza Rajabali 11-1-0, Oliver Okoye 26-4-0, Kenneth Willaert 25-1-0, Peter Jennings 27-2-0-1 Ryan Anderson 30-0-0, Brad Kraus 12-2-0, Sanju Nepal 7-2-0, Evan Trosvik 30-0-0, Jennifer Hansen 23-1-0, Jon Sands 24-0-0, Cole Fink 19-0-0, Abbie Hill 12-0-0, Michael Norton 19-0-0, Jon Hurm 26-4-0, Jason Schilling 30-0-0, Caroline Kornowicz 21-9-0  
President Gabe Afolayan 30-0-0, Vice President Chris Frederick 30-0-0

**Open Forum**

**Brett Fleck**-My name is Brett Fleck, I am a College of Business Senator. I just wanted to take some time today and send a sentimental message to everyone and thank everyone for a wonderful year on senate. I put in a lot of time, I know that other people put in time and it has been good. I can't say there is another place I would rather be. I have met many people that I will talk to for a long time. I wanted to get that on record. I want to go on record and thank Cheri. Jered has done a wonderful job this year. I would like to thank our President and Vice President and all the people that have been in the gallery all year. Thanks so much, and Mr. Cowan, you have always been an inspiration.  
Senator Anderson-Is there a chance that you will return to the MSSA in the next election?  
Mr. Fleck-There is a large chance.

**Vice President Swatfager-Haney**-Thank you all for your hard work and dedication that you have given to the campus this year. You have truly represented students and I want you to know that we have had good conversations this year. You have brought up very important issues. You have asked for information that is very important to students and I want to thank you for that.

**Approval of Agenda** Agenda Approved with addition of D under New Business  
M#04.25.07E

**Approval of Minutes** 04.11.07, 04.18.07 Minutes stand approved

**New Business**

**SAC 4.25.07A**

**SAC recommends allocating up to \$730 to Society of Mechanical Engineers to travel to Purdue University to participate in the District Student Professional Development Conference.**

Chair Fleck-Twenty students attended. They requested \$960.00. They did fundraising, and received \$1200.00 from the department. The \$730 we allocated goes towards transportation.

Senator Anderson-What will be the final cost that they will be paying.

Senator Fleck-I would guess around \$7,000.00

Senator Schilling-It would be between \$5,000 and \$7,000.

Senator Norton-I think it is important that we stay consistent as we have all year and That we give this the old pass.

### **Motion Passes**

#### **4.25.07A Moved By Senator Norton/ Senator Fink**

Whereas: Men are a minority on campus with 54% of students being women

Whereas: There is currently no men's center on campus

Whereas: It is essential for men to have a place to feel safe in order to bond and interact with their brethren.

Be it resolved: That a men's center be created and be allocated for space in the area in which the *Blue Earth Review* formerly held their office. No funding or staff shall be allocated to the men's center, and only the recently made available space in CSU 191. The staff will be strictly volunteer and the administration shall be appointed by the MSSA President.

Be it further resolved: The men's center be held to the same standards as the Women's Center.

Senator Norton-It is inappropriate at best to only have a Women's Center.

It is unfair to say that there should be a Women's Center and not a Men's Center. In terms of funding I know that there might be a discrepancy. One of the many things that the Women's Center does is work toward sexual violence and assault against women. While it is more common for that to happen against women it is less recorded on a percentage basis when those crimes happen against men. It is unimportant that if we are to have a Women's Center we should have a Men's Center. It would be just fair.

Senator Fleck-I sympathize with the logic of the motion, I would say that society has deemed it that we don't need men's centers around the country. For some reason we don't and I would say that is a double standard. I guess I would still take the societal approach and to not recommend voting for this motion.

Senator Giese-I guess that I would like to mention that the Women's Center does not only provide services for women. They provide services including victim services to men as well. Over the years they have continued to welcome all men to the center.

Right now in our US Congress, 23.5% of senate are women. In the university there is only one women vice president on our campus. In the real world, full time world, women are paid .77cents per dollar that men are paid . In the next 10 years women's wages will drop to 69 percent of that of men. It would be good for a men's center to work at getting rid of some of those in equalities.

Senator Fleck-Men are the minority on college campuses around the nation. Maybe we should work on that as well.

Senator Ross-I am curious to know about students on our campus, not the House of Representatives but how we deal with people on our campus.

Senator Trosvik-There are a lot of problems in our society that we need to work on And a men's center would not mean that they would have to just work for the male sex.

It t would provide a safe place for men to go and express their feelings. Personally, if

I were a victim of an assault, I would be intimidated to go to the Women's Center. If that were the case I think a men's center would be crucial.

Senator Sands-In college we are preparing men and women to go out into the workforce. We are preparing students, men and women. We are preparing women to go out and take leadership roles. I volunteer at the Blue Earth County Sexual Assault Resource Center, and that is not the case. Men that are involved in an assault are more often likely to go to a women and that is a national statistic. Women are more nurturing and accepting toward sexual assault.

Senator Fink-We are viewing this as competition between men and women. That is exactly the opposite of what we want. I think a men's center and a women's center could work better together. Women would be welcome, just like men are welcome in the Women's Center. The intent of this was not to compete.

Senator Hurm-This motion is not an attack on the Women's Center. It is more of a compliment, people view the Women's Center as a place to go and get help. This would be a place for men to go and be comfortable as well in their own surroundings.

Senator Norton-This was not an attack on the Women's Center. The purpose was to bring attention to the inconsistency and the double standard that we have. It is inappropriate for us to be even discussing and I would like to withdraw this motion.

**Motion Withdrawn.**

**4.25.07B Moved by Senator Giese/ Senator Carmody**

Whereas:	Minnesota State University, Mankato is committed to achieving equal education opportunity and full participation for qualified persons with disabilities.
Whereas:	Achieving full participation and integration of people with disabilities requires the cooperative efforts of all the departments, offices, and personnel.
Whereas:	The changes that have been made to this policy are normal and understandable and customary.
Whereas:	The policy was reviewed and all questions fully answered by administration as to why the changes were necessary.
Be it resolved:	That Minnesota State Student Association full approves the proposed changes to the Access for Students with Disabilities Policy and Procedure.
Whereas:	The MSSA recognizes the need for sustainable energy policies to be part of the long range vision of the university
Whereas:	The MSSA feels that all groups on the university should have a say in its future, including student leaders

Senator Giese-Academic Affairs reviewed the motion and they feel confident that this should go forward.

Senator Carmody-There were things cleared up and they added definitions to make it more understandable.

Senator Anderson-I don't know if this policy does address the problem of missed class.

Senator Giese-I did talk to Malcolm O'Sullivan and Provost Olson regarding that question. That portion was removed because that was covered in procedures. It was very understandable. If there was a student that depended on a wheelchair or the use of a elevator and there was a mechanical failure of the elevator and they could not get to class, they would be excused from class with no negative consequences. This is part of the procedure and not policy so it was removed from policy and put into procedures.

**Motion passes unanimously**

### **Student Affairs M#04.25.07C**

Be It Resolved: The MSSA form an "Environmental Workgroup" for the purpose of generating ideas and recommendations for university policies. Voting membership of this committee would include 4 students, at least one being a student senator, appointed by the MSSA president and 3 faculty members appointed by the president of the Faculty Association.

This group would meet at least twice a month to gather information from various sources (university officials, faculty, other experts, etc) and deliver recommendations to the MSSA for ratification.

If ratified by a majority of senate members, the group would then be charged with presenting the policy ideas to the appropriate university bargaining group, including but not limited to: Facilities and Management, Office of Academic Affairs, Office of Student Affairs, Residential Life, University Food Service, or the community at large

Senator Anderson-Student Affairs talked about this after hearing from Mr. Schuller from Students for Sustainability. This was something they would like to see put forward. This would be a committee of experts to discuss the possibility of policies brought forward by MSSA and experts on campus. There was not a formal vote on the exact words. There could be possible policies brought forward for improvement on this campus.

Senator Norton-Student Affairs did discuss that Mark Schuller did want a bigger group put together to discuss these issues. We thought it more appropriate to have a committee of various groups. Also, this would still be under the control of MSSA and that we could work with.

Senator Giese-I think this is a great start to moving our campus toward more environmental sustainability.

Senator Trosvik-I have thought about things that are possible and things that are feasible. Some things are possible but they are not feasible on this campus because of the very intense costs. Students are very price sensitive. Pushing students into many of the things would cost a lot of money. Having looked at the infrastructure in many of my classes this

would cost a lot of money. I don't think anyone has quite thought of that. In the interest of students I am going to voice my opposition as someone that has looked at the infrastructure in my classes.

Senator Anderson-This was designed to be a place where thoughts could start and grow. There would be independent judges to decide if they are feasible before it went to the proper Meet & Confer Team on campus. This is just an idea committee to get ideas going on things needed on this campus.

President Afolayan-Why just faculty, why not include the people in the work group?

Senator Anderson-This is what was brought before us to have the students that are the most interested in it.

President Afolayan-Is there a time frame?

Senator Anderson-I would hope that this would be a standing committee of the student association.

President Afolayan-I support this at this time, especially when we are adding new physical features to our campus. It can not hurt, new ideas will be generated.

Senator Carmody-This is a good idea and a way to go forward. This group does not have the power to spend money in large capacities, thus making us worry that we would be fiscally irresponsible by endorsing this. It will basically be generating ideas. It will just work to making our campus more green, even if you may not agree.

Senator Rajabali-We have been talking about this for a long time. The possibility of this group would be feasible.

**Motion passes**

#### **M#04.25.07D President Afolayan/Vice President Frederick**

Whereas: Tuition has increased by 67% over the last six years

Whereas: MSSA and MSUSA have lobbied the state legislature and MnSCU for a tuition freeze

Whereas: Students of MSU, Mankato have indicated their concern for rising costs of tuition

Whereas: University Administration and MnSCU are in position to limit increases in tuition for fiscal year 2008.

Be it Resolved: the MSSA strongly supports a tuition freeze for fiscal year 2008 and recommends a 4% cap on any potential tuition increase.

President Afolayan-We had Meet & Confer last week. The legislature is looking at a bill that would limit tuition increases to a 2% cap and a tuition freeze for the following year. There is some language in there that the governor said that he would veto. With that in mind remember MnSCU put a 4% cap system wide. With many institutions requesting increases there is not a lot of room to negotiate. While we would support a tuition freeze, we would like to make sure the 4% cap stays there. This is a huge step from where we came from.

Senator Anderson-Was the intent of the motion to make sure this university did not go

over the recommended percentage.

President Afolayan-Correct

Senator Anderson-In my opinion it would be better to say we don't go higher than the MnSCU average.

Amend motion to say we don't go higher than the system wide average.

Senator Anderson-

Senator Giese-What if the state legislature ends up with 8%?

Senator Anderson-That would be extremely unlikely. This would fall into the governor's budget.

Senator Giese-I like the motion and amendment but I would be concerned if the state went way above and we would get stuck by saying system wide.

#### **M#04.25.07D President Afolayan/Vice President Frederick**

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Whereas: Students of MSU, Mankato have indicated their concern for rising costs of tuition

Whereas: University Administration and MnSCU are in position to limit increases in tuition for fiscal year 2008.

Be it Resolved: the MSSA strongly supports a tuition cap no higher than the MnSCU system wide average.

#### **Amendment passes**

Senator Anderson-I would be extremely stunned and I would resign the senate if the state of Minnesota went above 4%.

#### **Motion Passes**

#### **Officer Reports**

**President Gabe Afolayan-** During my final Meet & Confer it was discussed to switch the amount of credits down to graduate to 120 credits from some state legislators, which would be an attempt to decrease the amount of tuition you pay over a career. This would be similar to the U of M. It is 128 credits to graduate here. You are looking at a half semester of tuition that you would be paying. President Davenport and Provost Olson told us that that is false information. The nation wide requirements are between 126 and 128 for degree requirements. We want to make sure we discuss this as our degrees are accredited so getting rid of them could endanger our accreditation and take away the value of your degree.

Awards Banquet Dinner-Sunday night at 4:30. 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Softball challenge-May 2.

There will be complimentary food.

Talking about the newspaper, I don't often do that as they have been quite friendly to us this year but I will mention that it does cater to the fact of not mentioning many of the efforts of the student senate. Most noticeably, I was truly offended by the notion that the MSSA makes decisions largely on the ignorance of the student body. I feel the MSSA does the best job of informing any group of students or administrators on this campus about

what is going on with student issues and with representing those, whether it is through surveys, poster campaigns or the newspaper. I feel that the efforts of the MSSA was marginalized by some of those remarks. I don't agree with any of that and we should all take offense at that. I don't think that with all of our efforts that one or two little pieces of 200 million dollars of decisions we made was summed up like that. I was also offended that someone said SAC made decisions on the basis of the best interests of white males. I think it underscored the amount of responsibility we have. There is no responsibility to some groups for saying or doing the wrong thing. Everything we do is scrutinized. You have to make hard decisions with the information you have at hand. You can't apologize, you did your best by getting all the information that you could. I know for a fact that many people know we did every thing we could to get people informed and get as many student opinions that we could. I guess it comes with the territory. Personally, I want to say it was insulting to this body. I understand that you all volunteer and put your self on the line to better your student body. I appreciate your volunteered hours and for getting upset just because you cared. Everyone has my respect.

Senator Norton-Did you inform Dr. Davenport and Provost Olson that there was a *US News Report* this year regarding degree requirements and the recently lax attitude towards accreditation and moving 8 credits would not have an impact according to the article?

President Afolayan-I did not but I say go ahead and forward those on to the appropriate channels to bring that up at the next Meet & Confer.

Appointments:-Speaker Pro Temp for May 2 meeting Jered Jackson

### **Vice President Chris Frederick**

MSUSA this weekend-two vans going. Meet and Confer-a lot of year end reviews.

SLD Comprehensive review-Thursdays, May 2. 5:00 PM.

### **Senator Reports**

#### **Kristeen Giese – Grad. Studies**

#### Activities:

The academic affairs for the last few weeks have been reviewing a few policies that are just entering into the formal stage of review. I want to take a moment and say thank you to Senator (Vice President Elect) Casey Carmody for chairing the academic affairs committee meetings while I was away.

For those of you who don't know I was unable to attend the two meetings prior to the budget hearing due to presenting at the Midwest Sociological Societies Annual Conference in Chicago and then due to a work related issue.

The policies being reviewed are Access for students with disabilities.

As you may remember a few weeks ago the senate passed a motion regarding the Administrative Drop Policy.

Regarding the Access for students with disabilities policy the academic affairs committee had some questions that pertaining the section that was removed from the old policy to the new proposed policy about mechanical failure. I discussed this with both Provost Olson and with Malcolm O Sullivan and they reported that section was removed as it was more of a

procedural issue then a policy issue. Provost Olson felt what this all boiled down to was if a person who used a wheel chair was unable to attend class due to the elevator not working in the building that class was held they would be excused and not receive any type of decrease in their grade due to this issue.

Please see motion.

I also attended my last Commission on the Status of Women Committee meeting this week, The commission continues its work with the outside consultants, faculty, staff, different bargaining units and administration on preparing for the work place climate survey. President Davenport has said many times publicly ( not a direct quote) that he wants MSU, Mankato to be a “good” place to work and I believe that even though change is never easy, MSU Mankato is moving in the right direction.

I attended the Women of Courage and Vision that was sponsored by the CSW. That event was very well put together and being around so many wonderful persons, doing such wonderful things was inspiring and exciting. They recognized scholarship winners and those who had outstanding accomplishments this year.

Since this is my last senator report I ask that you all bear with me as I take a moment to reflect.

Time has just flown by. These last two years as the graduate studies senator has been a very growing experience for me. And I want to leave you all with a few words of wisdom.

**Elizabeth Cady Stanton** once

“Because man and woman are the complement of one another, we need woman's thought in national affairs to make a safe and stable government.”

**Marian Wright Edelman, American activist, *Families in Peril***

“We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily difference we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee.”

**Martha Graham, American choreographer**

“Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance. Great dancers are not great because of their technique, they are great because of their passion.”

(I think the same can be said about leaders.)

**Mike Norton – Off-Campus**

I appreciate the experiences and I am thankful for the debates. The Election went

smoothly and we had the highest turnout in history of this campus. I am proud to say I was part of that. I would like to thank Senator Hurm and Senator Shilling for their efforts in trying to get people out to vote. Congratulation to President Elect Frederick and Vice President Carmody all the senators and Communication Board Rick Straka. I want to be the first to extend my support for the Anderson/Fleck ticket next year. I wish I could vote next year.

Textbook Price Containment Committee-The ISBN was a lot of technical things. Student Affairs-I chaired this for about a month. I would like to thank the Fink proxy Anderson, He was the most influential person on the committee. He did an excellent job and brought knowledge to the committee.

I took part in the budget recommendations for SAC. I was often the lone vote in recommendations because I thought the recommendations were too high. I voted against the majority of the line items. If it were up to me it would have been a much smaller budget. Fortunately, Senator Fleck was there to make reasonable decisions. I think that SLD and IMPACT is a horrible waste of money. They do nothing for students and it costs a half a million dollars a year. Most recently in the line of failures was moving the OK Go concert to the outdoor mall because of lack of interest. I guess they did not want something like the Switchfoot concert last year when the Civic Center was only 1/3 filled.

MSUSA-I attended Spring Delegates. MSUSA is a waste of our time and money. I was appalled in the way in which that group goes through it's business at very minable gain. I think we should leave that group and hire our own lobbyist.

For those of you that don't know I have written a book on student fees. The book is called What You Get for Your Money at MSU. It is available at [LuLu.com/MSU](http://LuLu.com/MSU). Just so everyone is aware. I will be making no money off this book. 100% of the profits will be donated back to scholarships for this university. The MSSA does not endorse the book. Director Meier is in violation of the copyright law by redistributing the book. Going on the record right now, the book is copyrighted and if you go on-line and redistribute it you can be in violation of copyright laws. I will donate my book to the senate next week for the bookshelf in MSSA. I attended the inauguration and I felt President Afolayan did an excellent job of speaking from the heart. I can't say enough how great that was when you could have said very cheery, friendly things and go out with a big smile. You displayed considerable fortitude in doing that. I feel that I have accomplished very little. I only righted a few wrongs in textbooks and campus rec and things of that nature as well as instigate debate and raise questions that normally might not have been raised. I was unable to improve the university very much beyond letting students know where their student fees are being spent. I felt horrible in my attempt to spend money that could have been a benefit to students in terms of academics. What would you be if you didn't try? You have to try. We made an effort to hire professors of academic prestige and bring new life to the university and a higher standard. Every hoop we tried to jump through was a difficult process. It was unfortunate, but we tried. That is the one thing I feel I could have done in terms of benefiting students. Certainly I did a lot for students in terms of standing up for them and demanding their money be spent efficiently and not be taken advantage of financially. The

Campus Rec proposal being voted down and I was the first to call out anyone that came to the senate to try to steal money from the SAC money for their own cause. I use the term steal deliberately. In the end maybe those after me will remember by call for fiscal responsibility. Maybe my legacy will be that someone will say, what would Senator Norton think of us spending money this way. Perhaps it will help someone to do something good for this school. live on-

Senator Ross-Regarding IMPACT, what do you think the best thing they could do with their resources?

Senator Norton-The very best thing they could do would be to shut its doors and give the money back.

Senator Okoye-Do you think Margaret Sho was a waste of money?

Senator Norton-Considering it cost \$20,000 and 600 students attended, it was a horrible failure.

Senator Trosvik-Are you asking for restitution with the copyright of your book?

Senator Norton-No, I told her she could purchase as many copies as she has given out to people several of which are administrators at this school.

Senator Trosvik-Did you call for a public apology?

Senator Norton-I am certain she will call for an apology after she reads the book.

### **Jason Schilling – Off-Campus**

CSU Board did not vote today because we did not have quorum but we were looking at getting a refillable cup . Although Senator Norton thinks MSUSA is a gross waste of money, I thank all of you that supported me in my run for Treasurer.

Senator Fleck and I were in Carkoski Commons about a month ago and saw someone leave through the door that says the alarm would sound. The alarm did not sound in Carkoski Commons. There is no moral to the story, I just thought I would bring it to your attention. I was on the College of Business website and I did see faces of faculty and alumni. That is something we worked on and should make people proud.

This is the part of my report where I pick my favorite Vice President. This year I pick Rick Straka-I can see myself being him. He comes out and says what he means. I voted for him for Communication Board.

I would like to thank Gabe for everything he has done. I have learned a lot from him. He ranks in my top 3 presidents of all time.

Senator Trosvik-If you were to grade Rick Straka, what would you give him.

Senator Schilling- B+

### **Cole Fink – Off Campus**

I want to express my gratitude for my experiences on MSSA. It has helped me with my personal skills and my public speaking.

Recently we have talked to Bill Harvey about the increases in prices downstairs. I think they are pretty fair. Elections went very smoothly. I would like to say thank you to Norton for all his hard work. I am glad to announce that I will be going to a MSUSA gathering.

Thank you all for the opportunity to be on student senate.

### **Brad Kraus – Social & Behavioral Science**

I attended the Model UN Conference. It was a lot of fun. I thought it would be more formal. This body is more formal. It was kind of a waste of our funds.

I met a lot of international students, that was the most rewarding. I talked politics with them.

I proxied at Student Affairs yesterday. Unfortunately the Men's Center did not go through. I will be attending MSUSA this weekend.

I would like to say thanks to Gabe and Chris for being very friendly to me during this entire experience. I have gained much respect for the two of you and for Schilling, Carmody, Fleck and all of you.

Senator Jennings-Don't you think the Model UN experience was partly because of the ineffectiveness of the Political Science committee?

Senator Kraus-That might be the case. It was poorly run. It was at Winona. It was poorly managed. I don't know if that says anything about the institution or the gathering all together.

### **Evan Trosvik – Gage A**

I wanted to pattern my final report after that of Senator Anderson would do. I am pretty sure I failed at that. I would like to say that I personally was appalled by the comments made about MSSA by a poorly run institution below us-SLD. There comments were extremely inappropriate and I personally if I had the ability would call for the resignation of each of their staff.

This year has been an active one, and I have enjoyed every moment of it from debate to any of the 11 or so committees that I sit on. We have had conversations in and out of senate meetings that have been enlightening on the different viewpoints of any subject that has been at hand. From homecoming to should the free lot be called "free" the diversity of ideas has made me come to love what college is truly about. As many of you know I am leaving Mankato to peruse a career in Air Traffic Control at the University of North Dakota.

Whether I have constantly disagreed with you or not on the topics at hand I would like to tell you all that every member of the 74<sup>th</sup> senate holds a special place in my heart and I will miss you dearly.

President Afolayan-When did you find your heart?

### **Announcements**

Senator Norton-I would like to announce a gathering and the place will be forth coming. We need to celebrate the year.

Senator Trosvik-Obsession is playing in the ballroom tonight at 8:00.

President Afolayan-Please clean out your binders by next week.

### **Roll Call**

#### **Senators Present**

Casey Carmody, Brett Fleck, Nikki Hanna, Kristeen Giese, Murtaza Rajabali, Oliver Okoye,  
Kenneth Willaert, Ryan Anderson, Peter Jennings, Brad Kraus, Sanju Nepal,  
Evan Trosvik, Cole Fink, Abbie Hill, Michael Norton, Jason Schilling

**Senators Absent**

Jessica Kallio, Brandon Ross, Jenna Ault, Katie Ischkin, Jennifer Hansen, Jon Sands, Jon Hurm,  
Caroline Kornowicz

**Executive Staff Present**

President Afolayan, Vice President Frederick

**Adjournment** Meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM