

**74th MSSA Senate
November 29, 2006**

74th Senate called to order by Speaker Jered Jackson

Roll Call (present-absent-proxy-excused)

Jessica Kallio 14-0-0-1, Taitum Thompson 8-6-0-1, Casey Carmody 14-0-0-1, Brett Fleck-proxy
Ashley Arment 14-0-0-1, Nikki Hanna 11-0-0, Brandon Ross 12-3-0, Jenna Ault 14-1-0, Katie
Ischkin 10-0-0-1, Kristeen Giese 14-0-0-1, Jessica Nelson 14-1-0, Oliver Okoye 12-3-0, Kenneth
Willaert 11-0-0, Peter Jennings 15-0-0, Marianne Reilly 13-2-0, Ryan Anderson 15-0-0, Kathryn
Pase 15-0-0, Evan Trosvik 15-0-0, Jennifer Hansen 10-0-0, Ryan Christensen 13-2-0, Allan
Gould 14-1-0, Jon Hurm 13-2-0, Jason Schilling 15-0-0, Caroline Kornowicz 13-2-0, Aaron
Lorenzen 11-0-0

President Gabe Afolayan 15-0-0, Vice President Chris Frederick 15-0-0

Open Forum

MSUSA Vice Chair Candidate-Rick Howden, Winona State University

I have been involved with MSUSA since last year and I have developed a passion for the organization and student issues with the Student Debt, tuition, things like that. That is what propelled me to run for the position. I feel I could be a strong voice for our campaigns. I have been Legislative Affairs Coordinator for two years at Winona State. I was responsible for giving a tour to legislators last year for a bonding bill. I am looking forward to this years lobby day and encouraging legislators to increase funding for higher education. I want to increase communication between campuses, part of that would be to use the Campus Reps and inform them and have them work more closely with the campuses. I feel I can provide that leadership and responsibility.

President Afolayan-As you look at the Vice Chair role, what kind of leadership can you bring to MSUSA?

Mr. Howden-Communication, it seems to be hereditary problem with MSUSA. Making meetings with Campus Reps more contrite because that is one of the duties of the Vice Chair along with leading Delegates Assembly. Taking what comes from delegate's assembly and transferring the message is very important. Idea sharing between campuses is very important. Maybe many of you do not know what is going on at Bemidji or Winona or other schools. It is important and pivotal to share ideas so all campuses can build on campaigns like the student debt stories that we are collecting. The point is sharing ideas with other campuses to take to state leadership or MnSCU.

President Afolayan-The current state chair is resigning because of time conflict and lack of ability to function in the job. How does your schedule look? Are you able to do the job well.

Mr. Howden-Right now my classes are early in the day. I have time to be in St. Paul. I am committed to doing what I can to making that position stronger.

Approval of Agenda Agenda approved with addition of Senator Thompson to Senator Reports, SAF presentation order. Move New Business to VIII. Move Old Business to follow Committee Report A.

SAF Presentations: Department of Theatre & Dance-Paul Hustoles, Director

Theatre Activity Program-\$514,675 matched by M&E. We have over a million dollars to spent. We are amazing at generating ticket revenue. We are ranked in the nation in season ticket holders. A typical theater our size will generate about a \$100,000 a year in ticket revenue. We recently put on Peter Pan and that show alone raised \$92,000 in revenue. SAC gives us 15% and we are very grateful to the students for that support. This year that totaled \$78,000. As far as expenditures a majority goes to personnel and benefits, 32% of budget. A great thing is in any given year we give back over \$100,000 to students in salaries to get the type of productions we

present. Primary Program Objectives: 1) To provide a strong artistic and academic experience for the students of MSU. MSU provides students with more artistic offerings than any other school in the seven state region. We are not Division II, III. We are Division I plus A. Our peers are the University of Minnesota, University of Iowa, University of Nebraska, Wichita State. We actually do more shows than any of those institutions, because we are crazier. not that we are any better. Through the help of SAF, we are able to fund a couple staff positions for the academic department plus productions. 2) To continue to provide the MSU community and the entire region with strong and varied theatrical experience and opportunities. MSU presents six main stage productions each year. We do 18 productions in a year. Most schools do four. This year Peter Pan was seen by over 6,000 people, over 1,000 MSU students because we all are young at heart and they also got a lot of MSU credit We did Arsenic and Old Lace, these are all student acted. Our director was an MSU alum. We just finished The Lark . We have a show every single week of the term, except for two, because we are insane. We have a summer theater. Our actors receive many honor. One of our actors is a triple All American, she has received the most honors of any actor at MSU, ever. That is getting to the final rounds of the National Theater Festival. She has done this three times. That is the quality of the students that we are able to generate here at MSU. 3) To provide training for students interested in professional academic employment in theatrical arts as well 4) To further strengthen the academic program. We offer BA, BS, BFA, MS and MFA 5) To continue to provide financial assistantships to both undergraduate and graduate students in the form of work study, student help, scholarships and assistantships. 6) This year we will provide over \$50,000 to continue and expand our pre-college theatrical contacts. This year we will distribute over 30 scholarships and talent grants, I think that is number one as far as an academic program is concerned. 7) To further explore and maintain our alumni network with our Highland Summer Theater. This year we have 19 alumni coming back. One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest with be directed by one of our award winning alumni. This year we will be invite many alum back to celebrate a retirement. We are having a grand bash. We will be taking 32 students to the Festival in Milwaukee, 48 students to Ames, IA. Many students have already qualified. We believe in equal opportunity, if you are good you are good you are automatically seen on our stage. If you are bad we ask you to transfer. 8) To maintain our involvement with the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, the US Institute of Theatre Tec and the American College Dance Festival

Future Goals...Facilities dreams come true, stage deck, grid lights, sound. We received MnSCU support. Major staffing challenge-fill in the gaps, major shift from 9-12 month positions, adding Senator Anderson-Funding dollars- is the half from M&E for the Academic program?

Director Hustoles-Yes,

Vice President Frederick-Are there discounted theatre tickets for students?

Director Hustoles-Yes, Absolutely, we have a student semester season ticket. You can see six shows for \$36.00. That is less than you see two Hockey games against the University of MN. It is a fantastic deal. It is cheaper than going to a movie at night.

Student Leadership Development & Service Learning-Kelly Meier, Director (see handout)

We are going to start out by a little student bragging, as Student Development is rooted in students making things happen. We are going to give you some highlights of that. Did you know LGBT turns 30 years old this year and is the second oldest in the nation? Did you know there is a new RSO workshop services formed to focus on recruitment, fundraising and leadership. Did you know the 48 Hour Film Festival involved 12 teams of students in a filmmaking event and a production company from the Twin Cities followed one of the teams and is producing a documentary on the event, Did you know Jump Start had a 15% increase in student involvement and that Campus Kitchens was recognized regionally and nationally this semester for excellence in service and programming. Did you know that as of today a little over 800 students have used the Non-Trad office? Did you know the Greek community had the largest formal recruitment in 7 years? That is 95 new men and women.

Director Meier-There are a lot of Did you Knows, but those are some of the things we are really proud of. We held 120 programs this fall, that is more than 1 program a day. There is a definite buzz this year in Student Development. Our Center is full. Our program is about engaging students on campus. We want to create a hum and buzz on campus. We have 161 Recognized Student Organizations. We are continuing to see increased student usage of supplies and support. The RSO Leadership Board has expanded to include a representative from each RSO category: Academic, Independent, Greek, Multi-cultural and International, Sports and Activities, Special Interests, and Religious organizations. The Non-Traditional Student Services has had programmatic increases. Students are generating things important to them like a new Health & Wellness Series, an on-line newsletter, a new marketing campaign to reach out to non-traditional students, and new programs.

IMPACT has collaborated with FYE, APAC, Women's Center, Residential Life, and Prepare Ministries for new programs on campus. The drag show is indicative of the LGBT program. We are having to move events to new venues because of students wanting to attend. The LGBT Center turns 30 years old this year. MSU was named one of top 100 LGBT campuses in the nation. Since September, college students have contributed over 6900 hours of service to the community. We are building leaders of tomorrow and want to be civically engaged. Spring semester we will have a major concert.

Some of our Spring semester programs and events: RSO Leadership Conference, Eliminate Hate Week. Frost Days, Greek Week, No Name Calling Week-how do we treat each other & the rights of one another. RSO fasting project. Rock Paper Scissor contest. Next semester will be packed full of what students want to see happen.

We are building strong leaders of tomorrow.

Senator Trosvik-How much revenue is created for the LGBT and SLD&SL?

Director Meier-Our events are geared toward students and we do not charge for events for students.

LGBT Director Flatequal -LGBT does not charge.

Senator Schilling-Do you have a budget sheet with you?

Director Meier-No, we didn't know you wanted that as part of the presentation.

Senator Anderson-Do you think it is time to charge for LGBT events?

LGBT Director Flatequal-We are available to have dialogue to start charging. I think it is important to get numbers on our events.

Director Meier-You want to make all programs as accessible as possible. Many classes take advantage of these programs. It is difficult to charge for these programs.

Senator Giese-Can you speak about some cross over with other programs?

Director Meier-A lot of different factors go into deciding what goes into events. We try to broadly promote and have as much appeal as possible. We do find we receive a lot of academic support.

We sponsor events with Residential Life, we try to collaborate as much as possible.

President Afolayan-In regards to new RSO position, what new pieces have been brought to the table and what benefits are there?

Assistant Director Stacy Stoldorf-Every day I have a handful of students coming in that are starting a new program. We are working on the Leadership Conference. We have been assisting RSO's that are struggling with communication building. We have done a lot to expand the office and help RSO's be aware of the resources available to them.

President Afolayan-What is being done to advise the advisors more?

Ms. Stoldorf-We would like to launch an advisor training and celebration. We communicate with advisors.

Senator Ross-Can we do something as a senate to help various programs?

Director Meier-The more interaction we have for involvement and sharing ideas, everything is generated by students. If you would like to see something happen it is great to hear from you.

LGBT Director Flatequal-We brainstorm every week, one night is about what we are doing next and programming. We are always happy to hear more ideas.

Director Meier-We have a leadership board in our office.

Senator Norton-What is National Children's Book Week, Rock Paper Scissors, how do they apply to anyone over 7?

Director Meier-That is a service event, for students to read to elementary students.

Rock, Paper, Scissors Competition is purely for fun. The Timber Wolves sponsor that. It will be held in February.

Senator Norton-Have you seen a need for a Diversity workshop?

LGBT Director Flatequal-For sure once a week someone gets called queer, we have had students get beat up, called a faggot. The reality is there is a message out there.

Director Meier-I don't think that will ever end. We are not necessarily a huge multicultural campus. We all have a huge responsibility.

LGBT Director Flatequal-That is not to shame MSU, we are not different than other campuses.

Senator Giese-Outcome-Has there been a measurement of outcome of those involved?

Director Meier-We are constantly getting feedback from alum because of a team builder or a leadership role that they participated in while in college. Those that immerse themselves become more confident and there are national statistics that tell us that.

Senator Anderson-For 2007 we allocated \$32,000 for a concert, what is being done to make sure the concert is what students want to see?

Paul Spangle-Concert-1,000 students have been surveyed and they are taking that into consideration. We are continuing to survey

Senator Trosvik-By what means is the survey given out?

Paul Spangle-On-line survey on BoardBoard .com. Paper surveys on chairs at events. We made a big push during welcome week.

President Afolayan-Grant funded programs, Campus Kitchens, Jump Start, how does that affect resources put toward that?

Director Meier-Campus Kitchen, Jump Start. We are a team downstairs, but both are adequately funded outside of student activity fees.

President Afolayan-What are you doing to improve areas?

Director Meier-We are seeing a rise in numbers in all areas. There are always students not making a choice to get involved. We phoned all first year students. Many said their parents did not want them to get involved the first year. We know if you don't get students involved the first year you might not get them involved. Our main focus is to help students to know why it is important to get involved globally. We are seeing positive numbers.

Senator Schilling-Do you feel the programs are adequately funded?

Director Meier-We are seriously below the national average. No, we are not adequately funded. The amount of funding going to smaller organizations is very small.

Senator Schilling-Which areas in particular are not funded adequately?

Director Meier-None of our areas are adequately funded. We have shown comparisons of other schools to SAC in the past.

Senator Hurm-What have you done for marketing in the future?

Director Meier-We have a check list of what we do when we are marketing an event.

The size of the program has to do with the amount spent on PR. MSU Idol has almost no cost we would not spend a huge amount of money on that. There are creative things like the lei's. We have posters but we never just rely on that.

LGBT Director Flatequal-PR, tabling, posters. Reality is we rely on advertising. We have huge list serves. Reality is advertising takes money.

Senator Ross-What type of meetings can we join if we have questions and want to give our opinions?

Ms. Stoldorf -RSO leadership team meets every Tuesday at 5:00.

Director Meier-Come to the office, all students are taught how to answer questions and assist students.

President Afolayan-Is student involvement on par with national averages to necessitate funding?

Director Meier-Some cases yes and some no. Programming in the last year has reached a higher

level. IMPACT program is driven by the amount of programs we are able to have. If there is not as much to do you will see a drop off. The more money we have to program with the more students will be involved.

President Afolayan-What one program would you like to see increased funding for?

Director Meier-We ask the question, how is the program going to be successful for the most students? We need to be fiscally responsible for the most amount of people. We need to see other people believe in this program. I don't drive programs, students drive that.

President Afolayan-I mean logistically.

Director Meier-With every program there are different fees to make a program happen. We need more programming dollars even for RSO's. There is so much need in terms of students making things happen on campus.

SAF Administration-Steve Smith

We are a support function for student activity accounts. We help collect money, purchase items, we are a support function. We have about 3,000 accounts, 30,000 expenditures.

Money is primarily used for personnel, non salary related costs, and support for other programs, Campus Express Buss-latest negotiations showed that we won't spend as much money next year. There will be money returned to student Activity Fee account.

The total Budget is around \$2,262,778 1. Next years budget is based on what we already have employee benefits or increased student salaries. We don't have significant changes unless the committee wants to fund something.

President Afolayan-Can you expand on internal audits?

Steve Smith-In the past we have responded to allegations internally or hired an audit to provide assurance. We had an audit done when we went to Division I Hockey. This was required.

President Afolayan-In regards to oversight, is your division part of the business office?

Steve Smith-Our office handles all purchasing, student payroll, pays all university bills, all accounting work, grants. In reality the money that is set aside goes beyond to all offices.

Approval of Minutes 11-15-06 Minutes stand approved

Officer Reports

President Gabe Afolayan

We received information today on the Athletic issue, the NCC is no longer going to be viable. Most schools in the NCC are looking at transferring to another conference. You have to be voted in by the university presidents of the various schools. Vice President Straka said a \$40 million dollar endowment would be needed to fund Division I.

I sat in on Parking Advisory on Monday. They voted on the option for the free lot. A recommendation came forward and passed of a \$40.00 permit. Another option was to merge the free and orange and create a permit of \$70.00. I brought up increasing fines. Fines are paid 61% by non permit holders. Of the 39% permit holders, \$8,000 was generated.

This is not final. The recommendation will be submitted to the Public Hearing in Feb. MSUSA at large board position voted on by simple majority. This will be voted on at the next conference in December.

Senator Hurm-Did you get an idea of what conference Athletics are interested in?

President Afolayan-It is very preliminary-there are different aspects. They will be meeting and having discussions with different bargaining units.

Senator Giese-Parking Committee-are they taking serious steps to finding out what the students want?

President Afolayan-MSSA can make a stance, but this will be voted on at the Public Hearing.

Senator Carmody-Was there talk about about bringing other schools into the NCC?

President Afolayan-I don't think that is an option.

Senator Okoye-Can anyone go to the Parking meetings?

President Afolayan-You would not have voting memberships, but you can come and listen.

Vice President Chris Frederick

Yesterday we attended the Student Leadership Forum, we discussed the Division issue and Campus Wellness and mandatory insurance. Most students are not aware that lack of insurance drives up costs for other students. Campus Rec. initiative, we are looking forward to attending a meeting next week to give you more information

Speaker

Recognized Student Organizations: Renewal-InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Initial-Alpha Phi Sigma, Bahai Campus Club, History Club, MNSU Paintball Club
Senator Chenevert has changed his major and will be giving up his Social & Behavioral Science seat. We will hold elections in January.

Committee Reports

SAC-Kathryn Pase, Chair

SAC M#11.27.06 A Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority

Student Allocations Committee recommends allocating up to \$600.00 upon receipt of report to Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority to attend District Days Conference in Madison, WI.

President Afolayan-What was the reason for asking for a report?

Chair Pase-We wanted information from them and we did not single them out.

Senator Trosvik-Do they get money for food?

Chair Pase-SAC does not allocate money for food. If you wanted to take out the food the funding would be \$472.20.

Senator Trosvik-Move to allocate \$472.20.

President Afolayan-If a motion violates policy, why is this motion entertained?

M#11.27.06A, Move to allocate \$472.20

Motion Passes

SAC M#11.27.06A

Student Allocations Committee recommends allocating up to \$472.20 upon receipt of report to Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority to attend District Days Conference in Madison, WI.

Motion Passed

Old Business-SAC Motion #11.13.06 Psi Chi

SAC M#11.13.06 Psi Chi

Student Allocations Committee recommends allocating up to \$550.00 for Psi Chi to travel to Chicago, IL. to attend the 40th Annual Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Policy Approval Committee-Evan Trosvik

Committee has met three times this year. We have looked over policies to take care of this year. We have a template for policies. There has been confusion among faculty, staff, and students regarding web site. There was discussion to turn this in to a wiki, where it would be easier to access the policies and what point they are in the policy. One of the policies up for formal review in the Skateboard Policy. We are looking at the Administrative Drop, Resolution of Student Concerns, Closing Policy, MSSA Policy.

President Afolayan-Did you mention an Admissions policy?

Senator Trosvik-No

New Business

Motion 11.29.06A Rollerblade Policy

President Afolayan/Senator Trosvik

Whereas: The Rollerblades/Skateboards/Bicycles/Personal Assistive Mobility Policy is under formal review.

Whereas: MSSA needs to review the policy and submit its recommendation to the university policy consultation and approval committee prior to the formal review deadline.

Be it Resolved: The MSSA Student Affairs Committee shall review the Rollerblades/Skateboards/Bicycles/Personal Assistive Mobility Policy and submit its recommendation to the entire senate at the December 6th senate meeting.

President Afolayan- This would give Student Affairs the opportunity to review the policy and then we could give our recommendation.

Motion Passed

Coordinator Reports

Legislative Affairs-Ryan Anderson

Lobby Day

It looks like lobby day will be on Valentine's day this year. The plan is to take a bus up to the capital and meet with legislators in the morning and have a rally on the capital steps in the afternoon. All MSUSA schools will be participating. I hope you keep this date open, traditionally professors have been reasonable about letting students miss class for this activity. All students are welcome to participate, so if you know students who would be interested in doing this please let them know. I hope to have more details next meeting.

Legislator Update

District 23 State senator elect Kathy Sheran has been appointed vice-chairperson of the senate Higher Education Budget and Policy Committee. I think this is very exciting news because she will be able to have a great influence on higher ed policy and she has shown that she understands and shares students concerns about rising tuition costs.

Legislative Platform

I have been in correspondence with Lisa Radintz, legislative facilitator for MSUSA and Graham Allen, the Director of University and Government Relations for MSUSA about what the legislative agenda for the 07 session will look like. It will be similar to the 05 and 06 agendas in many ways. The main focuses will be the zero percent tuition increase backed at the last conference well supporting MNSCU full budget request, which represents a \$177 million increase over next two years. I would encourage you to read the old leg agendas and the news release concerning the chancellors recommendation and get back to me with any concerns before the MSUSA conference.

DREAM ACT

It's very likely that a motion to include support for the DREAM ACT will be brought up during the MSUSA meeting in December. I will read the summary from the state house legislative research department.

The Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act is a federal bill that has been introduced in and considered by the U.S. Congress since 2001. As originally introduced by Senator Orin Hatch and other bipartisan co-sponsors, the DREAM Act repeals the federal law on higher education benefits for illegal aliens and establishes a process for eligible aliens to obtain legal permanent residency status. To be granted conditional permanent resident status the eligible alien must:

- have lived continuously in the United States for five or more years and must have been less than 16 years old when entering the United States for the first time;
- have a high school diploma or equivalent, or be admitted to a postsecondary institution;
- be of good moral character; and

- not be deportable for criminal conviction, alien smuggling, or document fraud.

After receiving conditional status, the undocumented student can become a permanent lawful resident by receiving a degree from a two-year postsecondary institution, completing two years of an undergraduate or graduate program, or joining and being honorably discharged from the U.S. military.

What to Make of this

I would encourage you to read up on this legislation and form your own opinions. Speaking only from a position of political prudence, this act is not as popular as we were told during the delegate's assembly. When it was brought up in the United States senate the opposition to the DREAM ACT, although minimal, cited the act as an act of amnesty for illegal immigrants. I believe it was also referenced during an attack ad during the recent governor's race. I am not endorsing, or opposing this legislation only asking those senators who are going to the MSUSA conference to consider all factors when considering items to be added to the agenda.

It is important to keep these factors in mind when acting as our constituents voices for the legislative platform. With that I will now stand for any questions, comments, complaints or concerns. Thank you.

I encourage you to read up on this legislation.

President Afolayan-What are the implications of the Green Act to MSUSA?

Coordinator Anderson-It will make it

Senator Reports

Arts & Humanities-Casey Carmody

Meeting with Jane Earley, Dean of Arts and Humanities, last week. Discussed a variety of things including:

- +/- System
 - She thought that it was most important to have the students input and we should make a decision based off that, not the thoughts of administrators or professors.
- Course repeat policy
 - Agrees that something must be done since space is being taken up
 - Limiting the number of courses is a good idea.
 - Only concern is for students, especially arts and humanities ones, in regards to difficult classes such as math and sciences. What do you do if they are unable to get a sufficient grade in the times they take it.
 - She was also curious to see who it helps, but also who it may hurt since she doesn't want anybody to be disadvantaged.
- The Interior Design Program
 - Won't accept Interior Design program due to lack of accreditation.
 - Music and art are the two accredited programs in the College of Arts and Humanities.
 - Since we don't offer a Master of Fine Arts, we prepare art students to go to colleges that do. A big part that helps with the excellent placement of our students is the fact that our program is accredited.
 - If we added ID to our college, it would fall in the art program.
 - Since the ID program doesn't reach the standards needed to be accredited, we would lose the accreditation for our art program.
 - This would be hurtful to our current students and therefore we can't take the ID program.
- Mass Comm program being overly populated.
 - Plans to hire another professor are coming up.
- Asked about classes being fall heavy for some programs
 - Wasn't aware of the problem and will look into it.

- She asked me about graduation speeches.
- Was wondering if student's liked the idea of having graduating students speak or if we would rather have some other speaker come in.
- I told her I liked it personally, but would ask around.

In a side note, Jane also asked if I would like to be part of the Arts and Humanities Student Advisory Committee. I talked with Sara Granberg-Rademacker, Student Relations Coordinator for the college, and she said that we'll be planning the meetings in coordination with my schedule so I could attend. My role will be a liaison between the college and student government.

I also attended the Noel-Levitz Consultant exit interview on Enrollment management on Nov. 16th.

- Talked about a variety of things that the University is doing well when it comes to recruiting new students and also pointed out some major flaws.
- One of the biggest flaws is the lack of personalization when it comes to student's applying and enrolling in the school. It is something that the consultant suggest the school really needs to focus on

I'm planning on attending the MSUSA conference here in Mankato next weekend.

End of the semester wrap-up:

- I think we've done a lot of great work so far and have made some leaps and bounds, but lots of work is still yet to be done.
- Personally, I'm really looking forward to next semester since I will have several Arts and Humanities classes so I can be in touch with my constituents much more which is something I think I struggled with this semester.

College of Business-Brandon Ross

Class sizes are getting smaller for upper level classes in the College of Business. More faculty and more rooms would be needed to increase this. I talked to Rick Straka about facilities problems in the College of Business.

Senator Anderson-Have the problems been in planning or funding?

Senator Ross-I think in funding.

President Afolayan-What are you working on in terms of the College of Business laptop rate?

Senator Ross-It is built into our costs. We do need to address that, because you don't always use that.

President Afolayan-Do you think it is the equivalent of paying for one credit and paying the full price?

Senator Ross-I guess however, what we pay and use is different.

College of Graduate Studies-Katie Ischkin

1. Graduate Survey

- Have discussed the survey and have the survey complete
- For a first round of input I have given it to my GAC in Speech Comm. to go over and give me some input
- I will then bring it to Senate for all of you to look over and put into action for the new semester

2. Met with Dr. Treinen in the Speech Communication department

- We are discussing setting up a workshop or career/internship fair day for graduate students who are not planning on continuing on to a PHD program
- This will offer opportunities above the undergraduate level for internships but is more focused on career options after graduation

3. Training Manual

- This will begin in the new semester
- Not much has changed from my last report

President Afolayan-Will the consultant get good feed back from our group?

Senator Ischkin-Yes, I think the main thing is communication. The student should be looked at as a customer.

Senator Giese-Did the representative state everything will be in his final report?

Senator Ischkin-Yes

Allied Health & Nursing-Jessica Kallio

I am currently working on the student debt campaign here at MSU. All the Minnesota state schools are working on this project. With the help from Brandon Ross and Tatum Thompson we should reach our goal around 200 surveys collected. These surveys were handed out randomly and in our classrooms. Three weeks ago the Reporter ran a piece on the debt campaign. I recently wrote a letter to the Free Press bringing awareness to the issue of students leaving college with a large amount of debt and making sure politicians keep their word to help lower tuition. This article was published on November 27 if anyone would like to read this I have a copy you can look over.

I also received feedback from this article from Kathy Sheran expressing her interest and concern on my article. She plans on brining stories like mine to the Senate.

On Feb 14th the student debt campaign will be rallying and protesting in St. Paul to get people aware of student debt. That is why the debt stories are so important to show how many people are affected by the increase of tuition. We need as many people to come to this rally on this day. I will get back to everyone when I know more information.

Maverick Hall-Aaron Lorenzen

Being as the semester is coming to a close very quickly, my focus has turned slowly to focusing on school and doing the best I can this first semester. As far as senate related activities I have been asked a few times recently on the status of the Gage dorm complex and the progress of future plans. I hopefully will attend the MSUSA conference next week that is if time allows me too. I look forward to next semester and the new challenges and obstacles that that might bring

Off-Campus Senator-Jon Hurm

Free lot being paved, I saw advertising for the bus stops being heated.

Crawford Hall-Kathryn Pase

I've been going to my various committee meetings, Homecoming Task Force, SAC, and Student Affairs. STAB will be starting on 5 December, so I'm excited for that.

In the homecoming task force meetings, we've been talking about (among other things,) ways to get the city of Mankato more involved in our homecoming with various ideas like "Paint the Town Purple," decorating store fronts in the Mall.

SAC has been busy, we've started hearing presentations from line items about changes they'd like to see in their budgets, and will present those recommendations to the senate at a later date.

Cindy Janney sent me the info from her presentation that she gave to RHA a couple weeks ago, so I have that in case anyone would like to see it.

I had a good Thanksgiving, went home, saw the family, my cats killed my pet fish, all in all it was an okay weekend.

Vice President Frederick-What are the room mates going to be?

Senator Pase-A jump of about \$300.00. Beyond that it depends on what services we choose to keep, like newspaper, laundry. This gets added to base rates.

President Afolayan-Per semester?

Senator Pase-No.

President Afolayan-What is the sum of the amenities added to base rate?

Senator Trosvik-Did RHA line item increase?

President Afolayan-What did Director Janney site as major reasons for the base increase?

Senator Pase-Operating costs, inflation of costs of supplies.

President Afolayan-Are they funding any new positions?

Senator Pase-I don't know.

Senator Trosvik-I am on a search committee for a new position.

College of Education-Jenna Ault

I have been trying to get a hold of the College of Education Dean to talk about the Plus Minus grading system. He has not been very responsive to me, which is kind of frustrating. I have talked to some of my Constituents about this and they are not for it. Mostly because they do not want to have to worry about trying to get an A plus to keep their GPA up when they are use to getting an A and being fine with it.

Science, Engineering & Technology-Kenneth Willaert

As we've heard from many previous reports textbook pricing was a hot issue back toward the beginning of the semester. Recently, with the approach of a new semester, I have found talk about book prices has become a hot topic again. I think we all know where the students stand on the issue, so I talked to some professors within the college of Science, Engineering and Technology about these issues. From what I could gather, a book order had been placed for all of the classes with assigned professors. CSET claims to have done this a few months ago. And from what we know already, early orders are a good start to saving money. Also, when visiting some professors, they were in very strong support of the idea of an online listing of each course's textbook ISBN number along with a thumbnail picture of the cover of the text. Unfortunately, I learned that many professors are left out of the loop when it comes to book order deadlines, and what toll it has on the students' wallets. One expressed concern about indirectly receiving a bad rap from students for prices that he feels them as professors have "little control" over beyond the order itself. All in all, the professors expressed a strong desire to work with students and the bookstores to solve or at least lower the financial burden of textbook cost.

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences-Marianne Reilly

I have basically been talking to students about the plus minus system. I have talked to about 60 students. Most were strongly against it. I got feedback on how to make the school better.

President Afolayan-What are comments of students that are against it?

Senator Reilly-There is not exact evidence.

McElroy Hall-Jennifer Hansen

I have been talking to students about Chet's Place and the walkway that goes there and that the door closes at 7:00 PM.

Senator Okoye-Have you talked to Security about having the doors being open?

Senator Hansen-I don't think they have talked to Security yet.

Off-Campus-Allan Gould

Actually I received my first face book message from a constituent and she would like help with programs on Substance Abuse. Her concern was that students were not attending. She wanted to know if there was a policy in place enforcing that. There is a policy in place if students don't attend their assessment. I told her to have a meeting with Res Life and the officers that are referring students to the program to make it clear on what should be done.

Senator Trosvik-Students have scheduled times?

Senator Gould-There is a deadline date for those who have offenses, they have time to do this and Health Services is to report if they did it or not.

Social & Behavioral Science-Peter Jennings

I have attended two conferences, JIA meeting, Students for Sustainability meeting. I am in the office and available for questions several times during the week.

Off-Campus-Cole Fink

Basically I am on the Homecoming Taskforce. We have talked about a possible carnival, moving the football game to 3:00 or 4:00, tailgating, bon fire, Saturday parade, maybe a concert on campus or the civic center and subcommittees composed of all different school organizations. Student Union Board-nothing really important being discussed except office shuffling. The CSU will be open for 24 hours during finals and serving doughnuts. We discussed refill cups and hoping to keep the cost under a dollar.

Unnamed are in lower level, there may be a contest to name it and we discussed turning a storage closet into a stage. We talked about a mission statement for the CSU. Most CSU's do have a mission statement.

Senator Giese-Regarding a homecoming carnival, did they mention insurance for that?

President Afolayan-No, we have just been brainstorming and discussing logistics. We have had statistical data on events that we have had. We had reports on attendance for homecoming events. We will talk about budget and structure at the next meeting.

Science, Engineering & Technology-Oliver Okoye

First of all I want to thank all the senators for all their hard work; you have all done a good job. Good news, after the entire *Reporter* incident about calling some professors lazy, there has been an increase in the amount of book orders sent to the bookstore this semester compared to last semester. About 75% of professors have sent in their book orders. I found out from asking the Maverick and Barnes and Noble bookstores that using the secretary as a middle person to collect books from professors is really good because they see the secretary almost everyday. He or she reminds them about book order. It helps professors' remember.

I also found out that professors' delay in sending their book order to the bookstore increases prices of books sold and reduces buyback for students which is not good. I asked Maverick and Barnes and Noble book store managers why books are so expensive. They both blamed the publishers. I researched and found out it was true. A lot of money goes to the publisher, about 67%. Even though inflation every year is about 3 to 4%, the publishers increase the price by about 7%. They rip students off a lot by bringing out a new edition after a year or two.

Solution: If professors talk to the publishers and agree to a 3 to 4 year use of a particular book, then it saves student a lot of cost.

For general classes like Math 112 which uses one particular book no matter who the professor is, it reduces the cost for students. If other 100 level classes like English, Accounting, Management and Psychology could do the same thing, it would help reduce the cost for students.

Senator Giese-Were you able to find information on buyback books?

Senator Okoye-Manager said they will give 50% back if professor sends in their order.

Senator Giese-Does that money go for profit to the bookstore?

Senator Anderson-Do you find it surprising that the bookstore shifts the blame to the publishers.

Senator Giese-You mentioned that if every course used the same book it would lower the cost to students, would the quality of the course be affected?

Allied Health & Nursing -Taitum Thompson

In Student Union Board we discussed the IPO/ISO merging. The administration approved this five years ago so it is now on full steam and Construction will start in May and be completed by Fall. The CSU will be open 24 hours starting Dec.6-Dec. 13 of finals week. They will provide snacks and beverages.

University Dining Services is looking at the cup refill, extending Taco Bell since we did not get Quizno's. They are also looking at what is going to happen with the Baha downstairs.

The space downstairs in the CSU is looking for a name. We will hold a contest that students can name and the winner will get a \$200 gift card to Barnes & Noble.

Announcements

Vice President Frederick -Senator of the Month-Evan Trosvik

Senator Trosvik-I am on the Policy Review Committee if you have any comments or suggestions.

President Afolayan-I need to appoint one person to the search committee for Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs. This is an internal search.

We also need four people to serve on Internal Affairs for MSUSA. They will meet Friday night of the conference.

Roll Call

Senators Present

Jessica Kallio, Taitum Thompson, Casey Carmody, Nikki Hanna, Brandon Ross, Jenna Ault, Kristeen Giese, Oliver Okoye, Peter Jennings, Ryan Anderson, Kathryn Pase, Evan Trosvik, Cole Fink, Michael Norton, Jon Hurm, Caroline Kornowicz

Senators Absent

Brett Fleck-proxy Ashley Arment, Katie Ischkin, Jessica Nelson, Kenneth Willaert, Marianne Reilly, Jennifer Hansen, Jon Sands, Ryan Christensen, Allan Gould, Aaron Lorenzen

Executive Staff Present

President Gabe Afolayan, Vice President Chris Frederick

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM