

**75th MSSA Senate
February 6, 2008**

75th Senate called to order Speaker Ryan Anderson

Roll Call Rachael Quast 15-0-0, Kristy Pottebaum 10-0-0, Holly Pahl 18-0-0-1, Jared Grove 15-0-0, Brandon Ross 18-0-0-1, James Varner 3-0-0, Brett Carpenter 10-0-0, Vang Xiong 7-0-0, Matthew Lust 18-1-0, Murtaza Rajabali 17-1-0-1, Harshdeep Bhasin 13-1-0-3, Brian Leonhardi 2-0-0-1, Matthew Schmidt 12-0-0, Thuy Huynh 8-0-0, Jeffrey Long 15-0-0, Noah Olanjawe 2-0-0, Andy Wilke 15-0-0, Abbie Hill 19-0-0, Nathan Madden 19-0-0, Brian McMahan 15-0-0, Kelly Biers 19-0-0, Kristopher Lovstad 19-0-0, Ryan Johnson 10-3-0, Dave Meyers 14-0-0, President Chris Frederick 19-0-0, Vice President Carmody 18-0-0-1

Presentations

LGBT Center- Program Coordinator Jessica Flatequal

LGBT Center Budget summary. What do we do? Provide services to students who are dealing with issues of sexual identity in the form of advising, mentoring, referrals, community friendships and support. It is important that we provide a safe space. LGBT students are often at risk for suicide. Clearly LGBT students are not the only students that come to the LGBT Center. You may have a friend, a mom or dad or cousin and they come out to you.

We have a service learning program with various classes. We have a resources library and do classroom panels. We provide education and do programs to the entire campus community through trainings, speakers, classroom panels, resource library, and service learning. Who benefits? Everyone benefits. 10-15% of students likely identify as LGBT. Over 5000 students last year received educational programs in their classroom or attended a program of the LGBT. Center Money-\$9,000 SAF allocation. We also receive M& E funding for my salary. 87% of our budget goes to salary.

New this year...Other Money-Jim Chalgren Endowment will be used for leadership stipends and scholarships. Fundraising Account-Fundraisers, Community Donations and Campus Drive Donations. Campus Partnerships and Collaborations annual conferences. this is the biggest part of the funding that we get. We partner with Women's Center, Athletics, SLD&SL and Diversity.

Out of the \$9,000 SAF Allocation, \$5,000 goes to speakers and other programs, \$1,500 goes to leadership (i.e. ropes course, retreat, and some expenses for 2 annual conferences). \$500 goes to general office marketing, \$500 goes to website development and weekly newsletter, \$500 goes to SAFE ZONE Program and trainings, \$1000 goes to equipment and Operations.

LGBT became a stand alone office in fall semester. It no longer functions as an entity of SLD&SL. The LGBT Center will be asking for additional programming dollars in April.

Plans to rename the LGBT to Jim Chalgren LGBT Center.

Vice President Carmody-What is the biggest contribution LGBT makes to MSU Mankato?

Director Flatequal-We contribute to the entire diversity of this campus. We help all students recognize and appreciate diversity.

Non-Traditional Student Services- Ryan Yunkers, Assistant Director

Nontraditional Student Program-Who is a Nontraditional Student A student who is a parent, a veteran a student who commutes more than 15 miles, a student who is 24 years old or older when starting, a student who is married, divorced, widowed/widower, a student who did not go to college right after high school.

Budget \$21,057 total allocation, \$15,000 partial salary for Program Coordinator for Nontraditional Students/RSO's/Off-Campus Housing. \$6,000 for programming, administration, supplies.

Programs-Health-related programs, Social opportunities, Publicizing, Open Houses, 200 member list serve. Involvement Opportunities-Student-lead team of Co-Presidents, VP's other elected board members and involved Nontraditional students bring direction, learn leadership skills and provide mentoring for other students.

Services & Resources-Advising of current and potential students. Weekly referrals from the Hub, Registrar, Admissions, Trio program, Advocacy for NT student concerns, Partnering with Students for Affordable Childcare to publish the Childcare Guide for MSU parents, physical resources (lockers for commuters, lounge, etc.

Collaboration is Core-to save money and increase the effectiveness of events.

Why the Nontraditional Student program is significant-recruitment and advising of potential students, comfortable space for older students, a place to connect, and programs directed toward specific needs of NT's. This is a growing population the university supports. President Davenport noted NT week during a community speech and cited the importance of NT's to the future of MSU.

Mission Statement-It is our mission to build a strong and supportive community for nontraditional aged and parent students within the university community in order to enrich the educational experience and to help ensure success for all.

Senator Lovstad-The \$27,000 budget, is all that SAF or is part of it M&E?

Mr. Yunkers-That is SAF.

Senator Wilke-Are you allocated from the SLD&SL budget or do you receive in-kind?

Director Yunkers-We do have 50% for staff. We receive supplies and share resources like the copy card.

Senator Varner-What effort do you make to try and reach the non traditional students to make them aware of the office?

Nontrad Co-President-It is difficult to identify member outright. We are a very diverse group. We have been contacting staff and faculty to find out students that are non trads and help them be aware of the program. This semester we are actually working harder with different organizations to identify and attract individuals that may be interested in the program. This is a focus of ours.

Senator Lovstad-How many new students come here directly because of the program?

Mr. Yunkers-I don't know but I feel if there were not a program they may not be coming.

Campus Recreation Outdoor Facilities Proposal- President Davenport, Vice President Rick Straka, Campus Recreation Director Todd Pfungsten, Vice President Patricia Swatfager-Haney

(handout of most revised Campus Recreation Outdoor Facilities proposal)

Thank you for the consultation and input that students have had. Since this fall we had a working committee with nine students including students from MSSA. We are here today to present a very much revised proposal for campus rec and an outdoor track. It has been student, campus and community consultation. Last spring and this fall we heard a number of concerns that students raised. We have addressed those in the proposal. We are doing what you had said to us to focus on. You said to try to use any other source of funding in private funding and in working with the community. You said to be sensitive to tuition and fees that have been growing. You said you wanted affordability and quality in terms of your education. That is a piece of this in terms of the proposal. You said to focus on Campus Rec and outdoor facilities instead of Athletics. I think that what we have come back with utilizes campus recreation that students can use across the board. We feel this is high quality program of facilities. We talked with sensitivity in terms of what a fee would be. In order for us to get into this year's bonding cycle we had to have a place holder proposal put in this fall. It is still in consultation. The fee in the first reading for the Board of Trustees was \$40.00. This fee presented today is considerably lower than that \$40.00 proposal.

Director Pfungsten-There has been a lot of changes since last April 10. Field turf and bubble has been taken off the student fee funded portion. Lighting of the Baseball and Softball fields have been taken off. Future projects pending funding-install all-weather surface at Blakeslee, install lights on baseball and softball field, re-lamp Blakeslee lights. If the field turf would ever be on Blakeslee would need new lights because of Astronomy. We would put hoods over them so that we do not get so much light pollution. We could go from using this field 6-8 times a year to 100 times a year. We would look at two separate phases of construction of space.

Phase I-Construct two new Campus Recreation softball fields with two flag football fields in the outfields and a 40 car parking lot. Construct 8 new tennis courts and hitting wall, lighting of softball, soccer field and tennis courts, natural turf practice soccer, outdoor lighted basketball; outdoor lighted ice rink, multipurpose field, fitness trail and stations- this would be for walking and in-line skating, roller blading and to get people off the streets. The general student body would use this area. Safety is the critical thing. Our softball fields currently all run together, it is truly unsafe. Our program has grown so much that we need lights. We now have 80 softball teams. If we had these fields we could offer softball in the fall and spring. Officials have more time and participants have more time in the evenings to play. The ability to grow our programs is important. We can only play on 3 of the 4 fields. Our numbers continue to rise in both the indoor and outdoor facilities. We are up over 8% since last year in Otto. Those students are just waiting to get outside and play softball and track. Those programs will just continue to grow.

Other benefits-when students can play under the lights it brings life to campus. I have that dream for our institution. Athletics brings a lot of spirit to campus and so does campus rec. Playing under the lights can add positive alternatives to students. A fit healthy happy student means you are more apt to stay and graduate and will have a boast for your GPA. It adds value to your education.

Phase 1B-Construct 2 new Campus Recreation softball fields with 3 flag football fields in the outfields, relocate lacrosse field, fitness trail, construct a new outdoor track-lighted, 9 lane all weather track, seating for 1,500, centralized restrooms, storage concession area to serve entire outdoor facility area, discus and hammer throw, competition soccer field.

Vice President Straka-The original proposal was a \$14 .5 million dollar project. We listened to what the students had to say and we looked at what is seen as primarily athletic in nature. New proposal is absolutely recreation based. Only the track is for athletics and that will be used for recreational use and academic use. We will look at other sources of funding for the score board and PA. We do know that both the indoor tracks are heavily used by students during open hours.

Finances: What we are bringing forward today is about a \$8.5 million dollar proposal and a 20 year revenue bond. When we sell this bond we say that it is secured by a student fee in place that allows us to spend \$8 million now. This is similar to revenue bonds for the Student Union and renovations as well as that is how we fund our residence halls. We have worked diligently to get the fee down to somewhere around \$28-\$29.00 per semester. It includes some additional costs like maintenance, drainage and water. The important thing is to look at the consultation process. When the referendum failed we knew it was not dead. There was more support for this than we thought. The sentiment was to go back to the drawing board with campus recreation. We went back and looked at things there was student support for. We have worked diligently on this all fall to. We brought back a proposal that is more affordable and one we feel is absolutely campus recreation. There was a sentiment, at least from the editor of the newspaper, for us to revisit this and find a common ground.

President Davenport-I would underscore that this outdoor recreation plan is for the students. My concern is for you and your health, fitness and wellness. Our university reputation is important. The President is to promote the university and to add value to your educational degree. I spend a lot of time at the legislature to try to bring new academic facilities so that your learning environment is the absolutely best and to create an environment to campus that you would be proud of and to assist you in your education. I don't often talk about recreation although it has been a topic in the last few years. This interests me because I have visit many campuses and have found our university facilities are often in worse condition than other universities. We are clearly a tier two institution striving to be a tier one. It is my goal, with the help of a lot of people to move this to a more prestige's university. That is my position and why I support this renovation and upgrades. Senator Lust-\$1.69 million. You took out \$410,000 but you are still saddling students with 80%, do 80% of the students use the facility and get the benefit of the field?

President Davenport-There has to be overlap on all the space we have on campus. In this case the space is for mostly non-athletes. There will be some athletes using the space as well. From what I have heard of the plan it is all about outdoor recreation and intramural sports.

Vice President Straka-There will be plenty of open hours for students to use that space and be off the streets. We absolutely believe there will be student use of that track. We hope there will be open hours to get students off the streets for jogging and things, 80% that would be a difficult call. Otto is used primarily by students and was funded by the tax payers in Minnesota. If you look at Otto arena, I would have to pay a fee to go in and use it. The tax payers paid 2/3 of the cost. Students through tuition, paid about 1/12 of Otto Rec Center. We see students using that facility and the fieldhouse.

Senator Lust-Do you see this similar to the fieldhouse?

Director Pfingsten-That space will get used for academic classes as well, concepts of fitness, aerobic conditioning in the fall and spring. Track and field is offered as a class. I envision faculty and staff at noon hour walking with students. From 2:00-6:00 P.M. we would see what we see in the fieldhouse, team practices, after that the new facilities would be open to the general student population as well as fitness classes. We truly want to get our students off the streets.

Vice President Swatfager-Haney-There has been so much collaboration in this process with academics, athletics, and intramurals. We have had volunteers from ROTC to help with building the fitness track. We want what is best for the students using the resources we have. We have seen cooperation with scheduling. If Athletics can fund the field turf in Blakeslee, we will be able to use that as well. Scheduling will not be dominated. Having these fields will provide opportunities for all students.

Director Pfingsten-Kevin Buisman brought that up. He said when field turf goes in to Blakeslee-it will be open for Campus Rec as well. It will be used heavily. Activity classes will use it.

Senator Ross-You touched on the safety piece? What is your plan to supervise?

Director Pfingsten-We always have supervisors when activities are going on, flag football, softball. We have certified CPR with med kits. The plan was not to light the fitness trail, maybe low level lighting. There will be people in the area.

Senator Ross-Is Director Buisman going to have any input?

Vice President Straka-We don't view this as an athletic proposal.

Senator Ross-Will athletes use the practice field?

Vice President Straka-Yes, we view it as soccer but we can turn that over to recreation. We have asked athletics to stay off that south end of the field because of sloping grade.

Vice President Swatfager-Haney-We have also had conversations with students about using some of the areas for homecoming activities, outdoor concerts, and other sorts of outdoor activities.

Senator Hill-Can you please list specifically what new evidence you have that says the majority of the student body supports this?

Vice President Straka-I don't think we have ever said we had that evidence or would make an assumption that there is such evidence. We are bringing back what we felt what was a voice of the *Reporter*, which is not the official voice of the students but a voice of students that want to bring this back to student leadership.

Senator Lovstad-16.6% is contingency and fees, can you elaborate?

Vice President Straka-8% is design fees. We will have to pay the architect to come in and we will have civil engineering. 10% is contingency fee.

Director Pfingsten-These are pre-design numbers given to us in 06.

Vice President Swatfager-Haney-There is a process in the pre-design that we would ask students about and have student consultation on. It is not like this is an end process.

Senator Wilke-I like the plan. My question is that you presented this fee without our consultation.

Vice President Swatfager-Haney-The intention was a placeholder and the language in the proposal said that MSU, Mankato is in consultation with students and we plan to bring back a revised proposal. We were told we had to have a placeholder in fall. It came in on Dec. 21 and they wanted it back on Jan 2. We would not be allowed to impose a fee on you nor would we want to. We needed to get in the cycle or we would lose a year or two. We would almost have to start over. The revenue fund was going out to bond. Two other schools, Moorhead and Winona had requested. This was an intent to honor the work we have done with you this far. This was to ask the board for permission to come forward with a proposal after consultation with students. We could go back and say there is no proposal. The original was a \$30-40 dollar proposal. We put it at the maximum rather than come back and ask for more. It was always very clear that we are in consultation.

Senator Wilke-Should this body or potentially the students still not support this plan, would you continue with the plan as proposed?

President Davenport-We do have the option to do that. We would have to look at the concerns and responses and go from there.

Senator Grove-I think the track and field would be a great addition. I am concerned about the parking facility. Where will everyone park for track and field events?

Director Pfingsten-Currently we access the back of green Lot 1. The other option is to work with Parking and Purple lots.

Vice President Straka-We do that now. There is some give and take in some of the lots. Long term would be to see Gage towers go down. We will work with Parking short term.

Senator Madden-Thank you for a well structured presentation. Will there be unfettered student access to all these facilities?

Director Pfingsten-We currently have sign up if a group wants to reserve a space for an event. They do that through our office. We do schedule blanket open rec. We are not sure about fencing but students will have access to spaces to reserve when there is not classes. The answer is yes.

Senator Carpenter-If a motion is to bring this to referendum would the administration wait to make a decision until the referendum is complete?

President Davenport-I think we would have to talk about that. I think with the consistency that we have approached consultation and in the spirit of shared governance we would take that to advisement. If the referendum was timely I would say we would wait. If it were put off for another year or action was delayed, I would exercise my privileges.

Vice President Carmody-In my opinion this is looking much better than what it was. This is the best possible of all solutions. The creation of a new fee, would we be able to put a cap on this new fee and come back for consultation if things were to be added?

Vice President Straka-We would be required by the board to do that. Absolutely if there was any intent to increase the fee we would have to have student consultation.

Senator Rajabali-I like this. \$28.00 per semester-what happens after the 20 years?

Vice President Straka-That would happen after us. There would have to be serious consultation. If there were not bonds to pay off they would have to consult with the administration on the use of the money. Consultation would have to be out there.

Vice President Swatfager-Haney-The fee goes away when the bonds are paid off. These facilities are high quality and will last for years.

Senator Varner-What do you plan to do to educate students about this?

Vice President Swatfager-Haney-We have talked about co-sponsoring an Open Forum with your leadership. We will have the web site up and running with the new plan and the new financials. We want people to come and ask questions specifically. There will be question boxes.

President Frederick-I have shown my support for this proposal. I think this is much better than what was drafted last year. I have been on this committee for several years. We respect that administration is listening to us especially to outside funding. Pending student support for this proposal what kind of a time line do you think there will be for support for the athletic fields?

President Davenport-We are working on raising money for a state of art College of Business building and also an Allied Health Building. Those are my priorities.

Vice President Straka and Kevin Buisman and Mike Miller will be working on the athletic pieces.

Vice President Straka-We are working with the baseball alumni and that is a source of income. We have been working with the city and the economic development area. They are actually looking at a new sheet of ice downtown for a Southern Minnesota Women's Hockey Center. That would move our women to a facility much more in line with what our men play in. The Touchdown Club is looking at what they can bring to the table. We have talked to the city about lights to softball and baseball fields if we can have some kind of use in the summer, that would generate a revenue stream. I can't put a timeline on development. I can tell you we are concerned about it and we are working on it. The supporters of the football program are working on this.

Senator Lovstad-I hear about student consultation. Can you describe that to this point?

Vice President Straka-We have been working with your leadership plus 5 students, our faculty and bargaining units. This is the most important part, now that we are

able to present to you the plan. For you to try to amend the plan with 30 people will be a difficult thing to do. We believe we are representing the students. We are going to listen to your feedback.

Senator Ross-Is there a reason why there is not a driving range?

Director Pfungsten-I have never known the gold driving range to be used. Our golf team utilizes Mankato Golf Club or Terrace View.

Senator Ross-Do you foresee anything being built where Gage is like the ice arena?

Vice President Straka-I don't see that coming back. That would be part of the overall master plan. We believe our financial plan is realistically to tear Gage down and rebuild a 600 bed res hall. A hockey rink is not in the proposal at all.

President Davenport-That is a potential building site but I would say not a student residential hall. Possibly maybe for new academic buildings. We are planning for another campaign when the College of Business is done. We have discussed a student services building. We don't have a site. We will leave that site alone, as we grow as an institution we will look at that.

Senator Varner-What is the area down by the trail that is undeveloped.

Director Pfungsten-That would be undeveloped. ROTC does use that for marching, they like it just the way it is.

Allocations Requests-Senator Bhasin

SAC Motion 02.06.08A

SAC recommends \$550 to the Psychology Graduate Student Association to attend the Industrial Organizational Behavior Graduate Student Conference in Denver, CO from March 13 th to the 16 th .
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11 students will be attending. They are doing individual contributions and other fundraising. This money would be for registration fee. Total request was for \$550. They will be spending \$4,500.00 Individual contribution would be \$170.00.

Motion carries 19 y, 1 no 1 abstention

Approval of Agenda Agenda stands approved

Approval of Minutes 1-30-2008 Minutes stand Approved

Officer Reports

President Chris Frederick

The caucus was amazing. There were so many students in attendance, over 1500.

I had the opportunity of attending Meet & Confer. We discussed Campus Rec and the presentation with President Davenport.

We talked about what the committees have been doing and what policies you have reviewed and passed. I would like to see more people show up to Meet & Confer. If you are interested please let us know.

Alcohol High Risk Drinking Among Young Adults-come one, come all. I would love to see

50 students show up. I think the community would love to hear from the young population. I will be leading a student panel. Students from Gustavus, Bethany and SCC will be participating, also high school members.

Campus Recreation Presentation, we need to continue this consultation process and get the information to students and encourage them to attend the Open Forum.

A student survey will be going out, it is in the office. Pick it apart and give suggestions according to what your constituents think. I challenge you to ask questions and make difficult decisions. We will be finalizing over a \$9 million dollar budget this spring.

Senator Schmidt-Meet & Confer-would we be able to participate?

President Frederick-Absolutely

Senator Hill-Who is doing the advertising for the Open Forum?

President Frederick-We will be sending out an all student email, a full page ad in the *Reporter*, the survey, a link on the MnSCU home page. We want people to be aware and educated.

Senator Biers-Will there be a link on the web site for the survey?

President Frederick-It will be an anonymous survey with a link and they can cut and paste.

Appointments: Constitution Commission-Brett Carpenter, Kristy Pottebaum

Newspaper Committee-Vice President Carmody, Planning Sub Meet & Confer-Jared Grove

Master Planning Committee Brett Fleck

Vice President Casey Carmody

MSUSA this past weekend-Senator Sheran was there and we spoke to her about the legislature and what MnSCU should be doing about alcohol concerns not just on our campus but throughout the state. Out of that as a statewide student association we opposed Parental Notification. It was very similar to what we passed here two weeks ago. We told her about what our body had passed because we felt that since she represents us she should know some of those things. We also passed a motion about an amnesty policy-when a person is drinking underage they may be fearful of trying to get help for a friend that may be in trouble. This would prevent them from getting in trouble. We felt this would be helpful throughout all seven schools in the state. This would be a great way of making sure people are staying safe. It does not encourage students to drink underage or allow them to use this as an excuse but to make sure they are safe and that they can call and get help without getting in trouble.

We passed the state and federal legislative agenda. These are the things we will be lobbying for in St. Paul and in Washington D.C. The election law reform was on there so that the university could give information on students to the precincts. Also to make sure that if you have a lease that you could use that to prove residence. We will also be advocating for bonding money for Trafton and for HEAPER dollars. On the federal agenda we are looking at financial aid and Pell Grants for lower income students, and a nation wide text book law. Elections will be held at the next conference for State and Vice Chair and Treasurer.

Bowling-it was a sad day! We lost by 3 pins. Opportunities like that help to build

relationships with the administration and help with shared governance. Caucus-there were several people there from our senate. It was a great opportunity to vote and get your platforms in on both parties. President Frederick was able to get several things passed. I was able to make a motion to get the Democratic Party to go back to the 67/33 allocation model passed. It is now about half and half. I was also chosen as a delegate so that I can keep moving on advocating for student rights. President Frederick and I met with Don Larsson , President of IFO, today. There is a contract settlement, he is not even sure of all the details. They are waiting on the draft from MnSCU. It has to be voted on and approved by MnSCU. This affects where our tuition will be for next year. The Bookstore has had some glitches with not getting the right amount of copies. He was interested in the Pilot plan for the bookstore. President Frederick-Was it true that President Frederick was able to pass legislation to keep Same Day Voter Registration? Vice President Carmody-Yes, it is important that students have that right. There were 180 people in my precinct. There was a lot of good work that was done.

Speaker Ryan Anderson

Resignations: Abdihakim Abdi, Mary Nelson, Samir Bhattari. These seats will be open next week.

New Business

Student Affairs Committee Motion 02.06.08 A

Whereas: The MSSA and its members are part of the University policy consultation process.

Whereas: The Student Affairs Committee is a body representative of the students and campus life at MSU.

Whereas: The Student Affairs Committee is committed to preserving the quality of campus life and the rights of the individual student at MSU

Whereas: The Student Affairs Committee feels the Tobacco Policy, as currently written, may not only degrade the quality of campus life and student-to-student and student-to-faculty relations with its method of enforcement but also infringe on the rights of individual students

Be It Resolved: The Student Affairs Committee unanimously supports a re-review, and a possible restructuring of the Proposed Tobacco Policy and/or a possible increased enforcement of the existing Smoking and Tobacco Policies.

Be It Further Resolved: The Student Affairs Committee would welcome student input on the proposed policy in an Open Forum setting, date to be determined.

Senator Madden-Move to amend to add the date of 2-13-08 from 10 AM-2:00 PM.

I think we could squeeze the smoking policy in for at least an hour.

Senator McMahon-We need to get this done.

Vice President Carmody-I am going to go against this because the format of the Open Forum is different than last semester. This format will be with pictures of Campus Rec and Director Pflingsten answering questions. We could vote this down and put questions on the survey and do a traditional Open Forum later in the semester. I don't think the Campus Rec forum is the proper venue.

Senator Hill-You will be blurring the lines if we do it at the Campus Rec Open Forum.

Senator Madden-I will speak against my own amendment. I did not know the format was different. In light of that evidence, I speak against it.

Motion fails

President Frederick-Move to strike the last Be it Resolved, second Lovstad

President Frederick-I think we should get questions added to the survey, when we get the information back Student Affairs can take that information.

Senator Hill-I do think it needs to be discussed.

Senator Madden-We should not strike this, I feel we need an Open Forum.

Senator Biers-This will be a hot issue and students will be on both sides. I don't know how much info we will get from the survey.

Senator Hill-I strongly oppose striking.

President Frederick-We need to reword this.

Vice President Carmody-If we keep this in there it would bind us to have an Open Forum. This says we will do the survey and gauge if we should do the Open Forum.

Amendment passes 9 y 6 no

Motion to table for one week fails.

President Frederick-Move to amend -the Student Affairs Committee would welcome student input and would welcome survey results. This will reaffirm that this will come back to Student Affairs.

Senator Varner-I have full faith in the Student Affairs Committee and this will bring it back to the committee.

Amendment Passes

Amended Motion Passes 16 y 3 abstentions

Senator Reports

Kristy Pottebaum- College of Allied Health and Nursing

In the Academic Affairs Committee, we have been discussing issues such as plus/minus grading, advising, and priority registration. I think the plus minus grading scale would be beneficial to students because the difference of a couple percentages could change a B to a B+. This would be positive for the student's GPA. Priority registration is on the rail with me, in that it has many students feeling like athletes are getting more privileges than the non-athlete. However, there is only a small gap of time that these athletes have in order to sign up for classes.

I participated in Meet Your Senator week bowling and the chili lunch. Both events were enjoyable, and I believe someone owes me a pop for my bowling score.

I had also planned on attending bowling on Tuesday, however I was sick.

This week I attended Ron Paul at the U of M and was very impressed. I also caucused on Tuesday and am one of eight newly appointed delegates for Precinct 6 along with Senators Carpenter and Grove.

I am also excited about the talk of a new Allied Health & Science Building

Vang Xiong- College of Graduate Studies

It's an honored and privilege to be here today to report of what I have done lately in the college as a Graduate Senator.

On Tuesday, February 5, 2008 (which is yesterday). I was invited by the Black Student Union and African American Affairs Office to do a presentation about "What is Black History Month?" As a graduate senator, I am not only represented for the College of Graduate Studies and Research or the Ethnic Studies Department (where as I'm working on my Master's Degree). But I represented as a member and senator from the Minnesota State Student Association.

At the presentation, I had a full class of participants including both graduate and undergraduate students; also including the Vice-President for the Institutional Diversity: Dr. Fagin; two Multicultural Office staff: Chris Tran and Maria Baxter Naumah, and a faculty from the Ethnic Studies Department: Professor Hanh-Huy Phan – who is a senior professor teaching at MSU for 32 years and was the recipient of the Pathfinder Award in two weeks ago.

As many of you've already known, I'm also a "Teaching Assistant" for the Ethnic Studies Department. I'm aware that when we have senate meeting, we do not have many college students to participate with us at this meeting. My role as a Senator and Teaching Assistant, I encouraged all my four classes: majorities are undergraduate students and some graduate students to participate at the senate meeting, to observe and learn the senate so they could become the future of senators to represent MSSA. In the next two weeks, if you see students come here in this room, just let you know that they are here to observe and writing papers for their extra-credits, as well as interest.

One of the goals from the university's President Davenport --- is to promote diversity on campus. As a Graduate Senator, I worked very hard with MSU faculty and graduate students to promote diversity on campus. On March 5th, 2008; from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 in the CSU Hearth Lounge down the basement. I, myself, the founder, and two other graduate students: Ms. Yessica Bonfil from Ethnic Studies, and Mr. Sang Yang from Political Science Studies; we are holding an event called "The Beauty of Cultures".

The purpose of this event is to promote diversity on campus as of what President Davenport has on his agenda. In this event, we will include all groups of dancers, such as:

- Native American Dance (the pow-wow)
- Nepalese Dance and India Dance from the International Student Center
- Lion Dance from the Vietnamese Student Association
- Mexican Dance from the Latino Student Association
- Somalia Dance from the Somalia Student Association
- MSU Step Dance Team
- Drag Show from the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Center
- Chinese and Laotian Dances from the Asian Minnesota Community

We are still in the process of recruiting more dancers: such as modern dance, hip hop and spoken words, and more. I encouraged all of you senators to join us on Wednesday, March 5th, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. I would like to acknowledge you all (senator) to the communities and students.

As an Asian American college students and senator to represent the university; I have many students came to me to invite you (my colleagues and senators) to join their TET New Year celebration on this Saturday, in the CSU Ballroom. The Vietnamese Student Association is welcome the senate to celebrate this New Year with them. I also had sent you an invitation from the Vietnamese Student Association. If there is any question, please feel free contact the VASA President.

Thuy Huynh- Undeclared

I entered as a senator towards the end of fall semester. This will be my first senate report that I am giving. Since I have been here at MNSU I have been very involved. I attend all social events that I possibly can. I really like Mankato as a school because it is small and that is what I looked for in a school. I missed one senate meeting because I broke my foot that week, but that was about it. In Diversity we are focusing a lot on international students and issues involving them. Next week Sodexo is going to come in and talk to us and we have a lot of questions to ask them regarding the way they treat their workers. For Academic Affairs, we are trying to start a campaign to encourage students to meet with their advisors.

“Meet your Senator Week”, was fun. I did not realize how important we, as senators are, until that week. I was able to go to the game room but did not do much due to my leg. I wish I could have joined because I felt very welcomed as the other senators invited me to various activities. Nothing much is going on in my life. School is great and people are too. I attended a very emotional meeting Monday with my friends that I am glad I went to. It was the issues with Mankato as a community and how they act towards minorities. I was able to find some issues that I will be talking to Abbie about so she can help me get things started. I talked to Abbie Tuesday and she helped me a lot and I appreciate that.

The caucus was on Tuesday and I wish I could have voted. I did not because I did not have my citizen papers with me. I realize that did not matter but it was too late. I did the best I could and encouraged plenty of people to vote. I am more comfortable with the senate now and I am ready to express my issues I have later on in the week.

Senator Schmidt-Was that with the College of Social & Behavioral Science or

The university as a whole?

Senator Huynh-At first it was about the College of Social & Behavioral Science but
Then we discussed the entire campus.

Andy Wilke- Off Campus

This semester has been a quiet one thus far for me. I have been able to attend each Senate meeting. The Student Affairs committee has only met once so far this semester, at which I was named the new Vice Chairman. We have finalized our position regarding the smoking ban and have begun to tackle other issues including the manner in which hockey tickets are distributed. We have received a number of complaints, some formal some informal, from students that believe the process of ticket distribution to be unfair at best.

My other committee, the CSU Board, had originally decided to meet at a time that conflicted with my schedule. However, we have chosen to meet at another time to better accommodate my schedule and the rest of the boards members. There is one issue that I will continue to be particularly interested in is the office of the Student Leadership Development and Service Learning and its future. I question the direction the new directors are going with the office based on their presentation to senate on the 23rd of January. From what I understand they would like to fracture the office and separate the Service Learning portion from the Student Leadership portion. This trouble me and I believe the future will be a tumultuous one for student involvement on this campus. It is unfortunate that such changes seem be the product of convenience rather than in the best interest of the students of MSU.

Additionally, I have been increasingly excited by the amount of political involvement by the student body. I had the pleasure of caucusing on Super Duper Tuesday at Mankato East High School and it was a sight to see. While the total amount of people that were there was staggering, I was even more amazed by the number of students that became involved in our country's great democratic process.

Lastly, I have seen greater continuity among the members of MSSA. Events such as 'Meet you Senator Week' are great venues for MSSA to reach out to students, and also for senators to produce greater working relationships with one another.

To close, I am looking forward to the semester to come and can't wait for MSSA to sink its teeth into some issues of real substance.

Kelly Biers- Off Campus

Yesterday was caucus night, and it was great to see much of the MSSA there. East high school was completely packed, and although most people only showed up to vote and leave, there were quite a few people who stayed for the rest of the precinct business. Ryan Anderson and I are in precinct 14, and I'm happy to announce that Ryan was elected the precinct chair, and that he and I will be delegates at the county convention. Precinct 14 being an overwhelmingly college student population, I was pleased to see about 140 people show up to vote. Unfortunately, due to the unexpected number of people showing up for the caucuses, the event was a bit chaotic, and not many people knew that there *was* other business to take care of. But, it was great to see so many people participating in what is sure to be an exciting election year.

The Diversity Committee recently met with Kathy Grant to discuss the insurance policy for international students and the possibility of creating a less expensive option, or

an option that covers basic services such as eye and dental. The insurance policy for international students, though expensive, is actually less expensive than the policy for domestic students. When more people buy a particular insurance plan, it becomes less expensive and the benefits increase. Since the international student insurance policy is mandatory, there is obviously a great number of people buying it. This means that creating another option for international students would split the number of people buying any one insurance policy, making both policies more expensive with fewer benefits. One fairly good policy would become two mediocre policies. An alternative solution is to create “riders” which are optional additions to an insurance policy. This would keep international students on one insurance plan, keeping rates lower and benefits higher, while still being able to offer basic services such as eye and dental that are not covered by the current plan. Kathy will be looking into this alternative, as well as the possibility of combining the international and domestic plans, which would get everybody on one plan, again decreasing rates and increasing benefits.

Next semester, MSU will be hosting the 3rd Annual Minnesota Out! Campus Conference, a conference designed to promote leadership skills among LGBT and ally students, faculty, and staff. This is open not only to MnSCU schools, but also to U of M and private schools. I’ll be one of the co-chairs for the event, and I’m really excited about it. Planning is already underway, and we should have some great speakers and workshops. The conference will be taking place in November. I’ll have more details as it comes closer.

Dave Meyers-Maverick Hall

I've been really busy since my last report with the caucus and helping with the Obama campaign. I attended the first Student Affairs meeting last week. We went over the smoking ban, elected a vice chair, and wrote a motion.

Announcements

Senator Hill-I encourage all senators to encourage women to run for open vacancies.

Senator Madden-Student Affairs will meet tomorrow.

Senator Biers-Vagina Monologues next Thursday and Friday.

Senator Rajabali-MSUSA Diversity Conference is coming up Feb 22-24.

Senator Schmidt-Get people here for the vacancies

Senator Carpenter-Ron Paul won precinct 6 and I think Blue Earth County.

Speaker Anderson-I do plan to run for MSSA President and Murtaza Rajabali will run for Vice President. I would appreciate your support. We will have an aggressive campaign.

Roll Call

Senators Present

Biers, Carpenter, Grove, Hill, Huynh, Johnson, Long, Lovstad, Madden, McMahan, Pahl, Pottebaum, Quast, Rajabali, Schmidt, Varner

Executive Staff Present

President Frederick, Vice President Carmody

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 6:48 PM