

**75th MSSA Senate**  
**March 5, 2008**

**75th Senate called to order Speaker Ryan Anderson**

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

Rachael Quast 19-0-0, Kristy Pottebaum 13-0-0-1, Holly Pahl 22-0-0-1, Jared Grove 19-0-0, Brandon Ross 22-0-0-1, James Varner 6-1-0, Brett Carpenter 14-0-0, Vang Xiong 10-1-0, Matthew Lust 21-2-0, Murtaza Rajabali 21-1-0-1, Harshdeep Bhasin 17-1-0-3, Casey Adkins 3-0-0, Brian Leonhardi 5-0-0-2, Matthew Schmidt 16-0-0, Thuy Huynh-proxy Dan Huynh 11-0-0-1, Ruby Lopez 4-0-0, Jeffrey Long 19-0-0, Noah Olanrewaju, 4-2-0, Andy Wilke 19-0-0, Abbie Hill 22-1-0, Nathan Madden 22-1-0, Brian McMahan 20-0-0, Kelly Biers 24-0-0, Kristopher Lovstad 23-0-0, Jon Hurm 2-1-0, Ryan Johnson 16-4-0, Dave Meyers 18-0-0, President Chris Frederick 22-0-0-1, Vice President Carmody 22-0-0-1

**Approval of Agenda** Agenda stands approved

**Approval of Minutes 2-27-2008 Minutes** stand approved

**Officer Reports**

**President Chris Frederick**

Thank you to all the MSSA for their support and for sending the flowers. I really do appreciate that. Senator Bhasin, Senator Grove and I will be attending the DC lobby trip during break. We received correspondence from the RHA Assembly and I would like to address some concerns and I would like some of you to help address that letter and the direction we should take as we do recognize RHA as a standing body of MSSA.

**Vice President Casey Carmody**

Last week we had Meet & Confer on Friday. Several senators attended, hopefully everyone learned a lot. We went over the community High Risk Drinking Summit. We explained to them that we were going to lobby day and they wanted us to keep in the backs of our minds the Mankato Civic Center expansion. The city would like to expand the civic center and make it a bit larger. This would allow for concerts, Mankato MSU Women's Hockey, Regional Hockey. The school is trying to work with the city on establishing that as it would help us as much as the city. The administration is thinking about changing the Extended Learning. They would like to attach, The College of Extended Learning. We might take consideration of that because we would need representation on this body.

This week I took part in the Newspaper Committee, they decide who is going to be the new Editor of the Reporter. Derrick Wearing will be the new Editor. The work that he currently does is amazing. You can look forward to a good paper next year.

We attended Lobby Day today. We met with about 9 different senators and representatives. We talked about bonding issues. We talked about bonding issues and HEAPER, which is heating and cooling etc. We also were working on voting law changes. We talked about using rent statements to vouch for you when voting. We are asking for a review of the State Grants-maybe adding on a 5<sup>th</sup> year and increasing living expenses. We were just advocating for a review as the last time it was reviewed was in 2000 and things have gone up since then. We talked to local legislators, Kathy Sheran, Kathy Brynart, and Terry Morrow. They all mentioned the High Risk Drinking Summit. It is a big issue across the state. It is important we get our voice heard on these issues.

President Frederick-Was there discussion on the city putting a sheet of ice or an Ice Plaza on campus through the bonding process?

Vice President Carmody-There was a bonding request put in but today it was announced that it will not be funded through the bonding process. Representative Morrow told us about that.

Senator Ross-In discussion with administrators, they are not going to put it on campus.

Senator Carpenter-Vice President Straka said that the County owns Stadium Road and they hate Parking lot 7 because there is an entrance and crosswalk. So they are taking that in to account in regard to the Ice/Basketball Court.

**Speaker Ryan Anderson**

The legislators were really responsive to us and they said they would support the bonding process as much as possible. The legislators said the budget deficit would be really hard on the bonding process. Voting rights-will make it easier for students to turn out on election day to vote. They are very open to our view on parental notification and that we do view high risk drinking as a problem.

Correspondence (read)

This came about last year because our Legislative Affairs Coordinator wanted to register voters.

MSSA wanted a good way to reach Res Hall students.

President Frederick-Is it true that there has been no correspondence prior to this in regard to the MSSA space access policy?

Speaker Anderson-No correspondence that I have been aware of.

Senator Wilke-Is this referring to MSSA Elections material or general MSSA material or both?

Speaker-Election material supersedes this policy. This is for generally informing students of our activities and recruiting for lobby day etc.

Senator Lovstad-That would include the current check posters?

Speaker Anderson-To my knowledge yes.

Senator Lovstad-How many posters are currently in Gage or McElroy?

Speaker-Zero

Senator McMahan-Has there been any push to put posters in Gage?

Speaker-Reaching out to students in the Res Halls is one of the most important things we do. We need to reach people early in their academic careers; it is important to the university community.

Senator Wilke-Are they admitting they are an apathetic population and they don't care what MSSA has to say?

Senator Lovstad-Are they arguing on principle or because there were too many posters?

President Frederick-This stems off the Space Access Policy. It was an agreement between the Office of Student Affairs and MSSA so that we would not reach roadblocks that we have in the past. One of the stipulations was that we work with RHA and share that as RHA has a solicitation process. I am disappointed we did not have the opportunity of going to them and talking about the missing pieces.

Vice President Carmody-We did meet with Tom earlier in the year. We said we would be willing to talk to the general assembly. They did not get back to us. We felt it was misunderstood. The Space Access protects students in the dorms. MSSA does need to get information out but this allows us to do it without every single group on campus being allowed. We did present to them, we asked for feedback. We left that meeting thinking they would contact us about coming to a meeting. We were not given an opportunity to present.

Senator Lovstad-Were there any senators present at this meeting?

Speaker-No

**Recognized Student Organizations:** Marketing Club, Minnesota State Mankato Annual Fund, Saudi Students' Club

**New Business/Allocations Requests**

### **SAC Motion #03.05.08 A**

**SAC recommends allocating up to \$8,045.00 to Maverick Forensics to travel to The American Forensics Association National Individual Events Tournament (AFA-NIET) at the University of Texas, Austin, TX. and to attend the National Forensic Association National Championship Tournament (NFA) at Tennessee State University in Nashville, TN**

Senator Bhasin-They requested \$15,229.52. The number of students going is nine students for the AFA-NIET and 20 students for the NFA. The reason this amount was given is because they fall under tournament travel. Justification for attending is because for AFA-NIET you must rank in the top three at three events. MSU Forensics is one of less than 10 institutions to have attended all AFA national tournaments since 1977. This would guarantee expenses would be covered. The director would have the discretion to use this money how she felt best at the tournaments.

Senator Lovstad-Has forensics received money already this year?

Speaker Bhasin-No.

Senator Grove-That \$16,000 left in the SAC budget, is that after or before these motions?

Senator Bhasin-Before.

Senator McMahan-Is it common practice to allocate for two tournaments at once?

Senator Bhasin-It depends on the number of students they want to take and it is discretionary

Senator Ross-Have they done any fundraising on their own?

Senator Bhasin-No, they have had high school tournaments that do bring in some money.

Senator Long-If they do not get all the funding, how will they pick up the rest?

Senator Bhasin-They will have to choose which tournament they will attend.

Senator Schmidt-Forensics does a lot of recruiting. There are people here because they are so good, adding on to their reputation would be a valuable asset to us.

Senator Carpenter-I generally don't like to give money to groups that do not fundraise but as was pointed out they do hold tournaments.

Vice President Carmody-Forensics is compared to Athletics in the SAC guidelines. They can receive a different amount than RSO's.

**Motion carries**

### **SAC Motion #03.05.08 B**

**SAC recommends allocating up to \$1200.00 to MSU Club Volleyball to attend the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) National Volleyball Tournament in Dallas, TX**

Senator Bhasin-There are 12 students going. They requested \$4,000.00. Total expenses was \$7,300.00. Fundraising was \$2,100.00. If funded fully personal contribution would be \$300.00

**Motion carries**

### **SAC Motion #03.05.08C**

**SAC recommends allocating up to \$500.00 to Field Ecology Club to conduct a field trip to the Mississippi Delta Region of Louisiana to observe and experience bayou ecology and coastal restoration efforts.**

Senator Bhasin-16 students are going. They requested \$800.00 to off set transportation. Expenses \$2,455.00 They fundraised \$1500.00. The individual contribution is \$60.00 per student.

Senator Wilke-Why did SAC give them that amount for 16 students?

Senator Bhasin- Because the personal contribution is low.

**Motion Carries**

### **SAC Motion #03.05.08 D**

**SAC recommends allocating up to \$400.00 to Mudworks to attend the National Council on the Education of the Ceramic Arts (NECA) in Pittsburgh, PA**

Senator Bhasin-There are 8 students going. They requested \$400.00. Total expenses \$4,000.00. They fundraised \$1100.00 from pottery sales. Individual contributions if funded fully is \$357.00

**Motion Carries**

### **SAC Motion #03.05.08 E**

**SAC recommends allocating up to \$315.00 to MSU Circle K International to attend the Circle K District Convention in St. Cloud, MN**

Senator Bhasin-There are 12 students going. Total expenses are \$2,322.00. Personal contribution-\$45.00 The fundraised \$743.00.

Senator Lovstad-What is Circle K International?

Speaker-It is a service learning organization and affiliated with the Rotary Club.

**Motion Carries**

### **SAC Motion #03.05.08F (SOAFC)**

**SAC recommends allocating up to \$500.00 to Psi Chi National Honor Society in Psychology to host a guest speaker, Dr. Stacey Tovino discussing Neuroscience, Law and Mental Health.**

**Senator Bhasin (SOAFC balance \$1,730)**

The number of students expected to attend is 140 students. Cost of event is \$500.00. This is a great opportunity for students.

**Motion carries**

### **Senator Reports**

#### **Kelly Biers-Off-Campus (written report)**

The Diversity Committee held a meeting a couple weeks ago bringing together all the diverse RSOs and departments on campus. This was a great chance for everyone to meet other people and groups working toward diversity at MSU. We had everyone introduce each other and discuss briefly the issues and events they are each working on. We then allowed for plenty of time for socializing and allowing groups to discuss their projects and goals with each other. We also displayed our Diversity Committee posters that will soon be going up around campus. Many of the attendees expressed interest in having more of these meetings, so we plan to hold one each semester to continue the conversations that were begun at this meeting.

I attended speaker T.J. Leyden's presentation on Feb. 18. He spoke about the neo-Nazi movement and its role in today's society. While we would like to think that such forms of hate are a minimal presence, these groups are very well organized and have been gaining members. This should serve as a reminder that working toward diversity is always important, and that no matter how safe our environment seems we should always be working towards keeping it that way.

#### **Ryan Johnson-McElroy Hall**

All is well in McElroy except for small amounts of crime insurgents.

I am on the great Student Affairs and Bookstore Committee. We have been dealing with the

Smoking ban. I support Res Hall solicitation.

I am running for the student senate again in the COB spot.

Senator Ross-Are there any issues in the dorms considering you represent a large constituency?

Senator Johnson-No, not really.

### **Brian Leonhardi-Social & Behavioral Science**

Hello fellow senators! This is my first report and I have been very busy since my first day elected onto student senate (Third time's a charm). I am happy that the campus rec. proposal passed and I support it 100%. I will gladly pay this fee to better our facilities and community here on campus. It's great that we have students attending here that not only want to better this campus for themselves, but also for future students.

Next, I want to talk about the Smoking and Tobacco Use or Sale Prohibited policy. As a former smoker, I don't personally support a smoking ban policy. We have already pushed smokers out the doors beyond 15 feet which is not working. It doesn't make sense to make a policy for them to go further when they are not even abiding the first policy. If we vote on a policy to make this campus a tobacco free zone we will not only lose enrolment of freshman smokers but we will also upset the rest of the smokers already attending MSU. Even if this policy were to pass we don't have the manpower to enforce it. I anticipate that we would have to hire more security because there would be a high number of complaints from nonsmokers that have seen a smoker on campus. Then we would have all these security guards running around trying to find the violators, which I believe would be a waste of resources for this university.

On another note, I have joined MSUSA but was unable to attend lobby day today due to conflicts with work. I have been attending the Academic Affairs Committee meetings and we have been working on starting up an advisor/textbook campaign. After looking at the results from our past survey, we see that textbook prices are the biggest academic issue our university is facing. One goal is to inform students about other alternatives they have when purchasing books in order to save on costs. We also want to improve advising and market its use on this campus. We are still in the early development stages of this campaign, but I will keep you posted as we move forward.

The Academic Affairs Committee has also been researching into how the student evaluations of teachers are used after each semester. Here is what I have found out about the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. The first and most important criterion in Article 22 is "Demonstrated ability to teach effectively and/or perform effectively in other current assignments" (for those faculty who reassigned time for duties other than teaching). Faculty must provide evidence and commentary on this and the other criteria, but it is up to them to decide how they will do that. The great majority of faculty uses the standardized evaluation forms available from Institutional Research.

The evaluation forms first go directly to the professor. The professor may then submit the evaluation form results in their own interpretations as evidence for their tenure and promotion process. Faculty may also submit other forms of support, such as comments from another faculty member who has been invited to observe the class. The dean looks at these submitted responses during certain evaluation periods -- as does the department chair and the department personnel committee.

So in other words deans and department chairs only hear what the professors wants them to hear and I think this process is unjust and should be changed. I will be looking into a way where we can make these evaluations mandatory and the department chairs as well as the dean can at least take a look at a portion of the actual evaluations the student fill out before the teachers. That way they get the whole picture on how well the professors are doing their job straight from the source.

### **Ruby Lopez-Undeclared**

I have been at 4 weeks. I have tried to meet with First Year Experience. Latino Night is Friday night in the ballroom.

### **Dave Meyers-Maverick Halls.**

Last Wednesday I attended a presentation by the Res Hall Director on the possible new res hall location. I also attended Lobby training. I attended the day long Kessel Peace Conference. I attended An enrollment Management meeting. We discussed increasing enrollment. I also attended Meet & Confer.

Senator Lovstad-Did you know you can meet with

Senator Biers-How far out are they talking about

Senator Meyers-They were talking about locations by the PA and the grassy area near the CSYU.

Senator Wilke-Are there any residents in Maverick Hall that benefit from non budgeted fee requests.

Senator Meyers-Yes

Senator Adkins-Have they also talked about new parking?

President Frederick-With the new proposals you will hear about brining in consultants about

The Parking. There will need to be a parking study done.

### **Holly Pahl-Arts & Humanities**

Not a lot has gone on since my last senator report. I have talked to students in my college and the faculty. Some concerns include an inefficient amount of Mac computers on campus. I have talked to many different people in many different departments and a lot of people think the same thing. Another big issue that arises include campus rec proposal. There are a lot of people for and against the proposal. Personally, I am really happy with the new proposal compared to last year's proposal.

I am in academic affairs and public affairs committees. I am currently in the public affairs committee. In this committee we have produced an MSSA newsletter. As a committee we split up the stories and talked about tuition, campus rec. proposal, and much more. I am also very excited to start the Res. Life search committee this month.

I look forward to spring break and going to the upcoming MSUSA conference.

Senator Meyers-Are they talking about Macs or programs with the Macs?

President Frederick-Are you aware that there are computers on campus that allow you to do both?

Senator Pahl-Yes, but many students would prefer Mac's.

Senator McMahan-

Senator Pahl-More graphic design students want Mac's on campus.

Senator Ross-Is there only one type of computer Mass Comm. students can use.

Senator Pahl-Not computers but software.

### **Brandon Ross-College of Business**

On student Union Board we have been working on office space when the new Res Hall comes on line.

College of Business we have been working on the ventilation process. Also with the new COB

Building there is still discussion on the location. I have been working with Linda Anglin on the

Tech fee just in general. We are looking at the fee and at how to get the best utilization process.

I have been doing a ton of work on teacher styles. I was invited to the Dean's meeting. Students

have concerns but are not getting heard. Every class is required to give teacher recommendations, but we do not know how they are used.

Senator McMahan-Where is the remodeling of the Student Union for?

Senator Ross-The majority is for downstairs. There will be one central hallway down the middle.

Also adding a window to the Multi-Cultural Affairs office.

Senator Carpenter-With talks of tearing down Armstrong do you think we should worry about Ventilation?

Senator Ross-I have not seen any notable changes in areas they have remodeled.

Senator Johnson-What is your opinion of the no-bid contract with Dell?

Senator Ross-We have a contract with them and they give us the best deal on hardware and software. It is extremely cost effective to students.

Senator Ross-I asked Linda Anglin on using the Wall Street Journal, we may change tools

Senator Lovstad-How many students are in the College of Business?

Senator Ross-We are the second largest college on campus.

Senator Ross-The fee is for the tools we use. There are 15-20 things we use it on like the Wall Street Journal. We have access to those tools that other students don't have. We can get our computers fixed for free in a designated area in ITS. Their price is reasonable compared to what we do get.

Senator Rajabali-You mentioned professors teaching styles?

Senator Ross-I have been talking to students in Marketing and Management classes about professor's style of teaching. We want practical knowledge when we go into the workforce. It is in the beginning stages. We will bring major concerns to the Dean.

Senator Pahl-What are more names suggested for SLD& SL?

Senator Ross-So far just Student Activities.

Senator Wilke-The idea is to get rid of the long name and have something more inviting.

President Frederick-Where you aware that MSSA will have say on all the search committees downstairs.

Senator Ross-There was also talk about moving us to possibly 284 or downstairs.

Senator Lovstad-This process would take place over the next three years.

Senator Ross-There was also talk about revamping the MSSA.

Senator McMahan-Were you shown plans?

Senator Ross-No we don't have plans

President Frederick-In regard to the College of Business building, do you support a building fee? That would allow for different departments to create a differential tuition fee.

Senator Ross-I don't think we can make that assumption. We will need separate buildings for different colleges. We are now lucky to get classes.

Senator Grove-SLD &SL restructure-was there talk about the plan of the offices.

Senator Ross-It was the first thing that came back, nothing set in stone but different things we could look at.

President Frederick-Can you make a request to the CSU Board for a formal presentation.

## **Announcements**

Senator Carpenter-Recycle Percussion tonight!

Senator McMahan-Dr. Seuss on Friday, there will be about 600 youth on campus.

Senator Leonhardi-Open discussion on alcohol issues March 19 in Ostrander.

Senator Bhasin-Italy is a beautiful place

Senator Lovstad-Thank John Busch for organizing Lobby Day

President Frederick-Elections-applications can be picked up and campaigning is allowed but no funds can be spent. Encourage students to run.

Thank you again for your support this past week.

I grow orange plants.

Senator Wilke-Senator Sheran is very interested in visiting Senate in April.

Speaker-The budget book is being built. Start looking at the budgets the Budget Hearing is on April 16.

## **Roll Call**

### Senators Present

Kristy Pottebaum, Holly Pahl, Jared Grove, Brandon Ross, Brett Carpenter, Murtaza Rajabali, Casey Adkins, Harshdeep Bhasin, Matthew Schmidt, Brian Leonhardi, Ruby Lopez, Jeff Long, Ryan Johnson, Noah Olanrewaju, Andy Wilke, Brian McMahan, Kelly Biers, Kristopher Lovstad, Dave Meyers

### Senators Absent

Rachael Quast, Jim Varner, Vang Xiong, Matthew Lust, Abbie Hill, Nathan Madden, Jon Hurm

### Executive Staff Present

President Chris Frederick

**Adjournment** Meeting adjourned at 6:48 PM