

75th MSSA Senate September 5, 2007

75th Senate called to order by Speaker Ryan Anderson

Roll Call (present-absent-proxy-excused)

Jessica Kallio 3-0-0, Holly Pahl 3-0-0, Nikki Hanna 3-0-0, Brandon Ross 3-0-0, Sharmarke Issa 2-1-0, Matthew Lust 2-1-0, Murtaza Rajabali 3-0-0, Leonard Che Fru 3-0-0, John Busch 3-0-0, Brittany Wiese 3-0-0, Sanju Nepal 1-2-0, Jake Hull 3-0-0, Jon Sands 3-0-0, Abbie Hill 3-0-0, Nathan Madden 3-0-0, Peter Kelly Biers 3-0-0, Kristopher Lovstad 3-0-0, President Chris Frederick 3-0-0, Vice President Carmody 3-0-0

Open Forum

Peter Jennings, I had a scheduling conflict and I have to take a class. I felt privileged to be on senate. I felt camaraderie. I have to stay good by and have a good meeting.

President Frederick-Was your time on senate valuable

Mr. Jennings-Yes, very much so.

Approval of Agenda Agenda approved without objections

Presentations-Vice President Finance & Administration Rick Straka

Budget Overall-Process and Issues. This is a condensed presentation I made at the Fall Leadership retreat and for the bargaining leadership as well.

To start we will go over a couple things I get asked quit frequently. Does MSU/MnSCU receive a set amount of funding per student from the legislature? Quite often you will hear that we are funded at \$4500.00 per student. That is just a calculation. In years where we were growing we probably got pennies on the dollar in increased appropriation. In years that we declined they took the full dollar away. So when we look at how much we get from the legislature it is really based on politics. The legislature removed any link between enrollment and funding in the last legislative sessions.

Does MSU have the right to set any tuition level it wants?

MSU has limited rights to recommend tuition levels. We can recommend to the system. The Board of Trustees approves the tuition level. They have set a hard cap on what any institution can charge. They don't look at what your total tuition rate is. What they concentrate on is your total increase based on percentage of increase and what it can do. They have set tuition at 4% this year and next year. Another question I get is; how are we funded? We are funded in a two year cycle so in odd years, Spring 2007 they set appropriations for 2009.

The session runs from January to May, lately June/July Special Sessions, primary tax (revenue) Bills, primary appropriation bills for next 2 years.

MnSCU Tuition budget hearings, May/June 2007 for FY 2007. We don't know how much we will get from the legislature until May or June. They set tuition levels in June. This year we are looking at December or January for guidelines. More discussion has come up on buying down tuition. Many student leaders of the system as well as the two year institutions had an impact on what was set and what the trustees looked at. They asked that in late fall for the Chancellors to come back on what it would take to buy down university tuition to 3% next year and state college to 2%. The reason there is a bigger buy down for colleges is because we are the 3rd highest in 2 year college tuition in the country. We are about the middle of the pack for four year institutions.

Odd Year Operating Budget Cycle-legislature deals with 2 year operating budgets of State agencies. Even years primarily deals with bonding, which is bricks and mortar. They determine how much investment they are going to make in the state of Minnesota and then they authorize how many general bonds they are going to sell to fund that. Our capital projects are a second phase of Trafton and HEAPER, that is Higher Education Asset Preservation, stuff like roofs and

session. So for those projects like Trafton and HEAPER we actually had those projects to MnSCU last August. MnSCU has a year long process to allocate funds. Major projects are actually broken up into 3 main projects: Design money, construction money, and renovation of the space that you moved out of.

In Setting the MSU Budget what do we look at? Revenue Sources-State Appropriation and tuition from students. The state pays 2/3rds of a debt project. MnSCU pays 1/3. That is split and we actually pay 1/6 of that. There is a cost to these projects. Ongoing base budgets, inflation plus any required adjustments, strategic initiatives/investments, fixed costs and reserve requirements. We have a policy that we have a reserve of between 5 & 7 %. We are looking at around 6% at the end of the year. There are challenges in setting the budget because appropriation/allocation is unknown until June. This year only 3.25% was added to MnSCU model for unrestricted dollars. MSU received 3.09%. Tuition rates are not finalized until June. 4% cap in FY 08. Bargaining agreements are not settled-planning figure of 3.25%. The estimated settlement total is 4%. Enrollments are not known until first week of class. Tuition and enrollment have impact on current budget. We had a 3.09% increase for appropriation. We anticipate something similar for fiscal year 09. We have tuition increases of 4.00%. We are expecting a further buy down. Administrative costs are more. This is just the mathematical impact on the budget. Because we had increases that we knew were going to be more than our revenue stream, we needed growth to balance budget from last year.

2009 Budget environment-we are looking at the possibility of capping tuition at 3%. 3-4% are the likely scenarios that we will be discussing with you fall semester. The MnSCU allocation model is about 3.25%. We still don't know what the settlements will be. With bringing Trafton on line we will have to stock the building and maintain it. We will have to heat and cool it and it is a high end H factor requirement building, and we will start paying for the debt service. Enrollment Scenarios-we are projecting a balanced budget. Summer session enrollment was up. We won't know total costs until bargaining is settled. Classified was a little more than 4%. We have included that in our current budget estimates. The second year is easier as we do know the costs. We have to look at how much growth is required to balance budget. We know costs might go up. Growth also comes at a cost. Do we have additional services and support to give quality education to our students? How much budget do we need to support growth? How can we accomplish both issues and balance budget? Do we have enough resources to accomplish both objectives? Do we need to look at reallocation, like where can we reduce the budget?

Senator Lust-What percentage comes from tuition?

Vice President Straka-Generally about 60/40 in general terms.

Senator Busch-What were the suggestions on the buy down?

Vice President Straka-There are some restricted line items. They gave some money for IT part of which is for D2L. They set aside some access money. The Board would have to take a look at that and see if they want to take money from some of those initiatives. The Chancellor's staff was asked for proposals.

President Frederick-Is there a time line on when the Chancellors Office will be presenting some sort of proposals to the university as far as where the 1% buy down will come from or will it be asked to be absorbed at the university level?

Vice President Straka-It was initially asked to come in January. We have asked for November/ December. We will have to move discussion fairly quickly. We need to discuss what implications might be.

Senator Ross-Is there anything that can be put in for air conditioning in the future?

Vice President Straka-We do put money into HEAPER. We did have a chiller go down today so we have an emergency repair we are trying to take care of. Communications has been hampered because our outlet server has been down.

Senator Ross-Can you go over the schedule on when the air gets turned on and off because I know students think it can be turned on or off at the drop of a hat.

Vice President Straka-We have to do things beyond the time it is going to freeze. I don't have the actual times. It is not like your house that you can turn it on. We don't have the ability to push outside air in.

Vice President Carmody-What is the bonding process? Trafton is number 2 on the list beyond HEAPER. The State legislature will be visiting our campus. What is entailed in that visit?

Vice President Straka-They are going to look at our facilities and follow up with a little narrative. We will have a senate and a house visit. We will be testifying throughout the session. I think you all know that because of the bridge there will be some political implications. We will probably see a heavy transportation bonding session unless they do something with the gasoline tax and take care of some transportation that way. We are in a very good position with Trafton being the #1 project beyond the HEAPER request. We are hopeful but the political arm is different than it was July 1.

Vice President Carmody-What kind of role can students play in those visits?

Vice President Straka-The administration will be working with the students to make sure we have a presence at those meetings. Students will have a strong role and we will ask for help in lobbying the legislature. We think students did a phenomenal job last year in getting out in support of what came to MnSCU as a whole. A lot of that went to IT in restrictive dollars. By and large students were very successful in helping us lobby the legislature and keep tuition at 4%.

Senator Lust-How reliable is it to depend on student enrollment increase? Is there an actual increase in students?

Vice President Straka-President Davenport has a vision that we will grow. It is a multi-prong approach. We are looking at international students, we are looking at transfer students, we are looking at extended campus opportunities. We are not just looking at new freshmen, they are a piece of that. Demographics say that over the next 5 years we are going to see a decline in high school graduates especially from our service area. We are looking to the twin cities.

We are looking at a shift to where the market growth is and to get a higher participation rate. There has been successful increase in growth.

President Frederick-What piece of the pie does MSU get out of what the state allocates and what is the allocation model?

Vice President Straka-It is a very sophisticated model. It looks at a lot of areas of the institution and creates an allocation total. The basis of it is when all is said and done it is not that dollar that is important. That dollar calculates what percentage of the overall allocation model you will get of the 9-10% overall MnSCU allocation. That is what is available that we get in free money.

President Frederick-What % does the MnSCU office get?

Vice President Straka-I do not have that information.

Senator Rajabali-Once you get the numbers in enrollment, do you publicize it?

Vice President Straka-Absolutely. We will see enrollment figures come in throughout the semester. We also have off-campus and graduate enrollments. We can trend and we will be informing students.

Senator Rajabali-When the percentages increase or decrease, does tuition go up or down?

Vice President Straka-It depends on the rate of growth in our institution compared to others in the system. If you are growing at the same level you should receive about the same amount of the budget each year. If you are growing faster you should get a little more. It is in relation to what other people are doing, not just what we are doing.

Senator Madden-What other capitol projects are there for 08?

Vice President Straka-We are finalizing master plans. We have put forth money for the planning of the Allied Health & Nursing Building. We are looking at a privately funded College of Business. Those are the two major capital projects. We have looked at the Outdoor Recreation/Athletic facility. I think we will have discussions with your leadership on that again this year as well as looking at a Residential master plan.

Vice President Carmody-With the costs of energy being sky high, what are we doing to minimize costs?

Vice President Straka-We do follow the Governor's executive order and guidelines. We are looking at continuing to upgrade our electronic management systems to make sure things are as

efficient as possible. MnSCU building codes are much more efficient than what the state requires or private building.

Senator Busch-What kind of campaign do we have for enrollment of international students?

Vice President Straka-I am not the best person to tell you the details on that. Enrollment Management Task Force last year came up with some specific things that we want to do. We did bring a change for transfer international students. We have become competitive with our peers in saying that our tuition waiver will be in effect the first semester instead of second semester.

We have been looking at what other people do and that is just one of the many tactics.

Senator Lovstad-Where do we rank as far as enrollment?

Vice President Straka-We have been very similar to ST. Cloud. Moorhead is less.

President Frederick-How do we look financially compared to other institutions?

Vice President Straka-We are looking good, we are in solid state. St. Cloud does have a higher reserve. Bemidji just embarked in a 5 year budget reduction. We have not had to do that.

Senator Lovstad-What have we done to emphasize the goal of Dr. Davenport to make this the State?

Vice President Straka-That is a very long term process. It is not something that is going to happen in 1, 2 or 3 years. This is a 20 year time frame. We have made investments in the res halls, Trafton, professors. We are trying to excel in a mired of areas.

President Frederick-When we start to look at the budget do we have a timeline of when the bargaining units will settle?

Vice President Straka-That is a very independent process. I could not begin to put a timeline to that.

Approval of Minutes 8-29-07 Minutes approved without objection

New Business

M#09-05-07 University Diversity President Frederick/Vice President Carmody

Whereas: Minnesota State University, Mankato and the Minnesota State Student Association are both committed to the advancement of the university's diversity.

Whereas: The amount of funding towards diversity programs have varied greatly from program to program.

Whereas: Concerns were raised during previous years of MSSA that all diversity programs are not receiving proportional funding according to their size and effectiveness.

Whereas: MSSA strives to treat all programs focusing on diversity with equal fairness.

Whereas: It is a strategic priority of MSU-Mankato to promote diversity.

Be it Resolved: MSSA requests the Vice President of Institutional Diversity conduct a review of the financial history of all diversity programs at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Be it Further Resolved: MSSA requests the Vice President of Institutional Diversity present his findings before the MSSA on October 10th 2007.

President Frederick-This is addressing issues brought up last year on all the different diverse programs and the amount of funding they receive. This will address that issue and that concern and have the Vice President of Institutional Diversity present on all the different programs on campus and see all the resources they are receiving. From there we could take a course of action.

Vice President Carmody-We looked at the things talked about last year. In fairness we need

to look into this in order to treat everyone fairly.

Senator Busch-I am concerned about having the Vice President present this as he will say it is all good, an outside perspective may give us a more unbiased opinion.

President Frederick-It is his responsibility to have over site over all the diverse programs and we want to hear from him in regard to the resources. Our Student Affairs Committee could then look into what can and can not be done.

Senator Lust-Who has expressed concern and what is the effectiveness? What is the center of effectiveness for the programs? How are we going to measure the concerns?

Senator Sands-I wanted to inform you that there were issues brought up last year in regard to the LGBT. As of this week it has been taken out of the SLD Center. Jessica Flataqual will be the Director of LGBT and it will become more of an independent organization. It is a free standing program and will get a different funding process. In regard to the motion, it is a great motion. I would like to see funding broken down and how it is being spent.

Senator Kallio-We need to look into this and be knowledgeable about how money is spent.

Senator Hill-I echo this. It encompasses everything we had difficulties with before.

Senator Lust-I still want to know the effectiveness? Is this per capita use? How do we define effective?

Senator Sand-We want to see how their money is spent and how many people participate.

We want to see where budgets stand, LGBT did not match up with the Women's Center or International Students when we discussed it last year. There are always things coming out in the LGBT. There are some really strong programs on this campus that are always having to partner with another organization to get things done. Hopefully, we can see where they are now and where they are going in the future. The International Center is always coming forward and asking for money so it would be nice to see where the money is going.

Senator Issa-Which diversity programs will the Vice President of Diversity report on? What does this cover?

President Frederick-I will clarify a couple things that have been brought up. The Vice President of Institutional Diversity is in charge of all diverse programs on campus. There are so many that I don't think I could list them all. It does include all International, Multicultural Affairs, LGBT and Women's Center, etc. That person has information and access to all those programs that would be beneficial to us. When we look at size and effectiveness it is like any program on campus, is it effective? What type of funding do they receive, what type of out reach do they do and what type of out reach will they do in the future and how many students and faculty and staff are affected by these programs? Effectiveness is across the board. It is looking at the dollars being put into the programs and evaluating them unbiased as we do on everything else. We look at out reach programs and how many students are we affecting.

Senator Che Fru-Isn't their budget presented already? My understanding is that before they received funding they already had to present this information of what their budget includes.

Senator Sands-It is hard to evaluate all diversity programs. The way you gauge is by talking to students that attend events. I encourage you to all attend many of the events that will be going on campus and ask questions.

Motion Passes

Officer Reports

President Chris Frederick

We had a couple meetings this week. We met with our Community Service Officer, former MSSA President Chris Boyce. He mentioned some things the City of Mankato wants to work with MSSA on. They are working on off-campus housing and rental rights. There is a video on rental life in the works and we will have it in the office. They are going to cover things like rental licenses and leases and how to be a good neighbor. He also mentioned that they have seven different committees that students can get involved in and that will be in the office. I also attended a Res Hall meeting. They are looking at adding J Hall. This is a 200 bed addition added on to McElroy in Lot 13. It will be for CSET students and will be for building communities, classrooms and resource centers. It is in pre-design stage. There will be a lot of

room for growth. We all know about the Res Hall bed shortage so there will be continual discussion on that coming up. With this move there was talk about moving the FYE Office. There will be continual conversation on whether this would be a good move or a bad move. There is a Student Affairs Convocation tomorrow. If you are around stop by and here what Vice President Swatfager-Haney has to say about student life this year.

Senator Hill-Will the proposed J Hall eliminate a whole parking lot?

President Frederick-It will take up about 1/3rd of the parking lot because it could potentially be four or five floors. They are still working on pre-design. They have not gone into architectural design only housing and how many beds.

Senator Sands-Have they discussed parking?

President Frederick-Yes and no. We are taking away parking and it is going more into a green "walking" campus. Parking will be favored to upper classes. Transportation will have to be increased.

Senator Sands-When we are talking about a pedestrian campus, I support that but we are still having problems with crosswalks. There is a million dollar grant for Stadium and Warren that the county has given to MSU, How is MSU developing this? Are we just sitting on the grant or are there designs that have been set to increase walk ability on campus?

President Frederick-That will come out in the university master plan. We will hear more about that in the future. With the new J-Hall there are two new focal points, Ellis and Ridgewood, I think.

Vice President Carmody-Has the SLD&SL hired a new employee?

President Frederick-Yes, Ryan Yunkers has been hired to work with RSO's.

Senator Lovstad- I am forced to drive. Has the city of Mankato done anything to increase public transportation?

President Frederick-At this time there has not been a whole lot of discussion on additional bus routes. We have worked with route 8 and 1. We have not got into additional routes at this time. On-campus parking is a constant concern. If you have further concern I suggest you get involved with Parking Advisory.

Senator Rajabali-Is the RSO position a new position?

President Frederick-This is a position that was given last year with the ½ time RSO position that was given for two years. At the end of the two years we will look at whether we will fund the position.

Senator Sands-Was the old position like the RSO position that was Stacy? Is this the position you are talking about.

President Frederick-Yes and No, there are a lot of title changes in the office right now. There is going to be an organizational restructure.

Senator Hill-They are going to put up five floors this semester?

President Frederick-No, this is just part of the five year master plan. It is a continuance of the Julia Sears master plan.

Senator Hill-Shouldn't they have considered that before they built Julia Sears?

President Frederick-The Julia Sears building was built with the possibility of adding in the future.

Appointments: Diversity Committee-Jon Sands, Sanju Nepal, Student Union Board-Brandon Ross, Jake Hull, Andy Wilke, Lindsey Nelsen, Learning & Technology Roundtable-Leonard Che Fru, Parking Appeals Board-Eric Vetter, Harrington Ricks, Student Affairs-Mary Nelson, Legislative Affairs-John Busch, Brittany Wiese, Matt Lust, Holly Pahl, Elections Committee-Matt Lust, Brittany Wiese, Josh Thompson

Vice President Casey Carmody

We have an MSUSA Conference next week. Sign up by Friday. The conference is in Moorhead. Everyone has to go to one conference so this would be a good way of getting it done in the beginning of the semester. You can go to several, I recommend it. Sign up for committees. We will be having Fall elections Sept. 18. Find some good people. Encourage them to sign up. They can come to the office or sign up on line. There are plenty of positions available.

Senator Busch-How does someone join a committee?

Vice President Carmody-You don't have to be a senator to be on a committee. Sign up on line www.mnsu.edu/mssa

Senator Sands-How many people can we take to Moorhead?

Vice President Carmody-We can take up to 15 people. We have 10 spots available and alternates. The more votes we have the stronger our say is. Important decisions do get made as it is the state-wide association.

Senator Wiese-How many conferences are there?

Vice President Carmody-There are seven conferences.

Speaker

I have been busy this week with RSO recognition. That process involves getting constitutions approved and then doing renewals. I will be working with Ryan Yunkers to make the process go smoother for the organizations. Senator reports will start Sept. 26. Everyone will give 3 senator reports. It is expected that they are emailed to myself or Cheri before the meeting so that she can get them in the minutes and then they are given orally at the senate. Senators elected in the Fall are only expected to give two senator reports. Filing deadline is Sept. 14. Campaigning begins on the 10th. Today, due to absences, we have a vacancy in the College of Business and another Off-Campus.

Committee attendance is very important so that we do have quorum. If College of ..is in your title you are expected to go to Academic Affairs or have a proxy. They are meeting Tuesday at 11:00.

Student Affairs meets at 4:30 Thursday. If your senate seat is classified by where you live, in the dorm or off-campus, this is the one for you to be at. Make up training will be Sept. 26.

Recognized Student Organization Initial Recognition: Field Ecology

Recognized Student Organization Renewals: SVS Student Affiliates, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Delta Sigma Pi, Athletic Training Student Association
Alpha Sigma Alpha

Senator Reports

Allied Health & Nursing-Jessica Kallio

I attended the College of Allied Health and Nursing Student Advisory Board. Colleges that had a student representation were the schools of Dental, Recreations, Parks and Leisure Services, Family Consumer Science, Nursing, Human Performance, Speech, Hearing and Rehabilitation Services. The Dean of the College was present and Student Relations Coordinator, Mark Schuck.

March 14th 15th NCAA DivII National Championship for indoor track will be held at MSU.

Homecoming, every year the college does a float and we are in the process of getting people involved with each college. This is a great way to get advertisement and exposure. I am getting involved by communicating with the president of Human Performance Club to spread the word and to have some help getting people actively involved with homecoming. We are meeting again Sept.13 and 20th for the homecoming float for our college.

Announcements: School of Dental: A regular cleaning is \$35.00. Go to Morris Hall in the basement .They also have a Dentist in on some nights.

School of Nursing: MSU is currently offering a Dr. Nursing practice.

Comments that the representatives expressed to me where the campus recreation proposal, smoking ban, Senator Sands-Did they tend to lean a certain way on the smoking ban and the Campus Rec proposals?

Senator Kallio-They felt it might be hard to regulate the Smoking Ban. Regarding Campus Rec- they seemed to all be for that proposal.

Senator Ross-Was there any kind of revenue stream for the track meet?

Senator Kallio-I am sure there will be

Announcements

Senator Carmody-I am looking at starting up another Fantasy Congress league.

Senator Hanna-I am the MSUSA Campus Rep. I would appreciate it if

you would sign up to attend the MSUSA Conference next weekend.

Senator Hill-Student Affairs will meet in the Senate office tomorrow at 4:30.

Senator Busch-What is Fantasy Congress?

Vice President Carmody-It is similar to your other Fantasy Sports. It is just like the real congress with legislators, you pick power players, rookies, average people. You get points for the amount of legislation they pass, speeches, things like that

President Frederick-Presented key chains, compliments of Facilities Services and Mr. Cowan.

Roll Call

Senators Present

Jessica Kallio, Holly Pahl, Nikki Hanna, Brandon Ross, Sharmarke Issa, Matthew Lust, Murtaza Rajabali, Leonard Che Fru, John Busch, Brittany Wiese, Sanju Nepal, Jake Hull, Jon Sands, Abbie Hill, Nathan Madden, Kelly Biers, Kristopher Lovstad

Senators Absent

Sanju Nepal

Executive Staff Present

President Frederick, Vice President Carmody

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM