

**75th MSSA Senate  
September 26, 2007**

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

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

Rachael Quast 2-0-0, Holly Pahl 5-0-0-1, Jared Grove 2-0-0, Nikki Hanna 5-1-0, Brandon Ross 6-0-0, Sharmarke Issa 5-1-0, Matthew Lust 5-1-0, Murtaza Rajabali 6-0-0, Leonard Che Fru 6-0-0, Harshdeep Bhasin 2-0-0, John Busch 6-0-0, Brittany Wiese 6-0-0, Ojoye Akane 2-0-0, Sanju Nepal 4-2-0, Sharmarke Hurreh 2-0-0, Jeffrey Long 2-0-0, Jon Sands 6-0-0, Andy Wilke 2-0-0, Abbie Hill 6-0-0, Nathan Madden 6-0-0, Brian McMahan 2-0-0, Kelly Biers 6-0-0, Kristopher Lovstad 6-0-0, Mary Nelson 2-0-0, Dave Meyers 2-0-0, President Chris Frederick 6-0-0, Vice President Carmody 6-0-0

**Approval of Agenda** Agenda approved with addition of Old Business, item IX M#.9.19.07A to follow Senator Reports

**Approval of Minutes 09-19-07** Minutes Stand approved

**Elections**

**McElroy, College of Education**

**Ryan Johnson**-I am a Freshman, Marketing major. I am a third generation to come here. My parents lived in McElroy. I was involved in government in my high school and at the community college that I came from.

Senator Rajabali-What do you want to work on in McElroy?

Mr. Anderson-I would try to keep it cleaner, it is a little messy.

Vice President Carmody-What do see as the biggest issue affecting students living in the dorm?

Mr. Anderson-Students are not spending enough time studying. It is loud. The lounges should be maintained as a quiet place to study.

Senator Long-How would you work to figure out the problems and concerns of the students as a whole in McElroy?

Mr. Johnson-I would do everything from polling to asking people and going to the newspaper.

Vice President Carmody-What issues do you see in McElroy?

Mr. Johnson-I would do a poll and work to improve the issues.

**Elected Ryan Johnson-McElroy Hall**

**College of Education-Beth Larson**

I am a senior majoring in Elementary Education. I really care about this

university. I wish I would have gotten involved sooner. I now realize that with advising and other things that there could be changes made in the College of Education as well as the university. I hope that by getting involved I could help make a small change. Vice President Carmody-What do you feel is the biggest issue facing College of Education students?

Ms. Larson-Advising, I have heard many complaints that it is hard to get advisors to help work with your classes or your pre-professional classes. You need that guidance right away from the first time you step foot on this university.

Senator Wiese-I heard you say advising is an issue. I am the Academic Affairs Coordinator and advising is an issue we are working on, would you be able to make the Academic Affairs meeting Tuesday at 11:00?

Ms. Larson-Yes

Senator Rajabali-What is your Wed. like?

Ms. Larson-I am open for the meetings on Wed.

Senator Lust-Have you met with the Student Relations Coordinator in the College of Education?

Ms. Larson-I actually worked with her this summer. I enjoyed working with her.

Senator Che Fru-Do you know why there has been little interest from the College of Education students?

Ms. Larson-I guess, just not knowing. Students need to know they have a voice.

President Frederick-What would you do to let students know in the College of Education know bout MSSA and what we are doing?

Ms. Larson-Just getting out there through professional events and letting those students know who I am and talking about the issues. I think forums on campus help students know what MSSA is all about.

### **Elected Beth Larson-College of Education**

#### **Officer Reports**

##### **President Chris Frederick**

Vice President Carmody and I had a busy week. We had Meet & Confer with Dr. Davenport and his cabinet. This is an opportunity for us to voice our concerns to the administration. We had over 10 different items that we discussed. There were some remarks about the Legislative visit. Trafton is up for bonding.

President Davenport is going to India this year. We are anxious to here more about that. He is also going to be doing a state college tour. He is going to be going to all the colleges and the state college two year schools to see what we can do to expand on enrollment management and open up our doors a little more to transfers.

Caucus night on the academic calendar is Feb. 5. Academic Affairs is going to try to encourage caucus night and get more students involved in politics .

There was a title change today the Dean of Institutional Diversity is now the Vice President of Institutional Diversity.

Enrollment management is a big thing on campus. We need to make sure we have enough support staff for the increase of students that will be coming to campus. There is a new draft structure. There will be 10 different subcommittees. We will be looking for student representation to be sitting on some of those subcommittees. They will range from a marketing team, and international team, transfer team, retention, advising; if you are interested in a subcommittee and giving your student perspective, let me know and I will forward your name. Tobacco Free Campus. This is a policy they are looking at. Vice President Rick Straka will be working with this group as well as Senator Lust. We got a little update on the Outdoor Rec Proposal. This is President Davenport's initiatives and we will be looking for a lot of student consultation on this. They are looking at getting the committee going later on in the semester. We are looking at Nov. to start a lot of discussion. They are still working on alternate funding, partnerships with the city of Mankato and private donors. They will solidify a lot of that before they bring anything concrete so that we have accurate numbers.

Tuition and budget update-we are still waiting to see what is happening with the 1% buy down to go from 4% to 3%. They are still having negotiations and it is too early to say what they are going to be looking for. We will have Vice President Straka give us an update about mid October.

There has been a new university RFP contract process. This is a process of what contracts go through. They will look at how they affect the campus and what is the dollar value associated with a contract.

One of the other major issues is the Campus Master Plan Update. Senator Jon Sands will be going to those meetings and we will be looking forward to those discussions. Open Forum-we do partnership with the administration on getting dialogue from students on various issues. President Davenport has offered to do an open forum on enrollment management. I encourage you all to take a strong roll and participate. This is a great way to ask a lot of questions that constituents are going to be asking with the growth of campus. We want to make sure we are we meeting the needs of students.

There was a policy update. Malcolm O'Sullivan who is in charge of the Policies and Procedures committee want us to know that the Policy and Approval Process provides the opportunity for members of the University community to "propose polices that may need review, and/or to suggest new policies for development." The university policies talk about issues and how they affect the entire university. They do not talk about procedure or the steps to complete an activity. If you have concerns on a policy out there Senator Lust will be on the committee. There is a policy on policies.

Capital Investment Tour-As you know Vice President Frederick and Senator Rajabali and I met with legislators from the Capital Investment Committee of the Senate. We had the opportunity to walk around Trafton and share with them why we need the funding to update Trafton and things we can do to offer support.

The SAC guidelines. After last week we took feedback, positive and negative. We addressed the remarks of Director White regarding Forensics was being treated

differently in regard to tournament travel. We changed the policy by striking the line that Intercollegiate Activities would be different. We changed it to say all directly funded line items would be treated equally. We just changed that one line to try to keep things equal across the board.

Senator Madden-Can you explain the Tobacco Free policy. When I hear smoke free I think of cigarettes, when I hear tobacco I think of tobacco. Can you clarify the specifics of that?

President Frederick-The details have not been addressed, it was just brought up as a tobacco free work group for developing the policy.

Senator Lust-This covers two issues, enrollment management and buy down. Are you aware of the actual amount of money we spend each year on retention? I mean total compensation, not just printing fees but more like staff who's sole purpose is for retention.

President Frederick-No, I do not have that figure. I will get that addressed.

Senator Lust-Every year we have had tuition and go up and every year we keep adding more non-education related services to our campus, enrollment management, retention, things like that. I am concerned we are not adding retention for actual services paid.

How much funding is paid in salary to staff and how much is paid to faculty members? I know the ratio is 40/60. How much is actually going to faculty and how much to staff?

President Frederick-Good question and Vice President Straka will present that we have the budget consultation.

**Appointments:** Student Allocations Committee: Lindsey Nelson

City of Mankato Student Representative: Mary Nelson

Legislative Affairs committee: Mary Nelson

Diversity Committee: Deqa Muhidin, Julianne Prior

### **Vice President Casey Carmody**

I want to introduce a special guest today-Provost Olson and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

We have had a variety of meetings this week. We met with Vice President Swatfager-Haney regarding students living in the res halls. There are about 2,814 students living in the res halls. We don't know how many are living in expanded housing. The reason that is important is because for the students living in expanded housing, it has gone past the two weeks deadline of moving them out so we will be looking at what the reduced rates are going to be for those students living in expanded housing. As far as we know there might be students living there until the end of the semester. We discussed enrollment numbers. Numbers are up; this includes new incoming freshmen and our retention rate. This is important to enrollment management. One number that has been declining is the show rate, students actually showing up. That is because students can shop around on-line and apply to several different schools, it is much easier. Students are even coming to orientation and going to other orientations.

There will be a DVD release party in the ballroom next Monday, the Rental Life. This highlights challenges students might have or consider when moving off-campus. This was put together by the City of Mankato and some people here.

We met with Vice President Straka today and discussed the bonding process. We learned that very little of the Trafton renovation money will come from HEAPR.

Usually when a project goes over 2 million dollars it no longer is classified under the HEAPR funding, it is actually moved into the capital investment type project. We learned that if the renovations are not funded through HEAPR funding, which the legislature has the right to say it will only give this much instead of this much. The money for the extra renovations will not come out of tuition. Vice President Straka felt good about the HEAPR money coming through. He had a little concern because we have been fortunate with the bonding process in the past. The tuition buy down is still a question. The state wide MSUSA took a position of only 1% coming from the MnSCU level not the campuses. We also talked about the missed class policy. That should be coming up soon and should go through the Academic Affairs Committee. We talked about the Outdoor Recreation proposal, which President Frederick covered.

Yesterday we met with Don Larson, the President of the faculty association. We discussed book orders and ways we could address these issues. We talked about bringing back the Price Containment Task Force. This group has the goal of trying to reduce text book costs on our campus. This was a serious issue last year and the top priority of students in our surveys. There is both state and federal legislation looking at some of the bookstore issues, such as funding a bookstore rental program and pricing. The Bookstore Advisory Committee is a mandated committee by our Constitution. This is for students to work with the bookstore on concerns they have heard about the bookstore and to negotiate the bookstore contract. If anyone is interested in either group we can definitely use people to seat on those committees. You actually do a lot of great work on those committees and we need to start

We also talked with Don Larson about a missed class policy. There are concerns by students of being dropped a grade by missing class and faculty are concerned about academic freedom. Faculty are concerned about the limitations on academic freedom to set their own classroom standards. This is something we keep to keep in our minds and consider when the policy comes through.

We discussed a College of Extended Learning. We know the state wide faculty association is concerned that we will have virtual campuses with virtual faculty.

The Campus Rec Proposal came up and he just mentioned that we need to make sure all the constituents are knowledgeable about the proposal, how much it is going to cost and making sure everyone is informed going into it. This should be one of our highest objectives to achieve. Also we need to consider the possible implications of the Campus Rec proposal on the academic side. The Astronomy program could be affected because of the lights. He wants us to keep that in mind too.

Homecoming is next week. Being student leaders it is important that we need to take an active role. We need to foster a sense of community here at MSU by being actively

involved on campus. One of the best ways is by example. Hopefully, you will attend one or two events, if not more. This is a way for us to gain a sense of pride.

Nepal night was Saturday night. I highly recommend you go to an event like that.

Senator Lust-Do you have the exact numbers of the retention rates and show rates?

Vice President Carmody-No, I don't have the numbers but if you go on the MSU web site and click on Academic Affairs and then click on institutional planning and then institutional research, you will have all the data that we were shown.

Senator Wiese-Rental Life CD-who paid for that?

President Frederick-A lot of the production costs came from outside sources. When you watch the video it will be very obvious to you. There are commercials.

Senator Akane-You mentioned the Bookstore Advisory Committee. I notice that Social & Behavioral Science does not use the same books every year. What have you done to address this?

Vice President Carmody-That could come from a variety of sources. The professor might not use the book, the book might not be in production because it is out dated. From last year I found that the Bookstore Advisory Committee did not meet as often as I would have like it to. The committee looked at the contract. I think your question would be best addressed in the Textbook Price Containment Work Group. We did talk about that last year, I don't have exact answers. Last year we worked on getting

IS BN# on the web. We looked at legislation coming out. These are appropriate concerns for both committees. Get involved and bring those questions up.

Senator Nepal-You were talking about missed class policy?

Vice President Carmody-There is currently not a policy. This is being examined right now as is this something we need? This is coming from the fact that a few athletes are having trouble with classes because they may be gone from say Saturday to Monday. and professors might say they have to be in class or get an F. This does not happen a lot but the frequency has been increasing. This is in the development process right now and it will come through MSSA. I just want it on everyone's radar right now.

Senator Quast-Is there something that will be done and will it be going before the student body or just faculty?

Vice President Carmody-We will have an opportunity to have our say and I have always felt that was equally respected.

### **Speaker Ryan Anderson**

Orientation tonight for all new senators. This is required.

Senator Reports next week: Abbie Hill, Brandon Ross, Kelly Biers, Kris Lovstad, Holly Paul, John Busch, Sanju Nepal. Gage A and Allied Health and Nursing will remain open. They will be on the agenda for next week so if you know of anyone in those areas encourage them to apply.

There is an updated senator report schedule.

Last week we attended the RSO Forum. I gave a little talk on the recognition process. In recognizing or re-recognizing an RSO my main job is to look at the constitution of the

RSO's. I look for rules for membership, how dues are collected, and how officers are elected. When I put them up for approval I feel very strongly that they do have the right to be approved based on my strong belief in the first amendment of the right to peaceably assemble summed up in the supreme court in 1958. Almost as important are MnSCU Board Policies Part 2 Freedom of Expression and Part 3. That is what I am thinking about when I put up organizations to be recognized.

**RSO Initial Recognition:** Chinese Culture Association, Dance Coalition,

**RSO Recognition Renewal:** SAGE (Sexuality and Gender Equality, MIS Club, Japan Intercultural Association Thread Heads, MSU Habitat for Humanity, United Campus Ministry, Lambda Pi Eta, Beacon Lutheran Student Center, Sigma Sigma Sigma, Rec Club, Early Childhood and Elementary Education Club, Aviation Club, Eta Sigma Gamma, Art History Round Table, AIGA, Amnesty International, MSU Club Baseball, Pre Law Society, Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, Interfraternity Council, College Republicans, MSU Go Club, Nepali Student Community (NESTCOM), Muslim Student Association, Pi Sigma Alpha

## **Senator Reports**

### **Science Engineering & Technology Senator Murtaza Rajabali**

*Commercial:* This summer we made a commercial with other senators that we showed during orientation and other places like the MSUSA conference.

*Retreat:* Attended the first MSSA training retreat this summer.

*MSUSA Conference in Bemidji:* we discussed the DC trips to lobby and discussed accountability to that, which carried on forever.

*Diversity meeting:* Had a diversity meeting which was very constructive. We discussed the Women's Conference that is coming up on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October and the Diversity Conference in February went through what my job is as Diversity Rep for MSUSA. I was happy that MSU is taking a proactive stance.

*Women's Center talk:* Met with the Director of Women's Center to discuss what exactly they do. I brought up a name change for the Women's Center since it no longer is just for women. Plan on bringing that up in the future again with much more detail.

*CSET Dean Search Committee:* I was appointed to CSET dean search committee, went through training in that and attended a meeting. The search committee is currently going through advertising the position. Amazed at the level of detail. Sucks that the meeting times are 7am.

*RHA meeting:* Attended the planning and design meeting for RHA J-hall. That was really interesting to me because I felt like I could give a lot of input being a CA but I had to leave the meeting early to attend a conference, and I had to miss the first meeting too because I was going to Chicago.

*MSUSA Conference Moorhead:* best part of the conference to me was learning how the Office of the Chancellor plans on allocating money to different project. MSUSA took a stance to try to obtain further buy down on tuition or to leave it at 3% increase. The technology initiative was discussed.

*Luncheon with the president:* Met legislators and senators, got to sit at the presidents table and it was interesting eavesdropping on the legislator's and trying to get money for Trafton renovation project.

*Academic affairs:* Have been talking about advising. We talked about textbooks.

*Chair of Diversity Committee:* Diversity committee has taken off very well. A lot of good ideas. Planning a campaign called (blind to skin color). I thought this was a good idea.

*Expanded Housing-*From what I heard yesterday in a complex meeting there are only 10 people now remaining in expanded housing. They are going to put them together and that is how it is going to stay.

Senator Akane-(Blind to Skin Color) what is the purpose?

Senator Rajabali-We are just discussing this. It is a diversity initiative. In my opinion it is exactly like it sounds. You are no longer supposed to say you are white or brown or black. That is supposed to disappear.

Senator Lust-Are you familiar with the work Noel Ignatius? He came across as a race traitor. You might want to look at his work for that campaign.

### **College of Graduate Studies-Sharmarke Issa**

Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen, my name is Sharmarke Issa and I am the Senator for the College of Graduate Studies and Research. I currently sit on two committees, the Academic Affairs Committee and the International Center Advisory Committee. During the last few weeks, I have spent my time learning more about different issues on campus with regards to the general student body. At MSU, graduate students are numerically less than undergraduate students therefore; a lot of the issues that come to the surface are primarily focused on undergraduate students. However, these issues that affect undergraduate students also affect graduate students more or less. During my time with the senate I hope to gain more insight into problems and issues that affect students and more specifically, my constituents.

In the following months, I will attend more and more meetings and engage in dialogue with my fellow senators and constituents so that I can effectively advocate for those whom I represent.

### **College of Business-Nikki Hanna**

Some things I found out this week about the College of Business...

I did make an appointment to meet with the Dean and I will give you that information in my next report.

- ♥ Linda Meidl, the Student Relations Coordinator for the College of Business was recognized along with her fellow SRC's at the President's Convocation on August 20th, 2007. The Academic Affairs Outstanding Service Award was presented to Linda her service to students which helps make MSU the great place it is. Congratulations to Linda for this honor!

- ♥ The College of Business Scholarship Reception will be on Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> 4:30-6pm in the CSU Ballroom
- ♥ The annual College of Business Canterbury Park Alumni Event took place on August 23, 2007. Approximately 500 alumni and friends of the College of Business enjoyed the reception and the races.
- ♥ The College of Business will once again sponsor the "Conflict Resolution & Negotiation Conference" to be held in Arlington, Texas on October 13, 2007. The conference hosts scholars and students from around the country for presentations and discussion centered on alternative conflict resolution and negotiation. This can all be found on the website.
- ♥ As far as MSUSA is concerned, there is another conference coming up!: There is a sign-up sheet for the Fall Conference at Metro in the senate office. The conference is on the weekend of October 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> in St. Paul. The Women's

Leadership Conference is Friday October 25.

Did you attend the College of Business Alumni event at Canterbury?

Senator Hanna-No

Vice President Carmody-Is it mandated that senators attend a MSUSA Conference?

Senator Hanna-It is mandated.

### **College of Graduate Studies-Matthew Lust**

In compliance with those duties of a Senator outlined in Article II, Section 3 of the Minnesota State Student Association (MSSA) Bylaws of the this report is rendered on September 26, 2007 as the good faith record of the official activities of Matthew Lust as a representative for the Graduate Students of Minnesota State University, Mankato.

On August 23, 2007 in accordance with Article VIII of the MSSA By-Laws, I attended the mandatory leadership training session.

On August 28, 2007 and every subsequent Tuesday, I attended the Academic Affairs Committee Meeting.

On August 29, 2007, and every subsequent Wednesday, the official record shows I was present during the MSSA meetings. Additionally, President Frederick appointed me as the MSSA representative to the Policy Consultation and Approval Committee. The Senate confirmed my appointment without objections.

On September 12, 2007 President Frederick appointed me to the Legislative Affairs Committee, the Elections Committee and as the MSSA representative to the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research Search Committee. The Senate confirmed these appointments without objections.

On September 15, 2007, I represented MSSA as one of ten delegates at the Minnesota State University Student Association Delegates Assembly.

On September 18, 2007, Senator Issa and I met with Interim Dean of Graduate Studies and Research Anne Blackhurst.

On September 18, 2007 I attended the first meeting of the Legislative Affairs Committee.

On September 19, 2007, I attended the first meeting for 2007-2008 of the Policy Consultation and Approval Committee. During this meeting, I accepted the role as the committee's liaison to the Smoking Ban drafting committee.

On September 19, 2007, I fulfilled my duties in the runoff election for the vacant College of Business Seat in accordance with Article III of the MSSA constitution.

On September 25, 2007, in accordance with the Academic Affairs Committee's commitment to improving academic advising and at the behest of Academic Affairs Coordinator Wiese I met with the College of Education Student Relations Coordinator Cheryl Kalakian to determine the advisory challenges facing declared majors in the College of Education.

Comments:

In addition to the official actions listed in this report, I have also engaged in informal policy discussions with a number of senators on issues ranging from textbook prices to parking.

As a duly elected representative of the Graduate Students of Minnesota State University, Mankato and in honoring the explicit commitment election to this body brings, I pledge to continue be an unequivocal voice for students. Moreover, I also pledge to continue to be an effective curmudgeon, a crotchety advocate and persnickety critic. Further, I also pledge to contest policies and legislation not in the best interest of students, especially those advocated by officials with the hubris to claim a moral imperative to impose their paternalistic agenda.

President Frederick-Can you please elaborate on what was discussed with your meeting with the Dean?

Senator Lust-Yes, we discussed advising, for graduate students it is far different than it is for undergraduate students. For graduate students it is more of a mentor relationship. We go into the program knowing about the program. We do not fall into the guise of the student relations coordinators. We have a much more limited growth in terms of advising. We also talked about IRB and concerns they may be having with graduate students.

We discussed the role Senator Issa and I might play on any college committees as in her committees or committees established for graduate students.

President Frederick-What were the IRB issues?

Senator Lust-Institutional Review Board ant the purpose is to review all studies that are done on this campus that concern human subjects. They may range from those done by the

Biology Department, the Sociology Department to Women's Studies. Issues brought forth from my department, the Sociology Department have to do with sensitive issues such as Pornography, breast feeding, X gays and things like that. The Sociology Department is having a hard time with those of the IRB that might be over meddling.

### **Off-Campus Senator-Nathan Madden**

#### The Smoking Ban

- As we all know it is a hotly contested issue. The 2005 survey regarding the smoking ban had it split half and half. Should we be looking into another survey?
- From my casual observations, the opinions are completely mixed. Are we trampling on Students rights or
- The Student Affairs Committee will delve into this issue head-first.
- Information should be gathered from other schools in the state that have enacted other such smoking bans, after there has been a sufficient amount of time for them to gauge the reaction.
  - University of Minnesota-Duluth
  - Minnesota State University-Moorhead
- An item for student referendum? Would there be added costs?

#### Tenant-Landowners Association

- Is mandated by the Constitution to be in place as a medium for the tenants and landowners to come together in a forum for discussion.
- What will its purposes be if we resurrect it? Will it be worthwhile for the tenants and landowners? What kind of response will we receive from the landowners/rental unit managers?
- Again, an issue that should be addressed by some sort of survey?
- In the Student Affairs Committee meeting a video "The Rental Life" was brought to our attention. You can watch it on the web site- Top Bar: Student Life; Under "Campus Services" click "Student Conduct"; Left hand vertical menu bar click "The Rental Life".
- I have not missed a senate or committee meeting this year. I think I am representing my constituents well.

Senator Issa-How would they enforce the smoking ban?

Senator Madden-That is a good question. I would like to know that too. It is preliminary now.

President Frederick-Enforcement of that policy will be discussed in the work group when they work on the policy language. That is when we will formally enter into it.

Senator Busch-How do you inform students about the video?

Senator Madden-I just heard about it last week and that you could go on line and watch it.  
Vice President Carmody-You have to realize this DVD is marketed to students on campus now that will be moving off-campus. I am assuming that the advertisements and promotional will be in the dormitory. Also, the DVD Rental Life kick off party-I got a card on it at my house.

President Frederick-What is your take on the video?

Senator Madden-I think it was very realistic and the police coming to the house and issuing a strike is as real as it gets. If you are going to make noise in Mankato and your neighbors don't approve, more than likely the cops will be called. I noticed they had Walt Wolf playing a private landlord. I think he said some really good information if you were living in that property. They mentioned things like mowing the lawn, taking out the trash, when the rent is due.

### **Off-Campus –Jon Sands**

Last week I attended the Student Affairs meeting. During this meeting we discussed many issues. One of the most important issues addressed was student fees paying for a physical therapist. This was debated for a while and I am sure Abbie will be addressing our final outcome. The other issue addressed was touring the model of Sears's dorm and touring the newly renovated Crawford D hall. The Student Affairs committee was very excited about this opportunity. It was a very productive meeting!

The second meeting I attended was the Diversity Committee. This was a very basic meeting where we got to know one another. We brainstormed and talked about many issues we see on campus. Some issues addressed were a diversity campaign, intercultural floors in Res. Life, and how to intermingle diversity on campus. I look forward to this next meeting.

The last item on my agenda is the Master Planning Committee for which I sat on last year contacted me about serving again this year. We will be having a meeting to go over final approval of the next 5 year Master Plan.

Senator Che Fru-About the Color Blind Program-don't you think we should see those differences and celebrate the differences rather than ignore them?

Senator Sands-This was just an idea were tossing around. This is not set in stone. We could brainstorm and come up with a different idea. When it comes to the color blind slogan I kind of do like it because it shows that we are all one. We are all the same inside and we need to get to the point of looking past diversity and knowing we are all brothers and sisters. I think that is important. You are right, there is diversity out there and that is why we have nights like the Nepal Night and the Pow Wow. It is important to hold on to diversity but we need to know there is still bigotry and diversity out there. What ever we decide to do, we do need to do some diversity campaign on campus.

Senator Issa-Can other senators tag along on the tour?

Senator Hill-We have not gotten anything set in stone.

Senator Sands-We will go look at the models and then go to Crawford

### **Science, Engineering & Technology-Leonard Che Fru**

I am honored to be the senate representative for the College of Science Engineering and Technology. I was fortunate to take part in the first senate training session that took place on Thursday, August 23, 2007. It was about a six hour training session coordinated by the Senate Speaker, Ryan Anderson. I learned how the Senate meetings are generally coordinated. Everything went well and especially for me who happened to be the lucky winner of a fish hook.

On Tuesday, September 4, I met with the Dean of CSET, John Frey. He introduced me to the Interim Associate Dean, David Haglin. He asked me about the concerns of students and what we are working on. I mentioned to him the main concerns that we had at the Academic Affairs Committee. These include: student advising, the + - grading system and cost of books. I equally added concern with having to do many general education classes before graduation.

In response, he informed me that the solution for the problem of graduating with many credits was in progress. A legislation was going to be passed that will permit students to graduate with 120 credit hours instead of 128 as it is. As for the issue with advising, some departments in the college made it compulsory for their students to meet with their advisor before registration. This is done by use of registration codes, which I found to be great.

The Dean equally mentioned to me that the college was pushing forward the idea of having a dorm (floor) solely for engineering students. This would help increase interaction among them and help them easily find solutions to their problems through their peers. I thought this was a wonderful idea too and I am going to support it coming through. Towards the end of our meeting, he told me of the CSET Student Advisory Board, which is run by Ms. Angie Bomier and he asked me to be a part of that.

I have already been contacted by Angie about the board. They have not had any meetings as of this moment. I hope to attend these meetings in the future as they are scheduled.

I am a member of the Learning Technology Roundtable and Academic Affairs Committee. Because of the nature of my schedule, I will not be able to attend meetings with LTR. As for the Academic Affairs Committee, we have been deliberating recently on ways to improve on student advising in the various colleges, the feasibility of the +/- grading system and reducing the cost of student text books.

Permit me end here by saying, I have had a good time in the meetings and I hope to continue representing my constituency throughout this academic year.

President Frederick-You mentioned the 120 credit hour and how it will affect programs in CSET

Was there talk of a wall that if there was a program that was in jeopardy of accreditation by moving to 120 credits that the program would be exempt from that?

Senator Che Fru-He did inform me of that.

President Frederick-This legislation does expand throughout the state. It is a state law. But if there is a program that if a program requires more than the 120 credits to maintain accreditation they would be exempt from that rule. There will be future discussions on this at the state wide level.

#### **Old Business M#09.19.07A**

#### **M#09.19.07A SAC Policy President Frederick/Vice President Carmody**

Whereas: the Minnesota State Student Association recognizes the need to keep an equitable and transparent student allocation system model.

Whereas: the current Student Activity Fee Committee allocation model for fee allocations to student groups is currently unclear, and requires further clarification.

Whereas: the MSSA recognizes the need for student activity fees to be spent in the most efficient way possible.

Whereas: the MSSA encourages student groups to fundraise and seek out other means of funding other than SAF dollars.

Whereas: the MSSA wishes to facilitate student involvement wherever possible.

Whereas: the MSSA has asked for and received feedback about the current changes and its effects.

Be it resolved: that MSSA adopts the following proposed revisions to the current SAC allocation guidelines as submitted.

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President Frederick-Taking into consideration the feedback we have received both positive and some concerns and the policy has been in the office all week, we have addressed those issues.

Senator Lust-We are still preserving the Intercollegiate exemption in the SAC rule or was that replaced with the 1/3 fundraising?

President Frederick-That has been addressed to keep all line items equal.

Senator Lust-How is Intercollegiate included in the Post Season Travel budget, is it the \$100.00 dollar limit, are they allowed to be funded at 1/3?

President Frederick-When it comes to Post Season, Intercollegiate Athletics would be the same as Forensics. It would go to SAC and they would make that determination.

#### **Motion Carries**

#### **Announcements**

Senator Che Fru-ISA Welcome in the ballroom

Senator Hanna-MSUSA Conference coming up October 25. Sign up in the office

Senator Nepal-Yesterday the internet did not work from 12:45-2:00 in the library.

Senator Wilke-Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> Toppers Pizza will be having their grand opening and will give free pizza to the first 50 people for a year. 1101 So Front Street.

Senator Bhasin-Library is open until 2:00 AM, is it possible that they could make that for the second floor? I am sure many students would like to study not only on the first floor.

Senator Akane-Yesterday I was in the computer lab and I could not add my MavPrint using my credit card. Is it only in the Computer lab or in the library?

#### **Roll Call**

##### **Senators Present**

Rachael Quast, Jared Grove, Nikki Hanna, Brandon Ross, Beth Larson, Sharmarke Issa, Matthew Lust, Leonard Che Fru, Harshdeep Bhasin, John Busch, Brittany Wiese, Ojoye Akane, Sanju Nepal, Sharmarke Hurreh, Jeff Long, Ryan Johnson, Jon Sands, Andy Wilke, Nathan Madden, Brian McMahan, Kelly Biers, Kristopher Lovstad, Dave Meyers

##### **Senators Absent**

Murtaza Rajabali, Abbie Hill, Mary Nelson

**Executive Staff Present** President Chris Frederick, Vice President Casey Carmody

**Adjournment** Meeting adjourned at 5:43 P.M.

