

**75th MSSA Senate
October 31, 2007**

75th Senate called to order by Speaker Ryan Anderson

Roll Call (present-absent-proxy-excused)

Rachael Quast 7-0-0, Kristy Pottebaum 2-0-0, Holly Pahl 10-0-0-1, Jared Grove 7-0-0, Nikki Hanna 10-1-0, Brandon Ross 11-0-0, Brett Carpenter 2-0-0, Matthew Lust 10-1-0, Murtaza Rajabali 9-1-0-1, Samir Bhattarai 2-0-0, Harshdeep Bhasin 6-0-0-1, John Busch 10-0-0-1, Matthew Schmidt 4-0-0, Sharmarke Hurreh 4-3-0, Jeffrey Long 7-0-0, Jon Sands 10-1-0, Andy Wilke 7-0-0, Abbie Hill 11-0-0, Nathan Madden 11-0-0, Brian McMahan 7-0-0, Kelly Biers 11-0-0, Kristopher Lovstad 11-0-0, Mary Nelson 6-0-0-1, Naomi Stauffer 5-0-0, Ryan Johnson 4-1-0, Dave Meyers 6-0-0, President Chris Frederick 11-0-0, Vice President Carmody 10-0-0-1

Presentations

Student Senate, President Chris Frederick

MSSA stands for Minnesota State Student Association.

Introduction of Executive Cabinet. President, Vice President Carmody, Speaker Anderson, Student Affairs Coordinator Abbie Hill, Academic Affairs Coordinator (vacant) MSUSA Diversity Rep Murtaza Rajabali, MSUSA Campus Rep Nikki Hanna, Public Affairs Coordinator (will be filled within the week) Technology Coordinator Joe Orchard

Mission-The Minnesota State Student Association represents Minnesota State University, Mankato students at the institutional, local, state and federal governing levels through listening to and voicing the thoughts, ideas, and concerns of all students.

Vision-Advocate for an affordable education at the university and state governing levels. Encourage the advancement of the university's academic profile. Promote an increase of student awareness and involvement in all facets of student life. Facilitate strong communication between university administration and the student body.

Organizational Arrangement-31 voting members, 29 senators made up of 12 residence senators and 17 academic senators. 2 Executives (President & Vice President, Speaker conducts meetings. We will be having 32 voting members when the Julia Sears Residence Hall comes on line.

Committees: Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Student Allocations Committee (SAC), Student Union Board

Assessment: Student Involvement, Civic Engagement, Promotional/Marketing Materials

We need to make sure we are using our fees effectively and getting out to students. We will continue to solicit student input through surveys, newspapers, email and posters. The newsletter is out and we have received a lot of hits and student response and questions on that. We had a couple senators encouraged to run because of the newsletter.

MSSA Budget 07-08 \$84,369. Salaries, Student Attorney, Student Stipends

Operating Materials \$10,075.00

Senator Lovstad-Can you break down the stipends?

President Frederick-Coordination receive \$1,000 and that is \$500 per semester. President is \$7,000, Vice President is \$6,000 and the Speaker is \$4,000.

Senator Biers-Can you explain the \$14,000.00 carry forward?

President Frederick-We have retained a large carry forward and we have planned this for quite some time. It is for the intent to hire someone for a semester as a carry over when Cheri retires so that we do not have such a drastic cut off.

Vice President Carmody-What is the single biggest contribution that Student Senate makes to MSU Mankato students?

President Frederick-Advocating on behalf of the student body and giving them a student voice and influencing change on this campus. This past weekend what MSSA did as part of a collective overall student body at the MSUSA level was advocating for a tuition buy down of 1%. We advocate on behalf of students on what we want to do.

Senator Madden-Where is the parking stall and who uses it?

President Frederick-It is in Lot 11 and the student attorney uses it and whoever else affiliated with the office.

Senator Wilke-Can you elaborate on the phone, is that for cell phone?

President-This is the office phone rental that offices have to pay for. We actually have to pay \$1200.00. We pay \$25.00 for long distance that we have to have for calls to MSUSA.

Senator Ross-Stipends for coordinators is that new this year? Usually they are paid for by MSUSA.

President Frederick-The MSUSA Diversity Rep and the Campus Coordinator are paid for by MSUSA. What coordinators are paid for by MSSA?

President Frederick-Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, Public Affairs, Legislative Affairs (depending on the year) and PR.

Senator Ross-Since there is no Academic Affairs, does that money go back into the budget for next year?

President Frederick-Yes, we don't give Casey an extra \$1,000 for handling Academic Affairs

Senator Meyers-What does the food service entail?

President Frederick-Every year each campus has to do a conference and when you host a conference you must provide a meal. It is always in the budget. This is a year we do not have to host a MSUSA Conference and that funding will roll over.

Music Ensembles, Dr. John Lindberg

Music Ensembles provides two opportunities for students, one is for participation so it is an opportunity for members to get together to share interests in performance. The other opportunity is the performance for the general population. The money funds 22 different ensembles, 75+ performances annually. 80% of students participating are non music majors. They want an opportunity to be involved on campus. One of the more intriguing things that has happened to me lately was I went over to the University Foundation Office and talked to a group of students running the phone-a-thon and I asked them, roughly 80 students, how many of them had been involved in music in high school. Every single person raised their hand. If we could offer space and opportunities there could be more students involved. We have an annual audience around \$10,000. When we throw in the athletic pep bands we have an annual audience some where around \$100,000.

Where are the non-SAF monies coming from? Revenues, MSU Salaries, MSU Rehearsal Space, MSU Durable Equipment purchases, Phone Service, Scholarships, work-study in support of ensembles. SAF allocation, \$76,500, represents 3.3% of the total budget, but without those funds, the music ensembles could not function.

Expenses from SAF funds and revenues: Graduate assistants, work study, rents, repairs, dry cleaning, piano tuning, moving equipment, sheet music is relatively expensive, each concert costs about \$1,000 and that does not mean that we use completely new material, mailing, printing, technical services-guest artists, student travel (tours taking place some where in the country), total \$94,000.

Senator Nelson-I have a questions on sheet music, do you have a music library where you share music or loan music

Dr. Lindberg-Yes, we do so when we can. We share with Mankato Sympathy Orchestra. We use public domain music as much as possible. We loan and trade with Bethany and Gustavus. We also have a storage issue. If you buy something you have to have a place to put it on the shelf. If you loan something out and things come back missing you have to make copies.

Senator Grove-What is the printing cost?

Dr. Lindberg-It is incredible expensive to print programs. If a student needs copies for a one page recital program it will set that student back about \$150.00. A choir concert is about \$800.00 to \$1,000. We do about 4 programs a year. It is a problem we are always looking at.

Senator Grove-What do you mail?

Dr. Lindberg-We send out mailings on the performances we are giving. It needs to look professional to bring people in. We send out invitations to other bands or choirs involved in all -state. A portion of this budget goes to performance.

Senator Ross-Looking at the revenue piece. Can you explain why you have the MSU salaries?

Dr. Lindberg-\$550,000 is given by the state and outgoing to salary. It is a direct income/outgoing.

You could not have jazz bands without the director Doug Snapp there to conduct the work.

The expenses are the day to day operations and what is needed for those. The department also invests in equipment.

Vice President Carmody-What is the single biggest contribution that Music Ensembles gives to MSU, Mankato students?

Dr. Lindberg-We provide service in many other ways than simply giving concerts on the recital hall stage. We provide music at football, hockey, and basketball games. When the band is there the energy and enthusiasm is greater than when it is not there. We have the performance series that perform in pop and jazz. Roughly 100,000 people impacted by music is a very large number of individuals.

Senator Madden-From your earliest recollection when was the last time you received an increase in SAF allocated monies.

Dr. Lindberg-We tend to get a small increase each year. We also have seen a significant amount of students involved. Each ensemble has grown. The choirs are growing. The jazz band is growing when Doug Snapp took over. We now have two big bands, four combos, two vocal jazz ensembles, we have not seen enough of an increase to support that kind of student involvement.

Senator Nelson-Do you ever join with the Dance Dept. or maybe the English Dept and poetry readings?

Dr. Lindberg-We work with theatre. We work with the Dance Dept. in some joint kinds of things. We are always willing to work with others they just need to come up with the ideas.

SAF Administration, Steve Smith

(See hand out of Primary objectives, resource requirements)

This is an administration account it is not like the others, we are business support for all the activities that fall under the house of student activity fee. We also provide support for the facility fee that is used for the union debt service. We provide centralized purchasing functions, we provide annual financial reports, we bill accounts receivable and we provide internal auditing activities for university activity accounts.

FY 2008 Budget-\$197,285 Expense Category-Staff salaries & Fringe, student employee wages, workers comp insurance, printing/copying, campus buss support, copyright charges, supplies, postage Allocation has not grown over the years. We have spent significantly less than what the allocation was. The Student Activity Fee Administration account does not retain the surplus, it goes back

into the overall student activity fee reserve. We don't build up a reserve. We have been returning any where from \$34,000 to \$39,000. There has been fluctuation with a few of the budget categories. The main one has been the student activity administration account has been the account to track the expenses of the bus support services. Some of those subsidies from federal or state government to run the bus have fluctuated and varied on monies available and numbers of ridership. I think we budgeted about \$30,000 to support the bus service in fiscal year 2007 but we paid zero because of the changes in federal or state bus subsidy. Each year the parking group gets together and tries to work out the budget for the bus service. They do the best they can but we do not always know what the subsidy or the costs will be. This year we budgeted about \$10,000 for bus support. We have estimated it will cost around \$14,000. The allocations have not grown much. We don't anticipate having to pay as much as we have in the past for bus support.

Salaries, wages and fringe benefits are about 85% of Student Activity Fee Administration Budget. There is some costs for printing and copying. There is a small amount for supplies and postage for paying bills. The student activity fee as a percent of revenues and expenditures is 1.6 % of the total Budget of the Student Activity Fee funded accounts and the Student Union. The questions I would have is that appropriate? I don't know. It is the practice we have had for years. 1.6% as overhead costs does not seem a significant amount.

Approval of Agenda Amend item IX Committee Report, Strike Abbie Hill from the report and change to Nathan Madden

Approval of Minutes 10-24-07 Minutes stand approved

Officer Reports

President Chris Frederick

We attended MSUSA this weekend. A lot of good things got presented and discussed. There were some work groups on financial aid and things like that. My main focus was hammering down nuts and bolts on things affecting the wallet. There was a lot of talk about next year's tuition and the budget. This year we got an exuberant amount of money from the legislators. More than we have seen in the past. We were fortunate to get a 4% buy down on tuition. That is because students lobbying and being affective. This year we are looking at 3%. I will go on record and say this is something that is very realistic. Through casual conversation with Linda Baerd of the Chancellor's Office, she felt there is a strong possibility that there is money available to do our 1% buy down . There are still many things up in the air and that is why we passed a motion on Sunday that reaffirmed a stance that we want a 1% buy down in tuition. That means that instead of a 4% increase in tuition, we want a 3% increase saving roughly between \$60-70.00 per student. There was a circumstance in there that looked at things still up in the air with the bargaining units. Those things need to get figured in there because the main part of a university budget is staffing. We want to move forward in the consultation process. We reopened the conversation on tuition buy down to make sure we get the 1% buy down. There are more ways money could be reallocated. We also talked about the consultation process-per MnSCU policy 2.3, it states that all campuses most do a consultation process with students and bargaining units. Basically, when budgets and rates get down, we have an input into the rate. There is the technology fee consultation, the student activities fee, and student union, tuition and res hall rates. We will be hearing more about student union in the next two weeks. Student Union, Tuition and Res Hall rates are due on the 15th.

Vice President Carmody and I met with Vice President Straka. We shared with him our stance on tuition and encouraged him to come to senate on the 14th to give us more budget numbers and

different scenarios on how this 1% buy down will impact our campus. He is also very excited to present on the Campus Master Plan. We got a little bit of the Campus Rec update. We have seen some preliminary numbers and they do come in less than last year but many things need to be ironed out. Yesterday I went to a homecoming rap up. Student Development felt it was milestones better than what had been done in the past and conversation was started again on what ways we can improve next year.

We will be doing a survey with a class of Dr. Fred Slocum. We need to get the survey questions that Student Affairs and Academic Affairs have been working on and formulate these ideas on what students want. This will get students in the academia involved. He said there is the possibility of creating this for years to come.

Senator Wilke-Dr. Slocum is phenomenal, and I would encourage you to do that.

Senator Lust-Did Vice President Straka provide you with an initial guess on what the buy down might be?

President Frederick-It was very favorable that we could do a 1% buy down. I shared with him what we heard from the Chancellors Office that the funding for each campus would be coming from some initiative funding and not coming from IT.

Appointments: Affirmative Action Officer Search Committee-Sharaj Manandlar, MSUSA Revenue Fund Advisory Committee-Ryan Anderson

Vice President Casey Carmody

I had a meeting with Kellian Clink from the Library. She talked to me about how she meets with a lot of students as she is a resource librarian. The students print off a lot of research, books, papers. She is concerned because we can not use our MavPrint for copies. This is something we should pass a long to It and ask about. She was also concerned about human rights in India as they still have the cast system and she felt it was important to bring it to student senate.

Yesterday, I proxied for Student Affairs Coordinator Abbie Hill, at the Res Life consultation meeting. It was pretty interesting. I was disappointed in the amount of students there. This is an opportunity people are missing out on because this is our chance to get our say on what the rates are going to be for next year, for the students who are not even being represented yet. There will be opportunities to ask questions as presentations will be coming in the future. We talked about how much money it will take to renovate the residence halls. I was concerned as it is going to be very expensive and in the future years I don't know if we are going to keep having the money to do the renovations.

I represented MSSA today by doing a drawing for TCF Bank for someone to get free tuition and fees. I attended the MSUSA Conference. I had a few interesting conversations with the people in Moorhead. They are also facing some serious issues with the city, not that we are but we have had some concerns. They are having some issues with parking and the bus system. I also talked to St. Cloud about a sober bus like we have. It is nice to see we are not the only ones dealing with the city. Also, at the dinner Tim Penny gave an excellent speech focusing on how leaders and politicians really need to quit worrying about making it a career and focusing on issues and tough decisions and doing the right thing. I really think that is a good message that we can all take a hold on. In MSSA we do have to make tough decisions that may not be the popular one.

Academic Affairs Committee met with Don Larson, IFO President and we discussed Academic Advising and the Missed class policy. This will be coming up in the next two weeks.

Vice Chair Jared Grove and I met with Sarah Grandberg-Rademacker on a couple different advising issues. She was part of the Advising group that is really floating no where. They are not sure of the next step they are going to take or what their charge is. During our meeting today we came up with some opinion poll questions to pass on to the executive leadership to pass on to Dr. Slocum.

President Frederick-Pertaining to the RHA meeting, were there any projections on on-campus

housing costs?

Vice President Carmody-The ranges for student housing costs are pretty big. Julia Sears maybe \$6,150 to \$7,120 for a double room. There are three different price ranges. There is one for the regular rooms that haven't been renovated, one for Crawford Hall that has been renovated and then one also for Julia Sears.

Senator Lust-Have you actually defined the questions for Dr. Slocum for their actual quality?

Vice President Carmody-We came up with questions we would like to ask. They will need to be redeveloped and rewritten and sent to the committee for them to review.

Senator Bhassin-What was Ms. Clink concerned with about India?

Vice President Carmody-She was concerned with the cast system and felt it was a humanitarian issue.

Senator Sands-When you sat in on the res hall meeting did they address transportation with the Sears Hall and Carkoski dining? Are they going to have a shuttle in the winter?

Vice President Carmody-I only sat in on one meeting and we talked about room and board rates among different MnSCU universities.

Senator Hill-We have only been addressing the res hall rates.

Vice President Carmody-This is all part of the consultation time line that is required by MnSCU. President Frederick will submit a letter by December 15th.

Speaker Ryan Anderson

I recently received correspondence from our attorney, Chris Kennedy. He has been very busy this month visiting over 60 students. Yet again the most common issue he has dealt with is landlord tenant issues. However he notes that they are making up a smaller percentage of the whole than in the past few months. As we know the deadline for the landlord tenant association recommendation is fast approaching, and I am not sure if that system is the best way to hear these concerns, but we must find a way to address these issues.

I recently attended the MSUSA conference and was very pleased with many of the events that occurred. I was especially pleased with the enthusiasm many first time delegates had for the issues MSUSA is involved with.

A motion was brought back from the table reaffirming MSUSA's support for academic freedom and tenure. I first attempted to table the motion, but that failed. So I was successful in recommending it be referred to Internal Affairs. Last year Internal Affairs handled many of MSUSA's working documents, including its student platform. I felt that IA was the best place to handle a motion of this great complexity and I pledge that before the next conference I will research and present my findings on the motion. Also during debate over MSUSA's Student Voice publication I pledged that I would personally distribute that publication around campus. With the help of Vice President Carmody and MSUSA treasurer Jason Schilling this has been accomplished, the publication can now be found in any dorm complex lobby.

This conference was the first meeting of the Tuition Tax Credit workgroup. This is in response to a motion I wrote at the previous conference. I look forward to working with treasurer Schilling in finding any and all state and federal opportunities for students to take advantage of tax credits, breaks, and similar programs. I feel that our organization has not focused hard enough on promoting student financial responsibility and good stewardship; this should be as much a part of our focus as lobbying for lower tuition and more state grants. The treasurer and I were able to speak with State Senator David Senjem about this issue. He is Republican State Senate Minority leader, he seemed very enthusiastic about the idea.

The State/Federal lobbying platform will be agreed upon at the next agenda. Listening to the speakers over the weekend. I feel that it is even more important we reject the concept of becoming a "high tuition/high

aid” state. On the federal agenda, I look forward to talking to you about FAFSA reform, and lowering the age declaring yourself independent for tax purposes.

I attended the Penny Dinner and that was a tremendous honor. Former Congressman Penny is a great inspiration to me and he should be to all MNSCU students looking to get involved with politics.

Furthermore I agree with him that Public Financing of elections is a major issue.

I am also very excited to be appointed to the search committee for the advising specialist in the First Year Experience Office. I had worked with the person who held the previous position and feel that he will be a great loss to the university, but I look forward to finding a replacement.

I am also a part of the university student conduct board, I have attended training but we have not met yet. I will now stand for any questions on any of the issues I have addressed.

Initial Recognition: The MSU Animal Rights Concern, Phi Sigma Pi

Committee Reports

Student Affairs- Nathan Madden

Basically Student Affairs has been bouncing around good questions for the survey. I think we are going to get a very informed survey to render decisions on. With Dr. Slocum’s assistance the questions will be fair and balanced. He is a political scientist which means he will use a scientific method to formulate those questions to elevate any concerns about the authenticity of the information that will be rendered from those questions.

Student Affairs came up with questions on the Smoking Ban. We need to see where the current standing of students is. There are also questions like campus safety which is always good to maintain updated information on. Student Health Services on the survey helps advertise that we do have a health services on campus. Transportation and parking was also another area covered.

Senator Sands put up a revised copy of the campus master plan. It puts the university in a positive position.

Senator Lust-Can you detail the scientific method of questions. Do you know the implications of using the term scientific method of formulating questions?

Senator Madden-There is a scientific process that pollsters go through to formulate questions. They have to make sure there is not interviewer bias. The questions have to serve both sides of the issue and leave an opt out choice for the respondent. Maybe when I said scientific method I was saying that with the wrong context.

Senator Lust-Do you know the time limits on the process?

President Frederick-The survey will be completed by the end of the semester.

Policy Review- Matt Lust

I am the representative to the Policy Review Board. There are currently nine policies in the formal or informal review process. I bring forth a motion to remand certain policies to their respective committees.

M#10.31.07A Policies Senator Lust/President Frederick

Whereas: University policies are often concern complex and complicated issues

Whereas: University policies are purposively vague and lacking in procedures

Whereas: MSSA is comprised of a diverse group of student representatives.

Whereas: The Academic Affairs and Student Life Committees serve as important initial workgroups for establishing consensus.

Be it resolved: The following policies currently in the informal review process be remanded to the Academic Affairs committee: Grading, Priority Registration, Make-up work and Missed Classes, Transfer of Technical Credits and the policy currently up for expedited review: Undergraduate Extended Learning Student Admission to the University

Be it resolved: The following policies currently in the informal review process be remanded to the Student Affairs committee: Resolution of Student Concerns (new name recommended: Student Complaint and Grievance Process), Weather and Emergency University Closure, Student Athlete Drug and Alcohol Education and Testing and the policy currently being considered for elimination: Verification of Enrollment for Students with Disabilities.

Be it further resolved: These committees shall provide an initial report on their positions regarding these policies to the senate by December 5, 2007.

Senator Lust-This is just to move forward the process. It saves us from having hours and hours of long meetings getting basic background on these policies. It allows us to keep our meetings down to a minimum where we can present initial consensuses on our Academic or Student Affairs.

President Frederick-This is why we have committees. These are very important policies and the best way to review them is in committees and see how they impact students. In a committee you will have more of a free spirited dialogue.

Vice President Carmody-(Wearing my Academic Affairs Coordinator hat) What do you expect for an initial report? Do you want a motion or just the committee's feelings?

President Frederick-When policies get referred to a committee the committee does the ground work through a recommendation to senate. It does not necessarily have to be a motion. This is time to get information about the policy and the effect on campus.

Vice President Carmody-I am concerned about the motion with the large tasks the Academic Affairs and the Student Affairs committee have. Academic Affairs will do our best but these are a lot of policies to get through.

Senator Busch-I am concerned with how much Academic Affairs has going on and why Dec. 5?

Senator Lust-Primarily because this is in the initial 30 day review period. Most of the policies have had the ground work laid but this would state our position.

President Frederick-This motion is to get the information. We need a formal stance coming out of the committees. We have ample time to review these and get what our stance will be. I anticipate that these motions will come back from committee and say, yes this is germane to our committee and we will bring people in over the month of January to get this resolved.. This is an opportunity to get conversation started on the policies understanding that there is a time line that we have to get this done. Committee is the most effective way to get these policies done.

Senator Madden-My primary concern on the motion is that I feel there is misguidance. The motion maker said it would give background and educate and save people time. It will take time to understand what is going on with the proposed changes and policies. Between now and Dec 5, with the Tenants Association and trying to formulate a stance on that, we are getting spread a little thin.

Senator Schmidt-You stated that the deadline is Dec. 5. I heard it was Nov 3. Is there a different deadline between the policies?

Senator Lust-This is primarily the informal review process. Most of these issues are not complicated they are just policies without major changes. The only ones with the biggest and largest changes are yet to come to the senate, as the tobacco issue.

Senator Hill-I have seen what is on review. Can the deadline be adjusted because it is

coming up too fast?

Senator Lust-Technically the deadline is flexible but it is in the formal review process which we are as a collective bargaining unit in that process. I will have a copy of the policies in the office but I think they are relatively inflexible

Senator Hill-I am voting for the motion but my concern is that we all step up.

Senator Busch-What information along with the policies will be given?

Senator Lust-I do have information or we could talk to the people that did draft it. I can give my expertise, as I have been sitting on this committee and do know the issues brought forward.

Vice President Carmody-I think the motion is important to pass because the committee work is where we get things done. "Anderson-the senate in committee is the senate at work" It will be work and we do have things on our plate. As long as we don't need a formal motion I feel comfortable taking these on.

Senator Madden-Policies lacking in procedures-they will be hard to comprehend but with a collaborative effort we will be able to decipher the bureaucratic mumbo jumbo. I do think it is important to get people to come in and speak on behalf of the policies. Do you think it is too late for this.

Senator Lust-It varies, some policies are being drafted by certain people, some departments, Some the policy review committee, some are at the request of a division like Student Affairs. By and large these people would be marginally flexible. We do lose about a week with the holidays. President Frederick-Malcolm O'Sullivan, who is in charge of the committee ,is extremely student friendly and if we have questions he will get that information.

Motion Passes

Senator Reports

Off campus- Abbie Hill

Since my last senator report there hasn't been much that you haven't already heard.

The Tenant/Landlord Association is still being looked into and the survey questions have been completed, at least the part from Student Affairs.

I did not attend the MSUSA conference this weekend however I heard it was quite interesting. On the other hand I attended the amazing Rascal Flatts concert. The opening act was less than amazing so we went to the merchandise tables to see what we could find.

I have been attending the Res Life Budget meetings which I also talked about in my last Student Affairs Report. I will stand for questions. All the senators are invited to the next Res Life

Meeting to ask questions and hear the proposal.

Off Campus- Kelly Biers

I went to both the Women's Leadership Conference and the MSUSA conference this last weekend in St. Paul. The Women's Leadership Conference went very well overall. Positive and encouraging messages highlighted the workshops as well as the keynote address given by Ka Vang, Diversity Program Director in the Office of the Chancellor. Despite the fact that MSU, Mankato sent only four men to the conference, which, I find it unfortunate that no women from our school could join us, the conference did address the importance men have in encouraging and supporting women leaders. The conference organizers and participants shared with us their appreciation of our being there, and they encourage more men to participate. I highly recommend it for everyone.

The MSUSA conference was definitely an interesting experience. I won't go into too much detail on all the events, but I'll highlight a few things, especially the training sessions and workgroups.

- I first went to the Caucusing and the Student Vote training session, which I found informative and motivating. The presenter briefly discussed the Minnesota caucus system and mentioned that there will be caucus trainings across the state coming in January to prepare for the precinct caucuses in February.
- I then went to the MnSCU Diversity Work training session led by Ka Vang. She covered the functions, procedures, and goals of the Diversity and Multiculturalism division of the Office of the Chancellor.
- The Student Voice Workgroup addressed voter turnout and the problems/issues that potential voters are faced with, including apathy, lack of information, transportation, etc.

The workgroups and training sessions I believe were productive and allowed different schools to network and share ideas, and I think this was the heart of the conference. Tensions flared a bit in the delegate's assembly, as many of you know, but I just wanted to say that we need to try not to hold grudges. We need to assume good will at every conference, and not allow egos and past tensions to set our expectations. I don't know that other delegations will necessarily do the same for us, but I suggest we continue to bring reason and not emotions to the table so that we can remain positive and effective. One of the best parts of the conference was just having the chance to get to know fellow senators better. I think we all had a great time and enjoyed the opportunity to connect a little more.

That aside, I'll briefly cover things I've done since my last report. The diversity committee has had some great discussions, and one thing that we talked about is the possibility of moving the Sexual Violence Education Program's office to make it more accessible to everyone that needs it, men as well as women. That said, I want to point out that this is not a simple matter. I've discovered, after discussing this issue with Deirdre Rosenfeld, that the function of the SVEP is more complex and involved than providing a safe space and resources for victims of sexual violence, which is what I had originally thought. There is programming and other work that makes up about 50% of what they do, and disconnecting the SVEP from the Women's Center completely could have disastrous consequences. That doesn't mean a compromise couldn't be made. With a redesigned space, and the diversity committee has discussed this as a possibility, the SVEP office could be connected to the Women's Center but have a separate entrance. The message I want to get out today, basically, is that this needs to be considered carefully, with all affected parties fully involved in discussions. I realize that structural and location changes generally entail this anyway, but I just want us to be aware of the complexity of the situation. If anyone has any questions for Deirdre, she is always willing to have a conversation, so don't hesitate to contact her. At our next Diversity Committee meeting, I believe we'll be discussing the MnSCU diversity work training session from the MSUSA conference, as well as the Diversity Representatives meeting attended by Murtaza Rajabali, which I look forward to hearing about.

In student affairs last week, we discussed questions to be put on the survey. I think we were able to develop questions that will reveal new and useful information, as well as updates to questions that have appeared on previous surveys.

Vice President Carmody-What is the concern with the location of the Sexual Violence Resource Coordinator?

Senator Biers-The problem is that men who are victims feel discouraged to approach the office

and access the resources. We hope to increase the accessibility.

Senator Carpenter-Can we advertise the Sexual Violence Center more instead of relocating it?

Senator Biers-The previous coordinator has moved and they are in the process of hiring a new coordinator. A new coordinator will do more outreach and education, the education component is half of what they do. It is still a large concern and needs to be discussed.

Off Campus- Kris Lovstad

Good Day everyone this has been a busy, busy month.

I was elected Vice Chair of the CSU Board and Lindsey Nelson was elected Chair

1) We have been going over departmental budgets. We will hear this on Friday and the good news is that the budget should stay the same or go down.

2) The Game room is looking to change its name to something that pertains more to our school mascot

3) The Ballroom roof will be getting replaced at the tune of \$500,000.

4.) Thursday November 15th 2-4pm I will be attending a Dinning Service Focus Group as a representative of the CSU Board.

5.) We have one more department to hear a budget report from and then will have the overall CSU budget for approval.

6.) Refillable cups in the CSU

- working with Dinning Services and RSO's

Student Affairs

1) Tenet Landlord debate

2) Survey Questions

3) Smoking ban something I would like to see us discuss more

MSUSA

The MSUSA Conference was very interesting and extremely fun. I learned a ton of information from the Conference and wish that more Senators could have attended.

-The Proposed Capital Budget

- \$347.3 Million

- \$76.3 Million financed by the MNSCU System

- \$271 million MNSCU is asking from the state.

- this is including the \$110 Million for the HEAPR fund

Traditionally the state has given MNSCU around \$200 Million

The U of M gets around the same \$200 Million. This year they are asking for \$239 million and they have less students, less graduate and stay in Minnesota

- When I asked members of the Higher Education Committee how much we are realistically going to get they said they would probably have to cut about \$100 million.

- The State of Minnesota has a capital budget cap of about \$1 Billion dollars.

- Higher education receives about half of this money.

- The problem with this is that the \$1 Billion dollar cap is that the cap has been this way since 1998 and it does not take an econ major to know that the rate of inflation is a lot higher today than in 1998.

I asked Al Johnson the MNSCU representative who educated us on these bonding issues what we as student senators can do to ensure that we get our fair share of money. He replied and said to talk to our State Senators and Representatives and to ask them or to inform them what our University is doing and asking for and from the government and how higher tuition rates are affecting our lives.

Social and Behavioral Sciences- John Busch

I have been working on several things dealing with legislative affairs and have been involved with many things as a senator. The three subjects I am most passionate about are our legislative affairs, textbooks, and advising. In legislative affairs much of our work has been focused on building a relationship with the City of Mankato. I think it is good to see student representation in a city government. Theatrically this would lead the city to consider our concerns more.

We have 400 students here from Iowa, we need to inform them so that we have better representation. The best way to have representation is to vote.

We learned important information of the liquor moratorium from Associate Deputy Director of Public Safety Sandy Schnorenberg when she came to speak with us. I along with other members of MSSA went to a city council meeting and heard passionate students speak against ordinances that will soon be voted on. A few weeks ago I was a co-author of the motion to invite Mike Laven to speak with us about recent topics in the city council. As a group, Legislative Affairs made some pretty good questions in preparation for Mr. Laven. We got some good information from him and a sense of where the city council sits on the issues at hand. The social host ordinance is a hot topic that is discriminating against college students; it turns private homes into public works, and is very broad and vague. For these reasons I believe that the MSSA and the University as a whole should be strongly against this ordinance on behalf of the students it will affect.

Another topic that has lit a fire beneath me is the price of textbooks. With help from Vice President Carmody I have learned a lot about this never ending issue and some possible ways to put an end to it. These ways include professors considering costs, communicating with students, communicating with bookstores, and most the most innovative option of providing textbook rentals. Providing textbook rentals, like many universities in Wisconsin do, is something that this university and all Minnesota state universities should strongly consider. Hopefully the textbook committees will be looking into this again this year, and hopefully I will be involved in these opportunities.

The third topic that has interested me most is Academic advising. All students should have registration codes. If we get these codes we at least now students are talking with their advisors. This is not only a problem with some advisors and resource centers but is also a big problem with student initiative. Academic Affairs has been working with different departments and resource centers to tackle this problem. I believe the solution is obligatory registration codes; hopefully in the future we can look into what problems we could face with obligatory registration codes.

Senator Nelson-I was at a res hall meeting and Torin Akey advised students to go to the city council meeting about the Social Host Law.

Senator Sands-When you are talking about caucusing are you talking about trying to get all students out to caucus?

Senator Busch-Yes, I mentioned Iowa because it is the first caucus in the nation and it is important

students here know about it as we will be on break.

Senator Hill-What does the registration code entail? Is it for one class?

Senator Busch-No, you would have to go to an advisor to get a code and students would then have more input and another perspective.

Senator Hill-With a code you would get approval?

Senator Busch-Yes.

Senator Sands-Where you aware Barack Obama may be coming to MSU?

Senator McMahan-SET already does use the code and it actually works well. We have a set curriculum we have to take. It does work and avoid confusion. Do you know of any other colleges that use that besides CSET?

Senator Busch-No, we have not found that any other colleges do.

College of Business- Brandon Ross

I had a meeting with Stewart Ross, Center for Excellence & Learning. He puts on seminars to help teachers acquire better skills. He informed me that the Dean misinformed me that it was the new faculty in the college that went through the Center not all the faculty.

COB teacher performance/ Delegates assembly Senator responses

At the COSBO meeting, Ms. Fox gave information on the MBA program, she had good information on the students and numbers they have. She said the program is very successful and they are placed very well. \$125 laptop fee, feedback from other campus' on the issue from Delegates Assembly. All the other campuses don't have a fee.

Senator Lovstad-What is the \$125 used for?

Senator Ross-Printing services, applications, VISTA, different fees for Smart boards and things that enhance the experience for students in the college, newspapers.

Senator Wilke-I understand the College of Business requires you to purchase a College of Business laptop and no other laptop. I am wondering what other universities are doing.

Senator Ross-Winona requires everyone in the school to have a Dell. Moorhead does not have one. They are handicapping students coming in and buying this computer.

Senator Johnson-Are they talking about making it optional at all?

Senator Ross, No, they are forcing students in the 2006 class to buy one. If you don't buy one you will not be able to sign up for classes.

Senator Hill-Have you considered getting rid of the papers that we supply to everyone?

Senator Ross-That is controversial because of the teachers that actually use it, compared to the need we have for it.

Senator Hill-IT fee-was there discussion on lowering the fee as everyone will have the laptop?

Senator Ross, I don't think they would because there are so many students that still do have other computers.

Senator Hill-Did you talk about the \$100 for the COB building?

Senator Ross-Scott Johnson said the building is still in the blueprint process so he could not comment on the price.

College of Business- Nikki Hanna

MSUSA Report-Friday was the Women's Leadership Conference and the Penny Fellowship Dinner.

Saturday was the Delegates Assembly. This weekend was different as we were able to talk to other campuses. There were two groups of training sessions offered, Bonding,

Consultation, Caucusing and the Student Voice, Organizing and Financial Aid, MnSCU work. There were five work groups which were covered by one or more from our delegation. MnSCU, Financial Aid, Bonding and Tax credits. Minnesota is #1 in the US for voter turnout. Duluth is #1 in Minnesota

for voter turnout. Key problems for voting are low income and youth. One key concern is connecting politics with issues. We were given the opportunities to ask questions of some Higher Education Board members as well as some MnSCU Board of Trustees.

The MSUSA website will completely be revamped. Each campus will be able to put up a calendar of events, pictures, surveys. Senator Busch and I will be implementing The Financial Aid survey and they are changing the name from survey to profile. The next conference is in St. Cloud, we will be discussing our legislative agenda.

The College of Business Dean told me that the COB has little update. There is a new architectural rendering and they are waiting from MnSCU to see where they are going to put it.

The COB Dean's list scholar reception was October 20. The COB will be hosting etiquette dinners on November 7 & 8. This is open to all students. There is information on the web site.

Minnesota State University, Mankato is featured in the Princeton Review's "Best" 290 Business Schools.

Senator Sands-Were you aware that Minnesota is #1 in youth voter turnout?

Senator Lust-Where you approached by anyone wanting approval?

President Frederick-What is the current location of the building that has been sent for approval?

Senator Sands-Is there a rendering of what the building is going to look like on campus?

Senator Hill-Did St. Cloud attend any of the leadership meetings?

Senator Hanna-They did not attend any of the training sessions or the leadership meetings?

Announcements

Speaker-Senator Akane seat is now vacant due to unexcused absences, Social & Behavioral Science.

Senator Grove-Campus Kitchens tomorrow from 1-2.

Senator Lust-What is the status of Senator Hurreh?

Senator Hill-Student Affairs tomorrow.

President Frederick-Back by popular demand-we are going to recognize senators for outstanding work the Senator of the Month is Nathan Madden

Senator Madden-Do not have reservations about attending MSUSA.

Roll Call

Senators Present

Rachael Quast, Kristy Pottebaum, Holly Pahl, Jared Grove, Nikki Hanna, Brandon Ross, Brett Carpenter, Matthew Lust, Samir Bhattarai, John Busch, Matthew Schmidt, Jeffrey Long, Naomi Stauffer, Ryan Johnson, Jon Sands, Andy Wilke, Abbie Hill, Nathan Madden, Brian McMahan, Kelly Biers, Kristopher Lovstad, Dave Meyers

Senators Absent

Murtaza Rajabali, Harshdeep Bhasin, Sharmarke Hurreh, Mary Nelson

Executive Staff Present

President Frederick, Vice President Carmody

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 6: 32 P.M.