

**75th MSSA Senate**  
**October 10, 2007**

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

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

Rachael Quast 4-0-0, Holly Pahl 7-0-0-1, Jared Grove 4-0-0, Nikki Hanna 7-1-0, Brandon Ross 8-0-0, Sharmarke Issa 6-2-0, Matthew Lust 7-1-0, Murtaza Rajabali 7-0-0-1, Harshdeep Bhasin 4-0-0, John Busch 8-0-0, Ojoye Akane 3-1-0, Sanju Nepal 5-3-0, Sharmarke Hurreh 4-0-0, Jeffrey Long 4-0-0, Jon Sands 8-0-0, Andy Wilke 4-0-0, Abbie Hill 8-0-0, Nathan Madden 8-0-0, Brian McMahan 4-0-0, Kelly Biers 8-0-0, Kristopher Lovstad 8-0-0, Mary Nelson 4-0-0, Naomi Stauffer 1-0-0, Dave Meyers 4-0-0, President Chris Frederick 8-0-0, Vice President Carmody 8-0-0

**Open Forum**

Jason Schilling-Budget Sub Meet & Confer. Vice President Straka wants this committee to be more dialogue and presentation. In the past it has been based a lot on presentation. Some legislators were here and evaluated our buildings, this is for HEAPER funding. HEAPER is housekeeping things like new roofs and things we need done to Trafton. This is a bonding year so we talked about HEAPR funding. One of our MSU projects ranks second. The problem we could face is the 8-1-07 bridge event. We discussed enrollment in the university and that is up about 355 students. Dean, Scott Johnson discussed differential tuition within the college. I was opposed to this. These talks will continue to be discussed.

Senator Lust-Who is advocating differential tuition?

Jason Schilling-Scott Johnson

Vice President Carmody-Can you explain what differential tuition is?

Mr. Schilling-You might pay a higher rate for tuition in some colleges than other colleges. It would be hard to enforce.

Senator Busch- Are we talking about colleges or majors?

Mr. Schilling-It was just talk at this time.

Leonard Che Fru-Thank you for supporting me in Homecoming. I have been thinking about this for a while and at this time I am resigning from my position of SET Senator.

Senator Akane-Why are you stepping down?

Mr. Che Fru-I have always wanted to do Senate but I am currently the President of ISO and a member of the Newman Center and I feel I am not working up to my potential.

**Presentation-Laurie Woodward, Director of Student Union**

We just spent \$42,000 of your money on Homecoming. We have heard nothing but positives. I think we are on a trend to grow and turn homecoming into the spirited event we want it to be.

Homecoming is about pride and bleeding purple and gold. It is about telling everyone that our university is great. It is about inviting alumni back and history and ritual. We had a major show with 2100 some people. That is big. The parade was Saturday, there was more community involvement. There was more publicity than in the past. The week built to a game day focus like good events should. The Homecoming task force is a university wide committee. Where we are going next is the university wide committee will schedule a meeting and we will ask 3 questions of what went right, what went wrong, what should we do different.

There are folks on the committee from athletics, alumni, and colleges. Ryan Yunkers Advises this committee and he and Kara VanSickle from IMPACT have already begun planning next year's homecoming. They will come back and give you details on what they produced and the attendance numbers on this year's homecoming. We will also do a survey of students.

Ryan Yunkers-I came from Gustavus, they come no where close to doing what we do. BJ Novak was a huge success.

Director Woodward- Budget is part of it but participation is a huge part of it as well.

President Frederick- The students did put more emphasis on homecoming this year.

Will you look at different resources, or will this continue to be put on the back of students?

Director Woodward-We are already looking at other resources. Res Life did a bingo contest, Athletics did the Taste of Mankato, Activities did events. These groups used their resources. We will continue to try to get more community involvement.

Senator Lust-Where do you see that growth is needed to get things done, a bigger budget?

Director Woodward-Marketing, needs to get bigger. The one on one stuff like saying, "hey do you want to go to the barbeque with me." The personal touch is what matters. It is not the money.

Senator Sands-The price of the cost of the Taste of Mankato I heard from students was high. Why was that price increased from \$5.00 to \$10.00?

Director Woodward-That was done by Athletics and we will discuss that with the Committee.

**Approval of Agenda** Agenda approved

**Approval of Minutes 10-3-07** Minutes stand approved

### **Elections - College of Social and Behavioral Sciences**

Matt Schmidt-I am a Freshman. I would like to represent the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences. I want to work on Advising, I believe students in the college are not getting the help they need and it is not easy to access. I would like to bridge that and bring up concerns from various student life questions.

Senator Lust-What is your major?

Mr. Schmidt-Social Studies

Vice President Carmody-What do you see as the biggest issue facing students in your college?

Mr. Schmidt-Besides advising, I would like to address the temperature control particularly in Armstrong Hall where most of our classes are.

Senator Busch-Are you involved in any other activities?

Mr. Schmidt-I am in Intramural Volleyball, I would like to get involved in small group gatherings like WOW.

Senator Lovstad-Being on senate you have a time commitment. You have senate plus two committees and two hours in the senate office. Do you feel you could do that?

Mr. Schmidt-I have the time and I feel I could.

Senator Bhasin-What do you want to work on with advising?

Mr. Schmidt-I would like to make optional ways students could connect with their advisors.

Senator Grove-What is your past leadership?

Mr. Schmidt-I created awareness for Post Secondary Options. I was in theater and speech.

Senator Hill-How do you plan on working with upper classmen, those that are admitted into the college?

Mr. Schmidt-I do have more credits than the average freshman. I would like to make it known I could represent them.

Senator Lust-Are you available Wed. at 3:00 p.m.?

Mr. Schmidt-Unfortunately I am not.

Mr. Schmidt-I appreciate your time and consideration. I plan on doing my best. If elected I would put all my time into the position.

**Elected Social & Behavioral Science Senator Matthew Schmidt**

Allied Health & Nursing will remain on the agenda

**New Business M#10.10.07 A Liquor Moratorium Senator Busch/Senator Madden**

**Whereas: MSSA needs to be informed about issues that affect student life**

**Whereas: MSSA needs to be informed on how Mankato ordinances could affect students**

**Whereas: The proposed liquor moratorium is being reconsidered**

**Be it Resolved: That the MSSA invite a city council member to the MSSA senate meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007, to present possible updates or changes to the liquor moratorium.**

Senator Busch-8 months ago they stopped issuing liquor licenses because they thought drinking was getting out of hand. On Monday there was a public review. They are still looking at the changes. I want someone from the city council to come and talk to us about how it affects students.

Senator Madden-We need some definite information on this. I want to know in detail what this moratorium is all about. If it has restrictions, it may be punishing the small portion of the population. We should all be informed about this.

Senator Busch-The city council is trying to curb underage drinking and the council would like to address complaints of noise and nuisance in downtown residential areas. I feel this should be important to MSSA and the entire student body, as there are several ordinances that affect students in many aspects of student life.

Senator Lust-The Legislative Affairs committee has met with a person from the city council. The major issue of the Dept. of Public Safety is that at certain times of the week the Dept. of Public Safety is being overwhelmed with the number of calls to certain areas of downtown, and linking those calls to alcohol. While I do support the motion I can not hold to it because it is a Johnny come lately. They are discussing this on the Monday after Oct. 17. We do need information but there will not be a meeting before we could act on it. We can't come and have 25 different opinions when we are working on behalf of students.

Senator Wilke-I would bring Pat Hentges, City Manager because he is the one that is bringing this to the table. When the city council met Vice President Swatfager-Haney said MSU did support the motion. They are trying to curb underage drinking in the Lincoln Park area.

Amendment to M# 10.10.07A Executive Leadership

Strike the 3<sup>rd</sup> Whereas and amend

Whereas: There are a variety of issues passed and considered by the Mankato City Council that directly affect students

Strike Be it Resolved and amend

Be it resolved: The MSSA invite a city council member to a MSSA Senate meeting on October 17, 2007, to present and answer questions on ordinances and issues directly affecting students.

President Frederick-We have discussed this and feel it should not just focus on alcohol. There are several ordinances out there that could affect student life, not just this one issue that has come up.

Vice President Carmody-I am afraid the current language is a little restrictive, it is only examining one issue. This would free up our hands and can get more issues on the table.

Senator Lust-I speak in favor of this amendment. This would cover the Social Host Law as well. This is an issue that would state that anyone hosting a party would be equally responsible for underage drinking, even if they did not directly supply the alcohol.

Senator Busch-I like the amendment and I want to invite the people but do we want to put a host of things on the agenda? We want to focus on the issue.

Vice President Carmody-We are the one's inviting them. We will ask the questions, we can focus on the topics we deem most important.

Senator Sands-Will the discussion lose focus and momentum on the original motion?

Senator Madden- I agree with the amendment but I do want to specify the issue. Mankato has a vibrant downtown. This could limit the spirit of the town. Focusing on the liquor moratorium would give us more information.

Senator Busch-I think this will gain momentum. We have a big voice. We can talk to our constituents and find out what they want. If we invite someone in we can focus on the issue.

Senator Lust-I can't see us asking the City Council to come in twice. The Social Host Law will be voted on Nov. 13.

Vice President Carmody-We might lose focus but I don't think we will. How often do we get a city council person here. This is a great opportunity to hammer away at different issues. The more issues we can talk about the better it will be.

### **Vote on Amendment**

#### **Amendment carries**

#### **Debate on main motion as amended**

Senator Grove-You mentioned a list of things, what is on that list?

Senator Busch-Things that pertained to students might be the no specials after 9:00 pm, cost of liquor license to the bar owners, because if this is raised, it would affect the cost of drinks passed on to consumers.

Senator Madden-One of the proposed parts was limiting the time minors could be in a bar. Like they could only be in a bar for certain functions. They would essentially be cutting out parts of their business.

Senator Busch-They would have part of the bar for the under 21 after a certain time.

Senator Lovstad-If they go to limiting two drinks per person, you could not buy a round, everyone would have to buy their own beer or shot.

Senator Akane-Does this only affect students or the Mankato area public? We are not the ones to enforce it, how would we affect it negatively or positively?

Senator Wilke-This is not just for students, it is for all of the Mankato public. 19% of the population of Mankato represents 19-24 year olds. That is larger than any other population in the City of Mankato.

#### **Motion Carries.**

### **Officer Reports**

#### **President Chris Frederick**

Vice President Carmody and I attended a meeting with the Chair of the Higher Education Committee, Senator Tom Rukavina. I had the opportunity to walk around campus and tour a lot of our great facilities. This was an awesome opportunity. I had one on one time to share what our students are facing when it comes to bonding projects and the technology initiative and various other funding options. He is a strong advocate on keeping tuition low.

We also met with Tom Hanson the Commissioner of Finance, his staff was very open and willing to listen to the Trafton Bonding project. We are looking pretty optimistic on that. About the ITS funding initiative, of the \$5 million dollars that was going out to campuses, our campus gets \$497,000. In passing in the hallway, I received a copy of our six initiatives from the Vice President of ITS on what they had requested. I will try to have someone from IT come and present about this. There are a lot of things on on-line learning and some redundancy systems. What that is if one server goes down there is another server to take over so there is never really any down time. Vice President Carmody and I are really trying to get ITS to come give a thorough report on what we are spending our money on. This is something we are lobbying for at the state. We will be looking for support from all of you to get this information so that the process is very transparent. Part of this is the ITS fire suppression, I attended a meeting on this and it is amazing. Currently there is nothing in these rooms.

During homecoming, the Alumni Board met and I presented what MSSA is going to be doing. I discussed advising and incorporating and having a working relationship with the City of Mankato. The alumni association wants to jump all over those two topics. They want to see students get more involved in the local process and they want to help.

Senator Hill-Is that money from MnSCU split evenly between MnSCU schools?

President Frederick-No, there is an allocation model. They look at size, enrollment, and needs.

Senator Hill-Did we get the majority?

President Frederick-Yes, we are a larger school.

Senator Busch-Regarding Senator Rukavina-I saw in the Free Press that he visited a classroom and not many students brought up concerns. Can we stack the classroom in the future?

President Frederick-Ironically, that was a Political Science class. A lot of the questions focused on textbooks and transportation, more campus issues.

Appointments-Assessment Sub Meet & Confer –Matt Lust (pending IFO approval)

### **Vice President Casey Carmody**

I have been doing several things. I met with IFO President Don Larson, we discussed the Bookstore committees. I asked for an IFO representative and if we could get the Price Containment Committee going. The sooner we can get that rolling the better it will be for all students and the faculty. We talked about a variety of concerns on advising. He was not sure students were getting career advising from professors. He did acknowledge that we have the Career Development Center and they do a great job but we are looking for some things or ins that professors may have in terms of internships. He talked about the importance of advising in upper division with the 120 credits coming up. There is a wide variation of advising in departments. Some programs are very strict about advising, requiring you to meet with your advisors regularly. Other programs are very laze faire, if you want to come and visit us, we will be here for you. He also mentioned advising on the graduate level and how and if it is being done. He talked about a big disjunction between FYE and the faculty not communicating so well. He talked about ways that there could be better communication and workings with the faculty and FYE. He brought up the 120 credits, he is kind of worried about that.

The Board of Trustees is sponsoring a teaching award. Our faculty association feels that is kind

of performance pay and is choosing not to do this award again as it is tied to money.

I met with Dean Roca about Library services. I asked about how many people are using the library in the hours of 12:00 – 2:00 A.M., after the Student Union is closed. It sounds like a lot of students are utilizing the library. It sounded successful. He said he would send us the numbers on how many people are using that. We brought up issues about with insufficient room on the first level as well as concerns about noise and maybe making quiet hours after midnight on the first level. He talked about rearranging the furniture for group work. He thought adding another floor might not be in the budget at this time. He will look into it. He is trying to accommodate us the best he can.

I attended the National College Fair today. This is in the cities and is a big recruiting push by several universities around the country. I went up as part of our Admissions recruiting team. We put out a positive image. I was the only student in attendance. I talked to a lot of people looking at coming to us. I am glad I got to take part in this.

Yesterday Al Franken was on campus. He is running for the democratic nomination against Norm Coleman in the fall. He was trying to hear student issues. We talked about student debt, the number of students working jobs and the career outlooks. He asked what the federal government could do and what is driving costs. Driving costs is believed to do with health care across the country. It was a great opportunity for us to get some issues out there.

At the meeting with Senator Rukavina, Chair of the Higher Ed Committee, we expressed what the state can do in regard to Higher Ed. I mentioned the MnSCU Technology budget and what kind of return are we going to get from this investment. President Davenport said we should see things rolling out in the next couple months. This affects our tuition.

I brought up debt. We want that on the radar. Students are graduating with debt from \$10,000 to \$50,000. We need to keep that at the forefront of discussions.

### **Speaker Ryan Anderson**

The meeting with Tom Rukavina was interesting and it was encouraging to see Kathy Brynart and Terry Morrow from our district in attendance. At the Commissioner of Finance meeting, that position is appointed by the governor, it was encouraging to see the executive branch behind our projects because in the past we have not always done as well as we would have liked. When Al Franken was here I talked about an issue that is very important to me, the FASA reform. I don't think it takes 130 questions to determine if you need money to pay for college. Also, I would like to see the independent filing age lowered. I am excited that Higher Ed will be a big issue in the 08 race. Senator Coleman has been a great friend to the students of this state for education. He crossed party lines with the College Cost Reduction Act which will do good things related to interest rate and loan forgiveness and other such subjective things. He has been with us before on increasing the Pell Grant, Textbook legislation and supporting the Dream Act. These are three major issues our state wide association pushed for.

On news that is somewhat of a bummer we say Senator Che Fru resign earlier in the meeting and Senator Larson has resigned. Elections will be held next week.

Senator Reports: Senator Quast, Hurreh, McMahan, Akane, Myers, Nelson, Grove, and Issa.

I have been thinking about having someone from the Mankato Public Schools come in and talk to us. They are holding a referendum on the ballot this fall to increase per pupil levy which will increase property taxes. Seeing as how we are citizens, we do have as much right to vote as anyone else, so I will try to get someone up here so we can talk to our constituents in an informed manner.

I received correspondence from Dr. Davenport regarding the SAC guidelines motions Dr. Davenport will ask the Vice President of ITS to come speak to us, and he will also request a presentation from the Vice President of Institutional Diversity.

I would like to thank senators Ross and Hanna for spearheading the Homecoming Parade and senators Myers, Sands and Lust for participating. Hopefully, next year we will even have a greater float. Thank you to all other senators that I saw at the parade.

It should be noted that the Franken campaign contacted us to come to campus. This was in no way an endorsement.

**RSO Recognition Renewal:** National Society of Black Engineers NSBE MSU-Mankato Chapter, MSU-Mankato Cycling Club, MSU Pre-Pharmacy Club, Alpha Eta Rho, MSU Handball Club, Somali Student Association, Social Work Club, Asian Pacific Student Organization, Alpha Chi Omega Sorority, Writers in the Dark, Gamma Phi Beta Sorority, Alpha Lambda Delta

## **Coordinator Reports**

### **Student Affairs Coordinator-Abbie Hill**

We have decided to meet every Thursday from 4:45 to 5:45 in the conference room in the senate office. We have been talking about how we will be conducting the research for the Tenant and Landlord Committee. All of the off-campus senators have been asked to simply discuss the idea of bringing it back with their landlords or if they have been apart of the committee before. Our meeting tomorrow will have a little more structure as to how we will be organizing this report we are to give.

Last Thursday some of the committee went on the tour of the renovation of Crawford D Hall and the example of Julia A. Sears in the Gage cafeteria. The Crawford rooms seem a little smaller. The model for Julia was impressive but I lost that lovin' feeling when I saw how much money it would cost. The projected rate for doubles for four was \$6500 for Fall and Spring. Right now for a double it is \$5300. Crawford, McElroy and Gage will go up as well. It was a well thought out process for color schemes and I am impressed that they went with a modern theme that wouldn't be outdated as fast.

As of right now I have not set up another tour because Cindy Janney told me that next weekend, Family Weekend, there will be half hour tours given frequently. Anyone is welcome to go. If there is enough interest I can schedule another tour. Please see me if you have questions. Student Affairs will be meeting every week now at 4:45.

## **Senator Reports**

### **Crawford Senator- Jeff Long**

After being elected I attended the first meeting. It is an honor to be on senate. I attended the first Student Affairs meeting and we talked about a possible physical therapist on campus. We talked about the J Wing. We went on a tour of Julia Sears Residence Hall and we talked about parking implications for next year. Last week I expressed interest on sitting on the Bookstore Advisory Committee to get that ball rolling. At the second Student Affairs meeting we discussed the Tenants Association and the tours of the Sears model in Gage B and Crawford D Hall.

I have been talking to residents in Crawford on issues including the lounge use, tuition, parking for next year, and implications for the smoking ban and the internet oscillating.

Senator Hill-What did you think about the rooms in the res hall?

Senator Long-I think it is a great improvement. We did not tour the rooms not revamped but this would be a great improvement to the older rooms.

Senator Lust-Has there been feedback on the significant higher rates all around in terms of res halls?

Senator Long-Students overall are concerned with higher rates.

President Frederick-Those res hall rates are merely projections, nothing is set, those numbers could go up or down, depending on what your input is.

### **CSET Senator- Harshdeep Bhasin**

My name is Harshdeep, as some of you might know. I am representing College of Science, Engineering and Technology as an academic senator. Being elected on 18<sup>th</sup> September, I have attended all senate meetings. The past couple of weeks as a senator was quiet interesting and is been a good learning experience so far.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> October, I was appointed to Student Tech Round Table and the Student Allocation Committee by President Frederick. The same day I also attended the inaugural of the new Nickerson Conference Room along with Speaker Anderson, Vice-President Carmody and fellow senators. It was kind of fascinating and interesting for me to meet some of the fine men and leaders of that era; also, it reminded me of a quote by the famous American poet and historian Carl Sandburg.

*“Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have, and only you can determine how it will be spent. Be careful lest you let other people spend it for you”.*

*-Carl Sandburg*

On 4<sup>th</sup> October, Thursday evening along with my fellow senators, I got an opportunity to tour of the newly renovated Residential D hall; and Gage. During the tour we asked many questions on how the dorms are operated, how is the planning done for renovation; and also how the budget is considered and the new dorm rates are set for the incoming students?

On 6<sup>th</sup> October, Saturday; I was able to attend the homecoming parade. It was one of the first in its kind that I have attended and was by far one of the most interesting one. It was interesting to see different departments, offices and local community members get together and share their pride of MNSU.

8<sup>th</sup> October, I attended the first SAC meeting. In the meeting we selected the chair for SAC and I was selected to be the vice –chair. The Student fees collected for the year is forecasted more than \$9 million 5 thousand dollars, these are big numbers but I am still in the process of learning the policies and procedures so I will have answers for the questions regarding SAC later, if somebody has them.

With the anticipation of working with some of the finest student leaders on campus and getting involved with the students and the administration, I here stand for questions.

### **Off Campus Senator- Andy Wilke**

Let me first start by saying how excited I am to finally be a member of the student senate. It has been something I have desired for some time now.

Since my September 18<sup>th</sup> election and subsequent inauguration, I have been actively involved in two committees, Student Affairs and Student Union Board. The Student Affairs committee is a committee that I do enjoy; our coordinator keeps things interesting to say the least. Discussing the wants and needs of current and future students such as: how student fees should be spent, dorm life, off-campus renting concerns (viewing a phenomenal rental life video), and other miscellaneous issues.

Also, we, the Student Union Board, have only held one meeting thus far, and I can tell you that we have a lot to do in a short period of time. Some issues that we are involved with include: the budget, hours of operation, the game room, and several others.

Additionally, I have been a participant in the Lincoln Park Community Association since the spring. This a neighborhood group that was started to explore and discuss issues such as: noise, littering, historical upkeep,

and general neighborly behavior. While I have not attended a recent meeting, I do receive daily emails from concerned citizens within the neighborhood. The number one issue, by far, that is discussed is noise and nuisances during the late night hours, mostly by college-aged individuals. I have been particularly concerned with the stories I hear of public urination, destruction of property, theft, and general animal-like behavior.

However, with the bad does come some good, two university organizations, Phi Delta Theta Fraternity and Alpha Chi Omega Sorority have received awards for their work over the summer to help address some of these neighborhood issues, and their participation in the Rental Life video.

Furthermore, I attend the City Council meeting Monday night merely as a concerned citizen of the Mankato/North Mankato area for the past 23 years. It is my opinion, that while the city council has good intentions, I do believe their proposed changes to the liquor ordinances will only create more problems for the City of Mankato. I draw this conclusion from discussions with business owners and employees directly involved in the process some of which are students.

Lastly, being a member and president of the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, I am concerned about the recent changes that have been made in the Office of the Student Leadership Development and Service Learning. Particularly, the Director of the Office and the Greek Advisor. I look forward to discussing the issue with the parties involved in the near future.

The month of October looks to be a very busy one for myself, and I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead.

Senator Biers-Can you elaborate on the changes in SLD&SL?

Senator Wilke-At this point some of the changes have not been made public so I would rather not.

President Frederick-I am curious why you would report something you can not speak about and second are these positive or negative changes?

Senator Wilke-I am just concerned about the changes and am wondering the justification.

Senator Ross-Do you feel like the SLD might be falling apart to a certain extent because of all these happenings?

Senator Wilke-I think at this point the Greek community has been disenfranchised because of these changes and that is my main concern as president of a fraternity.

## **Announcements**

President Frederick-I am still looking for senators to step up and be on the Tobacco Free Policy Taskforce. I would like one student from on campus and one from off-campus.

Vice President Carmody-Academic Affairs meetings are 3:00 p.m. on Wed. I will set up a timeline so that we have a definite direction on where we will be going during the semester.

Bookstore Advisory still has spots available.

## **Roll Call**

### Senators Present

Rachael Quast, Holly Pahl, Jared Grove, Nikki Hanna, Brandon Ross, Matthew Lust, Murtaza Rajabali, Harshdeep Bhasin, John Busch, Matthew Schmidt, Ojoye Akane, Sharmarke Hurreh, Jeffrey Long, Naomi Stauffer, Ryan Johnson, Andy Wilke, Nathan Madden, Brian McMahan, Kelly Biers, Kristopher Lovstad, Mary Nelson, Dave Meyers

### Senators Absent

Sharmarke Issa, Sanju Nepal, Jon Sands, Abbie Hill

### Executive Staff Present

President Frederick, Vice President Carmody

**Adjournment** Meeting adjourned at 5:51 PM

