

MSSA Senate
December 5, 2007

75th Senate called to order Vice President Casey Carmody

Roll Call (present-absent-proxy-excused)

Rachael Quast 11-0-0, Kristy Pottebaum 6-0-0, Holly Pahl 14-0-0-1, Jared Grove 11-0-0, Nikki Hanna 12-3-0, Brandon Ross 14-0-0-1, Brett Carpenter 6-0-0, Vang Xiong 3-0-0, Matthew Lust 14-1-0, Murtaza Rajabali 14-1-0-1, Samir Bhattarai 5-1-0-1, Harshdeep Bhasin 11-0-0-1, John Busch 14-0-0-1, Matthew Schmidt 8-0-0, Thuy Huynh 3-1-0, Jeffrey Long 11-0-0, Jon Sands 14-1-0, Andy Wilke 11-0-0, Abbie Hill 14-0-0, Nathan Madden 15-0-0, Brian McMahan 11-0-0, Kelly Biers 15-0-0, Kristopher Lovstad 15-0-0, Mary Nelson 10-0-0-1, Naomi Stauffer 8-1-0, Ryan Johnson 7-2-0, Dave Meyers 10-0-0, President Chris Frederick 14-0-0, Vice President Carmody 14-0-0-1

Open Forum

Cindy Janney Director of Residential Life. Discussed question on expanded Housing refund and how it was determined. Some students received \$200.00 some living in four people areas were given \$400.00. Distributed literature on what you get for your money living on campus. Proposed Room & Board w/options is combined package of room and board and options like the newspaper etc.

Solo-I am here to discuss two issues. One, have you considered a senate for diversity and students of color and the second is of event sponsorship. The Hmong Student Association was promised \$1,000 but they have not received their money yet.

Senator Rajabali- I am confused about your mention of students of color? Why do you think you need representation when you already have that? We have students of color on senate and we have a Diversity Committee.

Solo-Because if students of color have a problem they could go to their senate to represent them.

Senator Rajabali-I am the Diversity Representative on campus. That is the thing we do, we look at racist issues and diversity issues. If any senator is approached they could refer this to the committee.

Solo-Why does no one know about this?

Senator Sands-This is a committee approved by the student body. We work with all students, We work with RSO's, we have a plan and we will have a campaign next semester to let everyone know about the committee and where they can go for assistance.

Senator Hill-You want a seat on senate for students of color?

Solo-Why should they go to a committee that has no power? You are the top, they should be able to be part of that.

Senator Rajabali-Are you implying that there is not value in this committee?

Solo-I found out about this committee today. I have not seen a poster that says an event is sponsored by the senate. You are doing what you do to make things better.

Senator Xiong-You mentioned, we have senators for each dorm, undeclared, off-campus. Do students know who their cultural diversity representative in their college is?

Solo-Why can't there be a senate for students of color to get the voices out to students?

Senator Busch-I would hope that everyone here represents the college they were voted to represent.

Solo-The College of Education can not help with many diversity concerns.

Senator Lust-I appreciate this but is diversity in color of skin an issue?

Solo-Diversity is not just one skin color. That is just adding another committee.

Senator Rajabali-If you ask people about diversity, what would people say about MSSA?

Solo-Who's problem is that?

Senator Rajabali-Everyone is a representative.

Solo-You have a senate for undeclared why not students of color?

Is it so hard to recommend a student senate for diversity?

Senator Rajabali-Why can't someone having problems go to a committee that deals with this?

Solo-I want to talk to the man not a committee. Students still have to go to you.

You are not even up to par with the plan.

Senator Rajabali-Who is going to vote for that person? How would you vote? Also, we work with everyone else to sponsor events.

Senator Carpenter-At least with this style of government people are not elected in terms of skin color they are elected by where they live or their college.

Speaker Carmody-You are allowed to run for Arts & Humanities or any other college that your major is in.

Senator Hill-I am an off-campus senator, you are saying because I am white I can't represent your problems?

Solo-Yes

Senator Ross-You are disrespecting Senator Rajabali-do you think it is just in the marketing of diversity?

Solo-Students (compared to football) that are not starters are not being heard. We want a voice for someone to represent people to get things done, someone that is a starter.

Senator Ross-It seems students don't know of a place to go, would you be willing to join a committee to create awareness?

Solo-Why is talking about diversity a problem? You represent a group of people.

President Frederick-You are asking that this body put forth an amendment to the entire population to add a student of color? Every student is represented twice under this system. Why do you think a student of color should get 3 voices?

Solo-The President of the university has made diversity its' second priority, shouldn't it be yours?

Senator Xiong-You want a seat for color? Students are represented by off-campus, dorms, and colleges.

Solo-Why can't you have one person to represent students of color ?

Senator Xiong-If a student is LGBT he could be represented on this body by residence or major. You feel that a seat be designated just for color?

Solo-Yes

Senator Sands- We have a committee set forth to make recommendations to senate and then get things accomplished. I represent social justice issues, this gives me more power than any one else. We strive to get diversity on this committee. There is more diversity on this body than last year. Did you know there are open seats on senate? We encourage you to run. We would love to have more input.

Solo-The second issue I wanted to talk about is is a group was guaranteed \$1,000 for working at homecoming and they have not yet received the money.

Speaker Carmody-That is on our agenda for today.

Jena Braun-I am here to discuss RSO's on campus. We have 181 RSO's fully recognized. We have been working with IT to get addresses up on the web page. We have been giving assistance to organizations for setting up programs, making signs, and resource assistance. Some big events this year were put on by the Hip Hop Dance Club, Upcoming events-RSO fair. We have been collaborating on student work shops.

Senator Hanna-What was the reason to splint up the RSO's for the fair?

Ms. Braun-We felt we could give more focus to the groups such as religious, service, Greeks.

Senator Lovstad-How would someone find out about a RSO?

Ms. Braun-We have a link on the web page. They can always stop by SLD&SL.

Senator Meyers-Does someone receive information if they have been approved?

Ms. Braun-Yes, we send out an email.

Senator Lovstad-When you complete the work and it is recognized, is it ready to go?

Ms. Braun-Yes, once it is approved it is ready to go.

Ryan Yunkers-We have had some changes in our office. Jessica Flatequal/Ryan Yunkers are serving as co-directors. The Business Manager is Bonnie Lee. I am working with RSO's and over seeing IMPACT. Sammy Erickson works with Campus Kitchens and part-time oversees Greeks. We will have a grad student also working with Campus Kitchens. We will be starting some focus groups to get input on things we can do to improve our operations.

Senator Lovstad-Sammy is part Campus Kitchens and part-time Greeks?

Ryan Yunkers-Yes

Senator Lovstad-Is that adequate staff?

Ryan Yunkers-We are doing ok things but we can not provide all the things we could with a full staff.

Approval of Agenda Agenda approved with addition of Nate Madden to item 9 and Senator Rajabali

Senator Rajabali-Diversity Committee

Approval of Minutes 11.28.07 Minutes stand approved

Elections-College of Social & Behavioral Sciences, Undeclared Majors

Brian Leonhardi-I think I can make a difference. I am a senior and Vice President of a Business fraternity. I feel I have good skills. I keep in contact with students.

Florkime Paye-I am a freshman and I want to get involved. I want to represent a lot of people that complain a lot. I want to be the person you can talk to about issues.

Abdihakim Abdi-I am a freshmen and I want to get involved

Senator Lovstad-As a senator for Social & Behavioral Science you are required to attend Academic Affairs and be on one other committee, can you fulfill those requirements?

Ms. Paye-I think I can. I am dedicated and I have the time.

Mr. Abdi-That would not be a problem.

Mr. Leonhardi-I now have the time and I can make it to all the meetings.

Senator Meyers-What is the biggest issue you see facing students in the College of Social & Behavioral Science?

Mr. Abdi-No idea, that is my major but I am learning.

Mr. Leonhardi-Getting students to know more about the college. Get Senate's name out there and letting people know what is going on.

Ms. Paye-One Advertising, advising would be another.

Senator Hill-Describe a time you showed leadership

Mr. Leonhardi-I was elected president of a professional organization. I am a manager at Wal-Mart and I went through their training and other leadership opportunities on campus.

Ms. Paye-I am a RHA rep. I have been a leader in some clubs.

Mr. Abdi-I was a member of student council in high school.

Senator Lust-What role do you see a senator having on affecting the College of Social & Behavioral Science?

Ms. Paye-My main concern is the people-I want to be a liaison for people with problems.

Mr. Abdi- I would work with students and faculty.

Mr. Leonhardi-As a senator I would be the middle man and keep good communications with faculty.

Senator Xiong-I am a grad student-as an undergrad student what do you hope to improve for your college and students for the future?

Mr. Abdi-Cost of books.

Mr. Leonhardi-Internships, College of Business has them but I have not heard of them in the College of Social & Behavioral Science. Getting internships and letting students know about them.

Ms. Paye-Web site and more people to talk to about this. Also jobs when you graduate, and just experience.

Senator Hill-Regarding age-How will you reach older or younger students?

Mr. Leonhardi-I am 23, I have experienced college. I think I can work with all ages and diversity to help students.

Ms. Paye-I think a leader is to reach people. I am very personable.

Mr. Abdi-Communication is important.

Senator Carpenter-How did you learn about the vacancies?

Ms. Paye-A senator told me.

Mr. Abdi-Another Senator told me about the vacancy.

Mr. Leonhardi-Being an advertising rep in the *Reporter*, I heard about the vacancy.

Senator Schmidt-How long ago did you hear about the opening?

Mr. Abdi-Weeks ago

Mr. Leonhardi-Last week

Ms. Paye-2 weeks ago

Senator Xiong-Being a senator you help students in the college, what are you hoping to gain from being a senator?

Mr. Leonhardi-I would like to know how student government works. I want other students to benefit from me representing them.

Ms. Paye-I want to work for the United Nations, this forum seems interesting.

Mr. Abdi-Get to know students and how the senate works.

President Frederick-Senate has committees that do a lot of work. Would you get involved? and work to do other things on senate if you were not elected today?

Ms. Paye-Yes,

Mr. Abdi-I care about the issues and I would be on a committee.

Mr. Leonhardi-I would be interested in being on one of the committees.

Senator McMahan-What is your greatest strength?

Mr. Abdi-I want to help and learn about senate.

Mr. Leonhardi-Voicing my opinion and getting the name of my fraternity out there.

Ms. Paye-Being able to talk to people.

Senator Carpenter-What is the future issue you would bring to the next committee?

Mr. Leonhardi-Let the others students know about the committees. Get the name out and let people know we need more students to join

Mr. Abdi-Promoting MSU, a lot of people don't know about this school

Senator Schmidt-The commitment level is high on senate-are you in it for the long haul?

Ms. Paye-Yes, when I do something I do it. I have checked the times.

Mr. Abdi-I am in it for the long haul because I want to be involved in government

Mr. Leonhardi-I would fulfill my obligations, I do have one more year.

Mr. Abdi-Thank you for having me, you do a really good job. You know about all the issues.

I am a leader and I can make a difference.

Mr. Leonhardi-Thank you and I would do a good job and I would look forward to getting to know you and making a difference in the college. I could use my leadership skills to bring to the table, also marketing. I could get the name out there.

Ms. Paye-I am dedicated, I do things all the way. Government determines things. It is hard to get involved and know what is going on in the school.

Elected College of Social & Behavioral Science Senator Abdi

Officer Reports

President Chris Frederick

Last Thursday a friend and colleague of ours passed away. He was the student body president and a very strong student advocate at Winona State. He was very involved on the local and state level. Vice President Carmody, Speaker Anderson, Jason Schilling and I attended the funeral on behalf of the student body.

As students on campus, we have been hearing a lot about alcohol and alcohol use. Alcohol has become a very prevalent issue on campus and throughout the community. Today I took part in a KEYC panel discussion with several community members about the issue. Those members being President Davenport, Mankato City Public Safety Director Huettl, and a chemical dependency person from Blue Earth County. The topic was binge drinking, personal choice or every bodies problem. Community members had the opportunity to ask questions about the concern of binge drinking and what is the response throughout the community. I said this is not a MSU student body issue. It is a community issue and we should look at this as a community and not point fingers. It should focus on education and personal responsibility. Dr. Davenport also eluded to an alcohol summit to take place December 17 on campus. We will have more details. This is the first week after finals. The administration thought this date would not conflict with finals and there might be a few student leaders around campus as well.

Student Senate takes a role on what our Residence Hall rate and Student Union rate is as well as tuition. Consultation letters focus on consultation on Res Hall rates and Student Union. Tuition consultation is not due until Feb. In regard to Residence Halls new information has been shared this past week. I want to share my findings and I welcome the opportunity to sit down with some members of the Student Affairs Committee and discuss this with you so that we can make a constructive decision that I can pass by executive order over the break.

Senator Lust-In President Davenport's discussions has he mentioned factors like marginalizing behavior so much that they are anticipating penalizing?

President Frederick-This just came up. I am sure at the Summit we will get into in depth conversation. I think community education will become a front runner in the binge drinking phenomenon.

Senator Sands-Do you think making this so taboo it makes people want to do it all the more?

President Frederick-We don't need to shun the problem as it does not exist. We do need to look at the problem and embrace and work with it. We can't marginalize it as it does not exist.

Senator Sands-By saying embrace do you think we should be more proactive and support initiative's like the drunk bus or other types of services to make sure students are getting from point A to point B on a more safe level?

President Frederick-Yes, I think you will see the university doing a lot more of that and being more proactive. Dr. Davenport is taking a more proactive approach on campus in his personal commitment to alcohol on campus.

Senator Grove-What binge drinking phenomena in specific are you talking about?

President Frederick-The phenomena of binge drinking has become seen as an immediate problem that should be addressed. It has become more prevalent in today's society. We need to look at it as educating young adults in a responsible behavior. It has not just come up but more since the events from 2003 to now that have been alcohol related. It has always been there but with the recent tragedies, it has become more of an issue.

Senator Madden-The home page did say something about preventing alcohol everywhere on campus even though we do allow alcohol at exceptions, such as weddings. Do you see that happening and would that affect revenue sources?

President Frederick-I am not sure. I will have that conversation with Dr. Davenport. Obviously, adds bring in revenue dollars so would this come from institution dollars or activity fees? It will put more pressure on athletics to find more revenue sources.

Senator Ross-Do you think the City is failing us as Mr. Laven did not suggest things for different Programs? Could they create more things as a City and put forth more effort?

President Frederick-As a community we could definitely come together to create an atmosphere of what is happening on campus to provide alternate activities.

Senator Nelson-Elaborate on the drunk bus and what the university pays for this.

President Frederick-The sober bus is a city run program.

Senator Quast-What is the definition of binge drinking?

President Frederick-My estimation is that it is more than 5 drinks in one sitting. It is a terminology that is being tossed out there. I don't think you can really define it.

Senator Sands-Are you aware that some universities have a partnership with taxies?

President Frederick-We have not explored that with the cabs in town . Some systems do not merely focus on night life but more of a broad system even during the day.

Senator Bhasin-What should the student body do to get students more informed?

President Frederick-Encourage constructive discussion and conversation.

Senator Wilke-Has there been discussion on Moorhead's policy?

President Frederick-Moorhead 's policy was drafted after something we have at MSU. Moorhead gives a monetary fine and at this point I don't think we are giving monetary fines. Although, if you behave poorly off-campus, you can come before Student Affairs J-Board.

Vice President Casey Carmody

Campus Rec met this week and a point of interest was brought up about the cost of some of the fields. The recreational soccer field would cost about three times less to upgrade than some of the other fields like lacrosse or rugby. The soccer rec field is currently in place and it only needs lights. Other fields need things like grading and drain systems. They need a lot more work. Also added on to the proposal was outdoor tennis courts and outdoor basketball/ice rink along with fitness stations for the fitness trail. This was a little spendy. Thankfully we still have plenty of time to go through the consultation process. The consultation process will go on in the spring semester. We are not seeing the final draft at this time at all.

First Year Experience Office will be having open sessions on meeting the candidates for the Assistant Director/Coordinator of Advising Services over in the First Year Experience Office. I strongly encourage you to go and ask questions especially on advising.

Enrollment Management meets tomorrow regarding transfer students. If you have transferred and have concerns please let me know so we can have excellent representation.

Student concerns this week-academic appeals process and parking tickets and the process. Students actually do come to the office and have concerns. So your office hours are critical. It is a great way to talk to a student and help them out one on one.

Meet & Confer is tomorrow, we will talk about policies, alcohol, budget and enrollment management update.

Alcohol and binge drinking, if you haven't had the chance read the comments by President Davenport. that were published in the *Free Press* and the *Reporter*. This will be an important issue in the coming semester. Think about this issue. We need to be as proactive as possible to develop positive solutions before hand.

Jared Stene was a significant loss to students in the State of Minnesota. It was a loss to me personally. In my opinion he truly embodied what leadership is all about. It is important we keep him and his work in mind in all of our work and especially at MSUSA. He summed it up the best when he said "I want to attend a public institution to apply what I learn while obtaining my degree to improving our state and country. Is that too much to ask?"

Senator Lust-Is there any reason why they came back to revisit the tennis courts?

Vice President Carmody-After our first meeting people had asked if the tennis courts were something that could be brought back. They were put back in and the costs were added in. It is not set in stone
Senator Carpenter-Are they talking about a bubble?

Vice President Carmody-Currently no.

Senator Wilke-What is the time table to present the plans to senators and students?

Vice President Carmody-I don't believe the consultation timeline has been set, but there will be plenty of time for discussion. It will be a long process. We will be careful and take our time.

Speaker Ryan Anderson

Over break I will be working on the tax credit project with State Treasurer Schilling for MSUSA and I will be taking the 70 page senate guidebook and trimming it down and make it something efficient we can use for a while. I will also develop a new senator report schedule.

I too was hit hard by Jared's death. I have a favorite Jared story- He was one of the delegates from Winona that went on the DC trip last March. We attended one hour training sessions on interest to students. We went to a session on Get Out the Vote in 2008. Voting laws in each state are very different, one of the great and terrible things about our democracy. Jared asked, "Sir, do you have any information or ideas on how to sue the county auditor?" The speaker did not have much response. Jared had a great sense of humor and dedication to students.

New Business

SAC Motion 12.05.07A

SAC recommends allocating \$500.00 to Chi Alpha Campus Ministry to travel to the 2008 SALT Conference in Rochester, MN
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Vice Chair Bhasin-There are 20 students going. They requested \$1,000.00. They did \$500.00 in fundraising. Total expenses will be \$3,800.00.

Senator Xiong-What will the \$500.00 go toward?

Vice Chair Bhasin-Registration. Registration costs \$3,000.00.

21y 1 no motion passes

SAC Motion 12.05.07B

SAC recommends allocating \$500.00 to Intervarsity Christian Fellowship to travel to a retreat in Brainerd, MN
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Vice Chair Bhasin-Total cost of conference is \$2,590.00. They requested \$1,000.00 for 15-20 students.

Senator Nelson how long is this conference or retreat?

Vice Chair Bhasin-Two days.

20y 2 no motion carries

SAC Motion 12.05.07C

SAC recommends allocating \$4162.00 to University Repertory Dance Theatre (U-Rep) to attend the American College Dance Festival in Madison, Wisconsin

Vice Chair Bhasin-They requested \$5,572.00. SAC voted to not fund the three non students and not pay for the meals. This would be for registration and lodging costs.

Senator Madden-Explain SAC rational?

Vice Chair Bhasin-This is a non-budgeted allocation. They have been coming to SAC for years for this competitive competition.

Senator Sands-How much fundraising did they do? This seems like a lot of money.

Vice Chair Bhasin- They are planning to raise about \$5,000.00.

Senator Sands-Did that \$5,000.00 go toward this?

Vice Chair Bhasin-They did not say if it was all going toward this.

Senator Wilke-Do they give a member contribution?

Vice Chair Bhasin-I do not have that.

Senator McMahan-What was the amount of their request?

Vice Chair Bhasin-\$5,570.00

Senator Busch-There are 12 people attending? 3 non students?

Chair Bhasin-We are not giving any money to the three that are non students.

Senator Wilke-Which department are they out of?

Co-Chair Bhasin-Theater and Dance.

Senator McMahan-What was rational for giving them that amount of money?

President Frederick-In the SAC policy Rep. Dance falls as a line item. They are exempt from the whole RSO thing, they are more in comparison to Athletics. They can go above and beyond the \$50.00 rule. It is left up to SAC and senate interpretation on how they want to fund this. Traveling or post season is not included in a base budget. We ask them to come forward when they qualify for tournament travel.

Senator Grove-I am still confused about who is going?

Vice Chair Bhasin-There are more people in the group. These are the people that were selected to attend.

President Frederick-This is a line item like the Theater Dept. We will have a presentation from them. This allocation has been on the board for the last month. There are a handful of students involved but it is a university sponsored program.

Senator Xiong-The money that is given will not cover staff, right?

Vice Chair Bhasin-No, it will not cover staff.

Senator Sands-Didn't Repertory Dance go over \$4,000.00 budget last year? If so, then they are not being responsible. Did they go over budget?

Senator Wilke-They had a \$2750.00 deficit.

Senator Carpenter-What is the estimated cost of those attending?

Vice Chair Bhasin-We have the total expense of \$5570.00

Senator Carpenter -What is the average out of pocket expense for students requesting funding?

Vice Chair Bhasin- I don't know that.

Senator Lust-Do we know if they asked for additional funding last year other than simply going over their budget?

President Frederick-Repertory Dance comes every year for this request as it is not included in their base funding.

Senator Sands-There are many organizations that come forth every year and ask for a budget increase. There are dozens that ask for an increase and Repertory Dance is one of them. Senator Hill-Wasn't this against what SAC had recommended last year?

Vice President Carmody-We are not understanding what Repertory Dance is as compared to other organizations. The RSO's have a different way they receive funding. They have a different process than what Repertory Dance has to go through. Repertory Dance is compared to Athletics. We don't recognize them every year. What we do is allocate money to their program so they are a line item. There is a big difference. This group is a completely different entity and it is not a student organization.

Senator Sands-I understand what an RSO is and what Repertory Dance is. I am not going to support this because I don't feel like this organization has been responsible with their money. They went over last year and they come and ask for an increase every year and that is sad. The Women's Center came and asked for an increase last year, LGBT asked for an increase. We turn them down and they have managed their budgets. Repertory Dance has gone over their budget and they are not responsible with their money.

Senator Busch-Does Rep Dance bring in receipts like football?

President Frederick-Yes, they do.

Senator Rajabali-For what it is worth LGBT gets \$9,000, Women's Center gets \$32,000 and ISO gets \$41,000. Rep Dance gets \$5,000.00. It makes sense for them to come and ask for more money.

Senator Sands-Yes, but they only have about 20 students, LGBT has over 100 active and they reach out to over 5,000 students a year. The Women's Center is over half of our population. They have not shown us that they are fiscally responsible. How many of us even know what Rep Dance is?

Senator Busch-We don't want to look at lowering it.

Senator Hill-I know what Rep Dance is and I strongly oppose this.

Vice President Carmody-I move to table this motion to January 16.

19y 2n 1 abs motion tabled

SAC Motion 12.05.07D

SAC Recommends allocating \$1000.00 to each of the following five groups for participation in the Homecoming Event Sponsorship Incentive Program
Sigma Nu, Sigma Sigma Sigma, Social Work Club, Hmong Student Association, St. Thomas More Newman Center

Senator Lovstad-What did Sigma Nu and Sigma Sigma Sigma do?

Chair Bhasin-Sigma Nu helped set up and decorate, they participated in a fair.

Tri Sigma also helped in all these events.

Senator McMahan-Do they have guidelines for spending the money?

Speaker Anderson-It could be for an on-campus event or travel. The majority is for travel.

Senator Sands-This was an incentive put out to get people involved. Everyone could be apart of this. We promised these people money for getting involved in events. They had to apply for it.

Senator Grove-Didn't they volunteer?

President Frederick-It was an incentive based policy. It goes through a process showing that they met the criteria and made homecoming a better event. They took ownership in homecoming. It goes through the Homecoming committee for approval and to verify that they did do the events. They can use the money however they want according to University guidelines.

Senator Lovstad – How did they decide Sigma Nu and Tri Sig and not all Greek Life? Everyone participated in homecoming events.

Speaker Anderson – out of order – no question

Vice Chair Bhasin– Five groups applied and met the guidelines

Senator Sands – All the groups “worked their butts off.” This is informative and not a debate. These groups helped out IMPACT.

Senator Xiong – The issue was what happened to the \$1000 promised?

Vice Chair Bhasin– What do you mean by a contract sign-up?

Senator Carpenter – Was the gentleman that spoke a part of the Hmong Association?

Senator Grove – How did they advertise to all RSO’s?

President Frederick – All RSO Presidents were informed.

Senator Lovstad – Did only five groups apply? If yes, if ten groups applied then would the amount go to \$500?

Vice Chair Bhasin– I already mentioned that and yes that is correct.

Senator Sands – There were more than 20 RSO’s that participated but it was based on the most points for the activities. Whoever scored the most points got \$1,000 a piece.

Senator Busch – From my understanding we already promised that money to them which is unfortunate.

Senator Madden – Call to question.

Senator Wilke - Motion to reconsider with more information – voted no – denied

Senator Carpenter – Move to reconsider call to question with a second

Revote on call to question

Senator Wilke – Based on what Sands had said about the points, Tri Sig and Sigma Nu acted as one group. They had an unfair advantage over the rest of the RSO’s.

Senator Lust – Did they register that way for the purpose of this competition?

Senator Wilke – No.

Senator Lust – What is the policy for RSO’s? Was it by team or organization.

Senator Wilke – Those teams can team up and gain twice as much as one organization.

Senator Lust – We find ourselves trying to create policy, which is not our place. We do have at least three other deserving organizations. I move to amend to strike Sigma Nu and Tri Sig and motions now changed into D, E, F, and G, creating five motions.

Senator Busch-Amendment to the Amendment – motion D would cover \$1000 each to all but Greek Life and E would give \$500 each to Sigma Nu and Tri Sig.

Vice President Carmody – This is extremely unorthodox to do it this way. In the future we should have all separate SAC recommendations.

Senator Lust – We are treading on dangerous waters by redoing policies.

Senator Grove – Let’s say we table vote on the other amendments and we pass the other three recommendations then there is leftover money.

Senator Lust-We have three groups that have signed off on this. The money would not change except the amount of money given to the Greek organizations.

Senator Xiong– The organizations sit at tables and contribute. The Greek organizations contributed in different events not as one team for one event. The point system is separate.

Senator Sands – I’m confused as to which way to go with this. The issue is with Tri Sig and Sigma Nu.

Senator Quast – Say we approve the three we agree on and then give \$500 to the two other organizations. Is that possible?

Vice Chair Bhasin– There was a deadline to apply.

Vote on the Amendment to split into two motions, the three and the two Greek Orgs

Motion D allocation of \$1000 each to the three orgs not including the Greek Orgs

Motion carries

Strike Sigma Nu and Sigma Sigma Sigma

Senator Lovstad – call to question

Vote on Amendment to Amendment to change to two separate motions.

Motion Passes

Move to a vote to pass the amendment to split the motions

SAC recommends allocating \$1,000.00 to the following three groups-Social Work Club, Hmong Student Association and the St. Thomas Moore Newman Center.

17 Yes 2 no 1 abstention

Motion carries

Sac Motion E-Senator Busch and Senator Quast move to allocate \$500.00 to each of the two groups for participation in the homecoming events, Sigma, Sigma, Sigma and Sigma Nu.

Senator Busch – We want to give the two groups \$500 each for their participation.

Senator Carpenter – I think we should have Tri Sig and Sigma Nu in on the discussion because one of them may have had more participants than the other. I'm not so sure we should split the amount 50/50. We should also get approval from the other groups that awarded the money.

Senator Xiong– To echo Senator Carpenter, they might have happened to do two events, think about that.

Senator Wilke – I think this motion should be tabled since we don't have all the information.

18 yes 1 no 1 abstention

Motion tabled until the next senate meeting after SAC meets

Motion 12.05.07A Senator Lovstad/Wilke CSU Budget

Whereas: It is the duty of the Centennial Student Union Board to oversee and approve the budget for the Centennial Student Union

Whereas: The CSU is owned by the students of MSU and is operated and paid for by student fees

Whereas: It is the CSU Board's duty to ensure that student fees are being properly allocated to the CSU and used in a way that best benefits the students of MSU

Whereas: The members of the Centennial Student Union Board and the administrators continue to work together diligently to ensure that student fees are being properly allocated to the Centennial Student Union and to continue to find ways to increase revenue inside the CSU so that student fees can continue to stay the same.

Be it resolved: The Centennial Student Union Board recommends that MSSA approve the FY08'/FY09' Centennial Student Union budget in its entirety

Be it further resolved that: The Centennial Student Union Board and administration continue to work together for the benefit of all students at MSU and to ensure that student fees are spent in the most beneficial ways possible.

Senator Lovstad – last Friday CSU board voted to approve the budget at a .07 cent decrease from last year, that was from Community Connections. This is still being paid for but not out of the Student Union budget. Technically the budget is staying the same as last year. It is not raising or going up. The budget is pretty self explanatory

Senator Wilke –Community Connections is operated by SLD. We felt this was improperly funded and what we are doing is shifting the .07 decrease because of this to a different pool of money instead of increasing or decreasing.

Senator Lust – Call the question

Call the question carries

18 yes 1 abstention

Motion carries

Academic Affairs- Casey Carmody

Motion 12.05.07B Academic Affairs Committee

Whereas: The 75th MSSA has indentified academic advising as one of the key initiatives for the 2007-2008 school year.

Whereas: During the September 19th MSSA meeting, the MSSA directed the Academic Affairs Committee to investigate issues and concerns regarding academic advising.

Whereas: The Academic Affairs committee took considerable time and effort to study the various aspects of academic advising throughout the university.

Whereas: The Academic Affairs Committee presented its findings to the MSSA during the November 28th meeting.

Whereas: Included in the findings were recommendations as to what the committee perceived would be the best direction to proceed.

Be it resolved: The MSSA directs the Academic Affairs committee to implement the recommendations made in its presentation during the 2008 Spring Semester.

Be it further resolved: The Academic Affairs coordinator will report back to the MSSA on progress and updates during his/her coordinator reports.

Vice President Carmody – This means we are going to take action as to what we said last week.

Senator Lust – These recommendations are more than appropriate.

Senator Busch – Call the question

19 yes

Motion passes unanimously

Senator Lust – Move to suspend the rules for the purpose of striking the rules to have senator reports submitted and accepted as written and not read in the meeting.

President Frederick – You were elected by your constituents to represent them regardless of the time commitment.

Senator Hill-I would like to echo that. This was brought forth because it is getting late.

Senator Wilke – To echo the disappointment, why are we here if we can't put in the time?

Move to suspend the rules fails

Committee Reports

Learning Technology Roundtable- Jared Grove

I attended a LTR meeting yesterday. They are very informational. Bryan Schneider talked about Weicking Aud. and Armstrong 101 where they are going to have power outlets under each seat.

They will be starting this during break. We have a new voice mail system where you can check your emails or send emails through the voice system.

Mav Cash will be incorporated into Mav Print account. MnSCU is buying the new firewall that will protect all the internet threats. This will be installed soon. There is new Distance Learning software that will be incorporated into the school laptops. There is a student tech fee

sub committee where they talk about the tech fee at mini seminars, he wants people to attend for all six weeks.. They will talk about new technology with students and faculty. We are working on some accessibility things with D2L and technology all around campus.

Student Affairs- Abbie Hill/Nate Madden

Senator Hill-We will discuss Senator Maddens policies first.

Senator Madden-The Student Complaint Grievance Process has just been reviewed. They just wanted to make sure it was up to date. This was our biggest project. It really looks fair and balanced and there will be ample time to file an appeal. There will be 7 business days after the outcome of the grievance. This provides two weeks for response to a grievance filled. Grievances can be filed by faculty or students for any reason, if you feel you have been wronged. This information can be found on the website and you can submit your material to the Office of the President. Our second policy was Verification of Enrollment for Students with Disabilities. The basic thing about this was that this policy was recommended for elimination. They felt this was no longer needed as it has been incorporated into Access for Students of Disability.

Senator Hill-The other policy was the Drug Testing Policy for Athletes. This holds the athletes to a higher standard as they represent the university. It is for the safety of our athletes and their well being. It does add integrity to the school. The issue is that it is too strict. Also, testing all year round and it could discourage athletes from coming here in the future.

The other policy is the proposed Tobacco Policy. Our main concern was the enforcement of the policy. All employees would be encouraged to confront a smoker in a non-confrontational manner. We want this brought back to the committee to put more into it to make it effective. We want more information on this. We do not support this policy as it stands.

We have also been discussing the 2008 Res Hall rates.

Senator Wilke-One of the issues with the drug policy for athletes was the year round testing.

Academic Affairs-Vice President Carmody

We are reporting back on some of the policies we have been going through. We looked at all of them. As for transferring of technical credits. we are pretty much ok with this. Basically it is eliminating the 16 credit transfer cap. The Undergraduate Extended Learning Admission to the University-this basically changes the amount of credits you can take without going through the full admission process. This changes from 12 credits to 15 credits. This will give students a more realistic view of what a full load is even though technically 12 credits is a full load most of us know that 15 is more what an average student takes. The Grading Policy-basic change added + - and how the point would be calculated. The committee was supportive of this. We will look a little more at the quality points. We will have that time during formal review. Priority Registration and Missed Class Policy-we talked to several people about this, including IFO President Don Larson and Kevin Buisman. We know this will be a very contentious issue. We definitely recommend getting more voice and opinions. There is different opinions on the committee. We might want to include this in a survey or an open forum topic. This may be a hot issue but there was a clause that this be reviewed this year. President Frederick-How many senators knew about Priority Registration and that it does already exist?

Vice President Carmody-I think quite a few did. As for the average student that might be something looking into.

President Frederick-Do you think priority registration can impact the average student?

Vice President Carmody-I do not want to speak for the committee as we are undecided.

There are committee members that dislike it because they don't think certain groups should get priority. It is a fair argument. Many students have to work 40 hours a week. Other committee members felt that if the university makes a commitment to a student and offers them a scholarship they should allow different incentives to take place to make sure they can attend practice. It is very split. Both sides have valid and fair points.

President Frederick-Was the discussion just around the athletic piece or the all around involved student? From my understanding the policy does not just capulate athletes.

Vice President Carmody-Athletics is the largest group that takes advantage of this policy but everyone does understand that it goes beyond that and encompasses forensics and theater and things like that.

Diversity Committee Report given by Kelly Biers

We have talked about Sodexo with Laurie Woodward and Cindy Janney. We have talked about the foods being offered. We discussed the way student employees are being treated by the staff of Sodexo and the reported conflicts. We talked very extensively about the Sexual Violence Program. We will talk more about the programs role within the university and what changes can be made to make it more effective. We talked about the multi-cultural center and the diversity calendar and making

sure students know that students know that Senator Rajabali is the Diversity Rep and encouraging students to attend diversity events. At the Meet & Greet we discussed international student jobs. There has been concerns about not having enough jobs for international students. We discussed getting an international diversity panel started. We will talk to ISA and set up a panel of international students that would go to classrooms and answer questions about what it is like to be an international students, their culture, and what it is like coming here, because we found there is misunderstanding about international students in general. Over winter break Senator Rajabali will try to come up with our Embracing Skin Color posters. He will also work to get an RSO meeting pertaining to any diverse RSO. This would try to get networking going.

Senator Reports

Off Campus- Abbie Hill

These last couple weeks I have been working on numerous projects, including the smoking ban and residential hall rates. These projects are currently in process and pending. If you have any questions, see me after the meeting. Thank you and have a fantastic day. I do want to talk about the open forum. My favorite part was when Vice President Straka called out Senator Lust to do the Math. It is disheartening to see when senators leave or are not here. We are to be held accountable to our constituents. The tobacco policy is a joke by not putting any teeth into it. I would like to know President Davenport's thoughts. We can not all be tattletales. It is not feasible to have a smoking ban just to say you have one.

Off Campus- Kelly Biers

There hasn't been a whole lot that's happened lately, so this will be a short report. The Student Affairs committee has been talking about university policies such as the tobacco ban. As has already been mentioned, we do not support this policy in its current form, but would consider supporting a revised version that further restricts smoking without a total ban, or that focuses on enforcing the current 15ft policy. We also discussed the dorm rates proposal from Cynthia Janney last week, and whether or not we would support it. The committee voted not to support it as it is due to the significant increases in rates. I abstained from this vote. My question is, with the new Julia Sears tower coming online, and with the renovations of Crawford and McElroy, how else are we supposed to pay for these? I didn't vote to support the proposal, either, because I'm still not sure that the dorms will be able to stay competitive with off-campus housing if the rates are going to continue to increase the way they are. I hope that Residential Life is taking this into consideration.

The diversity committee has had some great conversations, but I won't go into great detail so as to not repeat Senator Rajabali's committee report. One of the new announcements at the meeting was the selection of Lauren Pilnick as the new Sexual Violence Education Coordinator. She will begin her new position on December 5th. I had the opportunity to be a part of the open student interview session during the selection process, and I am confident that Lauren will be a great asset to the Sexual Violence Education Program, as well as the entire university. She has an impressive

background, and has worked in the past to integrate sexual violence education into many different aspects of university life, and she has promised to do the same here. I'm excited to continue discussions and work with her in the future, because I know she has great plans and a promising vision for our university.

Off Campus- Kris Lovstad

Last week I went to the Meet and Greet with administrators

CSU Board: We approved the budget for next year.
We have a lot on our plate. Friday's meeting should be a good one

Student Affairs: Voted against the Smoking ban in its current format
Res. Hall rates are another hot topic we are looking at.

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, this report is rendered on December 5, 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.

Since my last report, I have been in regular though imperfect attendance on all committees to which I was appointed. Sparing details to offer only the choicest nuggets of half-truth, I hope of special interest is a few of the eight committee's particular progress.

One such committee striving for a better tomorrow is the University Policy Review committee though bold in name and purpose is more shepherd than a gatekeeper. To wit if any senators actually want to stop or reform a presented policy, the efforts must come from your selves, no one else can save you. If you object to a ban on an otherwise legal activity you must raise your

Another committee I am happily serving on is the Search Committee for a Dean of Graduate Studies and Research. I am still happier to report that the pool of candidates we have is excellent not only in depth, breadth but also in the requisite ability for all Deans to bore you to tears. However, a particular going concern is the divergent needs of Graduate Studies and Research. While the former, as identified by the honorable President Davenport as part of his plan to grow the university, has been a key factor in the programs developed to date, the latter holds the greatest potential for institutional growth. Yet as the Minnesota State Legislature has historically hamstrung the development of university research anywhere other than the Twin Cities, it is quite likely that there is a ceiling for growth and we are likely near that limit. Thus if this university is to grow now and in the future, the administration must not merely give us dreams and goals but also lay the logistical groundwork today if we are to emerge victorious tomorrow.

Other committees I am serving on you have been reported to by other esteemed colleagues and as such I reserve direct comment on them other than to say that while I may clash from time to time with my fellow senators, I have been privileged to serve with them.

Closing Comments:

*****approximately 1000 words Reserved*****

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.

Announcements

Senator of the month – November-Jon Sands for putting in time over and over again. He has always served on committees when we needed him.

Roll Call

Senators Present

Bhasin, Biers, Carpenter, Grove, Hill, Johnson, Lovstad, Lust, Madden, McMahan, Pahl, Pottebaum, Quast, Sands, Schmidt, Wilke

Executive Staff Present

President Frederick, Vice President Carmody

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.