

75th MSSA Senate
April 23, 2008

Final Meeting of the 75th Senate called to order Speaker Ryan Anderson

Roll Call absent-proxy-excused)

Rachael Quast 25-0-0, Kristy Pottebaum 19-0-0-1, Holly Pahl 27-1-0-1, Jared Grove 25-0-0, Brandon Ross 28-0-0-1, James Varner 11-2-0, Brett Carpenter 20-0-0, Vang Xiong 13-3-0, Matthew Lust 26-3-0, Murtaza Rajabali 26-2-0-1, Harshdeep Bhasin 2451-0-3, Casey Adkins 9-0-0, Brian Leonhardi 11-0-0-2, Matthew Schmidt 20-1-0-1, Thuy Huynh 16-1-0-1, Ruby Lopez 10-1-0, Jeffrey Long 24-1-0, Noah Olanrewaju, 9-3-0, Andy Wilke 25-0-0, Abbie Hill 27-1-0-1, Nathan Madden 28-1-0, Brian McMahan 26-0-0, Kelly Biers 27-0-0, Kristopher Lovstad 29-0-0, Jon Hurm 6-2-0-1, Ryan Johnson 21-5-0, Dave Meyers 24-0-0, President Chris Frederick 28-0-0-1, Vice President Carmody 28-0-0-1

Open Forum

Rishley Cain-We are here to talk about services for parents on campus. The University of Minnesota, St. Cloud State, Winona State. They all have affordable childcare on campus. They have parent services offices set up and resources for parents. The way it sounds now, MSU has no total of population of parents so there is why we are not receiving resources. We would like to know how many parents are on campus. That is what we want to know because right now we feel like we are bumping heads and everyone tells us the ball has been dropped. We don't want that, we just want help and for you to look at this as a new issue. You represent us. We want an actual parent resource center. We want to know how many parents are on campus.

Senator Grove-Can you elaborate on what you meant by pointing fingers?

Ms. Cain-We met with Ryan Yunkers and he said his job was on the line and he had to cater to all these other people and parents where kind of in there somewhere but he couldn't meet all of our needs. Deidre in the Women's Center knew that it was an issue and she would try to help us the best she could but that excludes fathers. Everyone we met with was embarrassed because the issue had not been brought up before and the resources were not in place but they aren't telling us how to go about it. It was suggested we come to you.

Senator Madden-How many other student parents have you encountered?

Ms. Cain-We did an estimation. We took the percentage, but keep in mind that the census does not keep track of how many fathers there are. They figured that there are 6.7% of women age 15-19 that have children and 31.1 % US women aged 20-24 that have children. We took those numbers and halved them and came up with any where from 234-659 parents students on campus but that does not account for fathers. Deidre and others on campus actually feel that number is low, that their might actually be more.

Senator Leonhardi-What would a parent office do to help mothers, what are the issues for mothers or fathers?

Ms. Cain-There is no subsidized or available childcare on campus. There is no mentoring for parents on campus, no family housing. I can not use facilities my tuition pays for because I am no longer an individual. I am an individual plus one. For me to go to the library I have to tote my 1 year old son along. That would be ok because there are those awesome student group rooms, but those are study group rooms and we are not a study group when it is just us. There is an amazing children's book section in the library but I can't bring him there. Many mothers have tried but we have been kicked out of the library.

Gale Whitaker -I came here two years ago with a child and straight from high school. I did not get help with housing. I did that on my own, but it is doubly hard for a parent coming on campus. There was no help. There was a list on the Non trad Website, but it was Highland and Devonshire and I did not want to have my one year old living there and dealing with parties. It

would have been nice to have maybe a resource center on campus it would help parents make the transition a lot easier. I have used the rec center, but I can't bring him there.

Because we are not a single student we don't have the same rights. Athletes are asked to be given consideration for missed classes, parents are not given that consideration. There are other schools in the MnSCU system that do have resources for parents. Some do have family housing, they do have part-time, subsidized childcare available on campus. They have staff support for mentoring and support and activities for families. They have a web page and handbooks for parents.

Senator Carpenter-Do you think the university should be responsible or the state or government?

Ms. Cain-There are monetary services. It would be nice to have support services for parents. It would be nice to have more than just monetary assistance. We understand the funding was there but it was not being used.

Ms. McGhee-Weaver -No one seems to understand what to do with us. I have gone to the Non-trad office, I have gone to the Counseling Center. As far as monetary but no not necessarily. Retention is a high priority. MSU worked to get me here then they dropped me. I go to study group areas and take my kids. How can you let me know I need to pick up my kids on bad weather days? St. Cloud and Moorhead do offer these services.

Senator Hill-Regarding the living situation? Are you looking for a dorm?

Ms. Cain-Other schools offer dorms or housing, even a list of housing would help. A lot of people don't know there is public housing.

Senator Ross-Did you do your research before coming here?

Ms. Cain-Why do other schools represent this population and MSU does not?

Senator Ross-Have you looked into Children's House? Or starting an RSO?

Ms. Cain-We were told to shy away from an RSO. Students of Disabilities have an office, the Women's Center caters to single women.

Ms. Whitaker-There are very few student parents that go there.

Ms. Whitaker-The convenience of on-campus childcare would be a great asset.

Ms. McGhee-Weaver-We went to the Women's Center, Non-trads seem to be older, and we have stipulations they are done with. We need to go every where first. Where do we go?

Senator Grove-I still think starting an RSO is a good way to get started.

Senator Lovstad-Thank you for coming, I appreciate your concerns. You mentioned earlier other schools. What kind of programs do they offer?

Ms. Cain-They have part-time childcare that is subsidized to tuition. They have support services offices. They set up programs, parent support group websites. We don't have that at MSU.

Email or text messaging in case the school is shut down would be helpful. They could take into consideration parents might not be able to make it to class.

Ms. McGhee-Weaver-My kids miss school if late start is on an exam day.

Senator Ross-You have good ideas, would you be interested in creating a group of the things you want done with concrete plans? You are the leaders of your group. Would you have a group to let us know what you are interested in and then form an RSO?.

Ms. Cain-We were told to shy away from that.

Ms. McGhee-Weaver-We were told to come her

Ms. Whitaker-It is hard to get parents together.

Ms. Cain-Maybe a small area in the Women's Center would help.

Ms. McGhee-Weaver-Recruitment was there but then they dropped the ball.

Senator Ross-We are all busy, what do you hope to accomplish by passing this off?

Ms. Cain-We don't ask students of disabilities to provide services, the campus does. We are here asking what our campus has. We want to know what is there.

Senator Wilke-You caught us with our finger in our nose. All areas of campus should be involved in this. Administrators, Dr. Fagin, State wide chair, we have a legislative platform, child care has been forgotten. Can you be there to provide input?

Vice President Carmody-The previous speaker brought up many good points. I am glad you addressed this today. There is a motion here for senate to take a hard look at this.

Senator Rajabali-I can assure you we will be looking in to this.

President Frederick-Thank you for standing up here and asking the questions. I have seen progress in the last 4 days.

Senator Lovstad-I would look at creating an RSO, the LGBT started as a RSO, and then worked with the administration.

Ms. Cain-We want to find out how many are on campus so we can find out the demand.

Senator Carpenter-Get to know next year's off-campus senators and maintain communication.

Senator McMahan-As an off-campus senator we will work on getting this resolved.

Senator Madden-Thank you for your preparedness. What can we do to provide the most immediate relief for you? Where should we start?

Ms. McGhee-Weaver-Maybe a survey to find out the actual amount of parents on campus.

Presentations

ITS-Technology Fee-Vice President Marilyn Delmont, Wayne Sharp-Director of ACC, Bryan Schneider-Director of Technical Service

Mr. Schneider-we just got back from a state-wide IT Conference. Wayne has been traveling around the country most recently in Chicago. We talked to the big 10 schools. One of the neat things is that unlike business, in education we share ideas. Our big question is how do we keep up with student learning?

Wayne Sharp-The computers we purchased were on a three year replacement cycle.

We try to extend to a fourth and fifth year. This year there was an issue-we can not get year four and five yers out of many of the computers so e have to catch up with replacing computers, almost 400 machines. We are not going to get 4, 5 and 6 year out of many machines.

Brian Schneider-The money we get in goes directly back to the campus. We try to make It so classes don't get cancelled because of not having power. The first floor of the library is very heavily used. It ranks with the ACC.

60 computers failed in Armstrong.

Mr. Schnider-We get our paper from Printing Service. Cost of paper is going up.

Approval of Agenda Agenda stands approved

Approval of Minutes 4-09-2008, 4-16-08 Minutes stand approved

Officer Reports

President Chris Frederick

I meant what I said in my speech. I have been honored and humbled to be your president. We came to the table and represented students in their best interests. There have been ups and downs and I think you for hanging in there.

My last business speaks to the Open Forum. today Last week we heard how the line item offices do address concerns. I was concerned.

I appreciate the opportunity. I wish President Anderson the best of luck.

Don't forget the Softball game next week.

Senator Grove-We all heard the concerns, number one, the Non trad office is for people over the age of 24. Single mothers-I felt it was bad that the Women's Center dropped the ball. Dr. Fagin dropped the ball. After we allocated the funds, what are they doing?

What is your most memorable moment?

Most Memorable moment-loss of classmates. It was a trying time and we should all take something away from that.

Senator Madden-As State Chair have you been cooking anything up about childcare?

President Frederick-I didn't know it was that big of a problem. We need to look at a MnSCU policy. If one campus is providing this, we all should be doing something.

Vice President Casey Carmody

I thought inauguration went very well. It meant we did do something right this year.

Next year will be exciting. Softball game next week. I am 7 for 12 for the season. I have two homeruns. I am coming.

It has been an honor and pleasure serving students. There is no higher call than public service.

I appreciate working with Chris and Ryan. We accomplished things together as a senate.

President Frederick-Do you feel you were qualified for the office?

Vice President Carmody-I feel like I was a Barack Obama. I don't know. I showed up and did the job and hopefully I made a difference. Barack Obama is very qualified

Senator McMahan-What is your most memorable moment on senate?

Vice President Carmody-The first meeting two years ago when Evan Trosvik and this tall guy wanted to pass a motion to put a picture of a former president on the wall and I wanted to go play softball and now making Ryan Anderson my best friend.

Speaker Ryan Anderson

Speaker elections next week. My door is always open. Know your constitution and bylaws well.

Senator Grove-What is your most happy moment on senate?

Speaker -The one time when we had RSO's that were out there and I sited these I think I was the world's biggest dork.

Recognized Student Organization-Robotics Club

Old Business

M#04.09.08A Technology Fee

Whereas:	The MSSA represents the entire student body
Whereas:	The MSSA understands the needs of technology to further aid our students in education
Whereas:	The Student Learning and Technology Roundtable met to discuss Student Technology Fees
Whereas:	The Student Learning and Technology Roundtable understands that students do not want fees increased.
Be it resolved: The Student Learning and Technology Roundtable approved a motion to keep Student Technology Fees at \$7.00 per credit with a cap of \$84 per semester for the 2008-2009 academic years.	

Be it further resolved: The MSSA approves to keep Student Technology Fees at \$7.00 per credit with a cap of \$84 per semester for the 2008-2009 academic years.

Motion passes unanimously

New Business

M#04.23.08A Smoking Ban Senator McMahan/Senator Long

Whereas: The MSSA and its members are part of the university policy consultation process

Whereas: The MSSA and its members is a body representative of the students and campus life at MSU, Mankato.

Whereas: The MSSA and its members are committed to preserving the quality of campus life and the rights of the individual student at MSU

Whereas: The current Smoking and Tobacco Policy is not enforced and the proposed Tobacco Policy does not have a clear method of enforcement

Be it Resolved: The MSSA and its members support discarding the proposed Tobacco Policy and increase enforcement of the existing Smoking and Tobacco policy.

Senator McMahan-The policy will pass this summer if we don't vote it down. I feel This infringes on the rights of people living in the dorms. We don't need to impose on peoples liberties.

Senator Long-The idea of a smoke free policy is great but having a policy for a policy. And we will be caught in the same predicament.

Senator Hill-53% of students support a smoke free campus. This is based on the survey.

Senator Wilke-A lot of senators in the room and at least one committee has gone Through this and I don't see it working.

Senator Madden-I speak in favor of this motion. The rationale is what is our university going to look like when we have the policy on the books and people are still smoking. What does that do for our credibility. We make policies for a reason. The first policy of 15 feet or making a door non smoking was to curtail negative effects of smoking on campus but also to let the smoker do their smoking. We need to discard the one thrown our way.

Senator McMahan-We represent everyone, smokers are in the minority.

Senator Grove-I support this motion.

Senator Ross-This is a big issue. A lot of us came to the, we need to represent everyone.

Senator Johnson-3 people in McElroy

Senator Carpenter-We passed a large Campus Rec motion that used the same survey. If we Used those results we should consider the %53. We need to cater to the majority.

Senator Lovstad-some people may look at the survey results and vote not.

Senator Adkins-I am on the fence. How can enforcement help.

Senator McMahan-We need to take tiny steps.

Motion 04.23.08B Academic Affairs Senator Hill

Whereas: It is the Academic Affairs Committee's job to approve/disapprove of related policies

Whereas: The Academic Affairs Committee has done its due diligence by meeting Kevin Buisman to discuss this policy

Whereas: It is the Academic Affairs Committee's responsibility that all policies are in the best interest of the students

Be it Resolved: The Academic Affairs Committee recommends the MSSA not approve of the Make-up Work and Missed Classes policy as it stands for the following reason: It violates a professor's right to academic freedom and the students mentioned in this policy have the advantage to register 24 hours prior to the registration window opening.

Vice President Carmody-I don't agree with the way the motion is worded. I don't think we should . I don't think Priority Registration is an advantage, it is for the people finding themselves in the situation. I don't agree with the motion.

Senator Madden-

Vice President Carmody-We should not base policies on the professor's rights.

Senator Hill-I will stand behind what Academic Affairs said.

Senator Lovstad

Amendment Adopted

Vice President Carmody-

This is obviously pertinent just because a student can register 24 hours prior to the registration window.

Motion carries

Motion 04.23.08 C Student Parents Senator McMahan/Madden

Whereas: The MSSA represents the entire student body

Whereas: The MSSA and its members is a body representative of the students and Campus life at MSU

Whereas: Student parents face greater adversity in student life than the typical student

Whereas: Student parents receive little assistance or support from MSU currently

Be it Resolved: The 75th MSSA requests that the 76th MSSA review and resolve the issue of little support or assistance for student parents.

Senator McMahan-This is an issue

Senator Madden-they are going to college and raising a college. I barely have time to go to college let alone. We are forgetting an entire population.

Amendment adopted

Motion passes unanimously

Motion #03.23.08 D Madden/Wilke Campaign Materials

Whereas: The MSSA is committed to promoting more environmentally friendly Practices

Whereas: There is currently no stipulations requiring that all election materials be recycled

Be it Resolved: The MSSA requests that the Elections Committee require that all campaign materials posted by recycled concluding the elections period.

Senator Madden-I saw materials in the garbage. We should recycle them.

President Frederick-I am worried about the enforcement.

Motion carries

Motion #04.23.08E Senator Grove/Senator Madden

Motion carries

Motion #04.23.08F Senator Lovstad/Madden

Motion carries

Announcements

President Frederick-Softball, MSUSA this weekend, RSVP

Senator Lovstad-I want to thank Brittany Hanson for all her hard work, she wrote honest Articles, it says a lot about journalism

Senator McMahan-talk to St. Cloud and Moorhead and see what they do with their Parents

Senator Grove-We raise \$50,000 for our fraternity this past weekend.

Thank all of you and apologize. I enjoyed my time on senate and learned a lot.

Senator Olanrewaju-It has been a pleasure and congrats to graduates

Senator Meyers-Chris Frederick for City Council.

Roll Call

Senators Present

Rachael Quast, Kristy Pottebaum, Holly Pahl, Jared Grove, Brandon Ross, Brett Carpenter, Matthew Lust, Harshdeep Bhasin, Casey Adkins, Brian Leonhardi, Thuy Huynh, Ruby Lopez, Jeffrey Long, Noah Olanrewaju, Andy Wilke, Abbie Hill, Nathan Madden Brian McMahan, Kelly Biers, Kristopher Lovstad, ryan Johnson, Dave Meyers

Senators Absent

James Varner, Vang Xiong, Murtaza Rajabali, Matthew Schmidt, Jon Hurm

Executive Staff Present

President Chris Frederick, Vice President Casey Carmody

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 6:48 P.M.