

**9i 76th MSSA Senate
December 3, 2008**

Senate called to order by Speaker Brett Carpenter

Roll Call (present-absent-proxy-excused)

Robert Dooley 15-0-0, Panoulia Vang 14-0-0-1, Kelly Biers 15-0-0, Ryan Johnson 12-3-0, Brian Leonhardi 15-0-0-, Jayme Pretzloff 11-0-0, Sara Pawlitschek 8-3-0, Ahmet Dursun 14-1-0, Kevin Clement 9-1-0-1, Casey Adkins 14-0-1, Olja Susilovic 10-2-0, Udeeb Shankhadev 12-3-0, John Busch 11-3-0-1, Yonis Gabow 9-5-0, Bulour Zarzar 9-2-0, Thuy Huynh 12-2-0-1, Brock Kanstrup 10-1-0, Joshua Gladis 14-1-0, Samuel LeVahn 10-1-0, Michael Cooper 9-2-0, Philip Shea 8-3-0, Kristy Carpenter 11-0-0, Andrea Buecksler 14-1-0, Abby Knott 1450-0, Amin Abdul-Mohamed 4-0-0, Isaiah Maddox 10-1-0, Kris Lovstad 2-1-0, Holly Pahl 14-1-0, Andy Wilke 14-1-0, President Ryan Anderson 15-0-0, Vice President Murtaza Rajabali 15-0-0

Open Forum

Academic Affairs-Brett Fleck, Coordinator

We discussed our policies two weeks ago. Motions will come out in January. Please turn in your schedules for next semester so we can schedule our Student Affairs meeting.

Senator Clement-Do we need to review the intention of the Human Subject Research Policy?

Coordinator Fleck-I don't know if there were any changes. I will look at it and if there were we can discuss that next semester.

Senator Wilke-Have you received data on the COB Laptop Policy to prove that their suspicions of saving money would be correct?

Coordinator Fleck-There is a survey that will be going out next semester and based on that we can put together our support of usage or cutting the fee, depending on what comes back. I went to their meeting, they were very receptive and we had a constructive conversation about this. Obviously the people on the Tech Committee are in support of this it. It seems like the fee will be kept in some capacity.

President Anderson-What did you do on the Faculty Availability for Office Hours Policy?

Coordinator Fleck-We are going to keep that. It is in the Union contract but it is not in the university contract. If we were to do away with that and there were any problems, we as students would have no way of discussing it, so we would like to have any input that we can have.

Approval of Agenda Agenda approved - written report-Senator Carpenter

Approval of Minutes (11-19-2008) Minutes stand approved

Officer Reports



President Ryan Anderson

Alcohol Forum-Amazing turnout considering the location and that we were going head to head with the scholarship barbeque. There were interesting comments. We will wait until the first or second meeting of second semester to pass recommendations, some are policy, and some are general recommendations on what the university could be doing better. It will take a while to sort those all out and then we will speak with a strong voice. There was interesting feedback from all parts of the campus community.

After the Alcohol Forum I received an email from a student wanting to know the university policy on Facebook. Facebook pictures are allowable. University doesn't actively search for pictures that are incrementing or against university policy but will use them if provided for disciplinary sanctions. I sent out a Facebook reminder about pictures. Facebook is a public forum and easy for folks to access..

Meet and Confer Tomorrow- 3 spots available. We will be talking about policy recommendations.

Rajab and I are meeting with Dr. Davenport tomorrow to catch up on how things have been going the past few weeks. I will meet with Provost Olson tomorrow at 9:00 A.M. to talk about what budget cuts will mean for Academic Affairs and a variety of other topics.

MavCard RFP process going smoothly. I will be going to a variety of meetings over break: MavCard, Job Searches, Enrollment Management etc. Periodically over break I may need to pass some executive orders and I will be sending out emails to all of you.

Bob Dooley and Murtaza Rajabali will be our D.C. delegates

Mav Textbook Reserve is coming together for next semester. EEC 200 is going to participate, Information System 101, Calculus, Nursing testing book, Sociology 351, Urban Studies 100 and 110 and Communications Disorders 201 and Astronomy 101 will also be a good fit for the program. We will spend a good part of that \$4600.00. Over break I will send out an all student email reminding students of the courses in the program so they can use that information when they are making their decisions.

St Cloud MSUSA Board of Directors this weekend.

Senator Wilke-In regard to Facebook, what type of burden of proof does the university use in judging students that have alleged improper acts?

President Anderson-My understanding is that they use a preponderance of evidence which is a lot lower threshold than reasonable doubt. That means that students can be given sanctions if it is believed that an event is more likely to have taken place than not likely. That does not give total discretion to the folks making the decisions, what it does do is make it easier for the university to prove that somebody did something, otherwise the cost of going through a sanction would sky rocket and make it almost unfeasible for the university to have any sort of conduct code. A student conduct board exists to hear all appeals and make sure all students are represented.

Vice President Murtaza Rajabali



LTR Meeting-About the cell phone policy-faculty and staff will get a stipend to have a phone. Rates will be negotiated with the Union.

Dial in lines will be cancelled for faculty and staff. They were the majority users, 60%, but due to the policy change you are only allowed to use it for business purposes and not personal. It will still be available for students. That is still to be discussed.

NewStar alert system is being tested.

ECHO 320 is a lecture system. This is where lectures are recorded for an on line class. The university just got a deal to buy 3 for the price of 2. There will be one installed in Armstrong, Morris and the Library. Everything for a lecture is captured. It automatically makes chapters out of it. Faculty are not too happy about it because some of them do not want their lectures recorded.

Web Portal-My MSU. This month the usage jumped to 7,000. Library study rooms are now open.

Regarding questions of the week-we are now ready to put it on the portal and the web page. We have to go through Marketing to get it done. Ted Johnson believes it will be received well. We will work on that next semester.

MnSCU International Health Insurance Meeting Friday.

MavPrint location is still not up. They were looking for the best location. A location was finally found. It will be put outside the College of Education.

I will be working on the senator handbook this winter. Congratulations to those graduating.

Speaker Brett Carpenter

Recognized Student Organization

Consent agendas will begin in January. This will be used to approve the minutes, appointments and RSO's and possible SAC motions.

Committee Reports

SAC-Amin Abdul-Mohamed, Chair

We allocated almost \$100,000 dollars today in SAC. \$10,000 went to the Campus Express Bus. Some members of the senate have been working hard to increase the hours the bus runs from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM Monday through Thursday to accommodate students taking night classes and using campus facilities

in the evening. We requested a status report of the program in mid March. We also made a request to Campus Rec. to purchase new equipment totaling \$7,900. This comes from their reserve funds. The third recommendation we made was to Health Services. They want to buy a new computer system that automatically updates health records from hospitals. All hospitals are moving to this. They are asking for about \$70,000 from their reserve.

We recommended allocating \$3,777 to Repertory Dance. They have a competition in Feb. in Minneapolis. Senator Wilke-Regarding the Repertory Dance request of \$3,770. Will the senate approve that or will our esteemed President approve or disapprove over break by executive order?

President Anderson-I will be in contact with Mr. Hodapp and Julie Kerr-Berry and if they need to know before the deadline of break I will either approve or disapprove by executive order. I will send out an email letting you all know. It will be very public and open. If you think I have gone off my rocker you will have the ability to call a meeting of the senate scheduled within a certain time period and we would vote on it. If you don't send me anything it shows me you approved. If there is no strict deadline requirement we can wait until the first meeting in January.

Vice President Rajabali-How does the reserve come about? Is it from earnings?

Chair Abdul-Mohamed-Mostly it is from surpluses generated and we know they need to replace equipment so we allocate these funds when we are making the budget to come from their surpluses. We did budget this in the process so it does not come from student allocations.

Vice President Rajabali-Does it come from their SAC reserves?

President Anderson-I think Health Service came from their reserve?

Mr. Hodapp-Campus Rec, Reporter and Health Services have a reserve budget. The Reporter has a cap of \$30,000. Campus Rec has a cap of \$50,000. Health Services is \$70,000. The only one that is eligible for a annual subsidy contribution is Campus Rec. They can get up to \$20,000 subsidy. The others have to ask for it when they need it. They do not count this as part of their reserve. They have to come to SAC and the senate to ask permission to use the funding.

Vice President Rajabali-How will they replenish the budget?

Chair Abdul-Mohamed-That would be part of the budget request.

President Anderson-Is it not true that they are budgeted every year with the understanding that often times the money is not always spent but then they might have a big equipment expenditure the next year?

Chair Abdul-Mohamed-Yes, because we expect them to buy equipment so we budget a little every year.

Student Affairs Andy Wilke-Chair

My report has to do with the motion on the agenda. I combined six policies and recommendations into one. The first thing is that there are three policies regarding bicycles. Abandoned bicycles and Rollerblade/Skateboards/Bicycles. The recommendation from the university is to combine them into one policy, making it easier to operate.

The Cell Phone Personal Use Policy – MnSCU has made a ruling that you can no longer use cell phones for personal use. This is now required by MnSCU and we are basically saying this is good. Faculty should not be using cell phones for personal use.

The Letterhead policy is something that they want to make a departmental policy, making it a policy that is easier to change and update without going through a huge policy review process.

The other one is the Greek Alcohol Policy. There is a specific alcohol policy regarding social events for Greek organizations on campus. That policy is currently a university wide policy. There is a recommendation to make it a divisional or departmental policy run out of the office of Student Affairs.

We did not see that as a huge problem so long as those organizations are held accountable the same as if it were a university wide policy. We want it made known that is the expectation we have and we want some feedback on that during the formal review policy.

Senator Dooley-Will they get more money if they get a stipend for the cell phone use.

Coordinator Wilke-There is not a policy for stipends on the table at this time. There is just talk that this may happen in the future and if it does we hope there will be a policy review.

Vice President Rajabali-Why do they want to make the Greek policy departmental?

Coordinator Wilke-One of the Greek leaders brought this up to President Anderson. As long as the policy is held to the same degree of accountability I don't see it being a problem. I think the benefit is that it

makes the policy a little more fluid. It can better accommodate the needs of both the university and the Greek organizations.

Mr. Hodapp-We were required to reimburse the university for personal calls that we made in the past, they were not free. What they have done is taken away the ability to do that.

Senator Johnson-Would that mean that professors would have to give out their phones to be contacted?
Coordinator Wilke-Professors give out their office numbers. They will still have a phone in their office. Cell phones can only be used for university business.

New Business

M.12.03.2008 A Residential Hall Rates Senator Cooper

Whereas: Many of the increases in the Residential Life Budget are justifiable

Whereas: Supply and demand arguments are flawed when on campus living is sold in an imperfectly competitive market

Whereas: The Department of Residential Life went through a significant consultation process with the RHA and MSSA

Whereas: The MSSA supports the Department of Residential Life's move toward environmentally friendly practices in recent years

Whereas: Explanations for the cost differential between on and off campus living are often unclear to students

Whereas: Purchasing a meal plan is a significant portion of room and board rates

Whereas: Forcing students to purchase flex dollars monopolizes their convenience and fast food options

Be It Resolved: The MSSA approve the 2009-2010 Room and Board Rates with the following conditions

Be It Further Resolved: The MSSA support Residential Life continuing to implement environmentally friendly practices within the Residence Halls

Be It Further Resolved: The MSSA requests the Department of Residential Life work the appropriate university officials to develop itemized billing for its room and board rates, to be distributed to on campus residents

Be It Further Resolved: The Department of Residential Life develop a long term plan to keep hall rate growth at inflation or less

Be It Further Resolved: The MSSA support keeping flex dollar minimums at the lowest possible rate allowable in the food service contract

Senator Cooper-This motion covers the environment. Keeping rates low. Keeping flex dollars to a minimum.

Senator Dooley-This motion is terribly written.

Senator Abdul-Mohamed-What are flex dollars?

Senator Cooper-When you live in the res halls you are required to buy flex dollars.

Senator Wilke-RHA voted to increase flex dollars from \$75-150.00. Keeping this at minimum is imperative

Director Janney-Regarding the \$75.00 per semester-there are only 170 people on that plan out of the 3,000 that we have. That is \$4.59 cents a week. At \$150.00 it is \$9.38 a week. Part of the rationale is to give them a better deal, not to make them pay more. If you get \$75.00 in flex instead of cash you get \$80.25 in food.

President Anderson-This motion hits on many things that make sense. This motion recognizes the progress Res Life has made in the last few years and the tradition it has in environmental issues. No body knows how to burn garbage better than Rich Wheeler. I think that itemized billing or transparency in students knowing what they are paying for makes sense. One complaint we got on our boards downstairs was why does it cost more-itemized billing is the clearest and fairest way to show everybody what they are getting and what they are giving up if they move off-campus. We have seen considerable hikes in res life rates as new halls have come on line. We do understand the cost pressures students in higher education face. We need to develop long term plans to keep costs under control. Regarding flex dollars-RHA did support this. It is understandable why a student would want to purchase this but I don't think there should be a minimum that you should have to buy. We should keep this as low as possible. Students should have the opportunity if they want.

Vice President Rajabali-Minimum flex dollars-once you buy the minimum plan can you get more flex dollars?

Director Janney-Students can buy at anytime. Off-Campus students can buy any of our meal plans at any time.

Vice President Rajabali-I support the motion with keeping flex dollars at the minimum possible. Students can buy more if they wish.

Senator Biers-I did not really use my flex dollars, but students should not be forced into using it.

Senator LeVahn- If you want to increase flex dollars do you have to increase the price of the meal plan?

Director Janney-Yes you have to increase the meal plan by the amount you are adding. Flex dollars and meal plans are two components. Flex dollars have grown out of the desire for res hall students to access specialty food items without restrictions. One meal plan only has flex dollars it does not even have a meal component.

Motion Carries

Student Affairs M#12.03.2008

Whereas: The MSSA has been asked, as required, to provide input to proposed university policy changes

Whereas: The Student Affairs Committee of MSSA has discussed and come up with the following recommendations for several policies as follows

Be it Resolved: The MSSA agrees with the recommendation to eliminate the Cell Phone Personal Use Policy, Letterhead Policy and Abandoned Bicycle Policy

Be it further Resolved: The MSSA agrees with the recommendation to change the Rollerblades/Skateboards/Bicycles/Personal Assistive Mobility Devices by eliminating references to Bicycles

Be it further Resolved: The MSSA agrees with the recommendation to change the Bicycle Policy as proposed

Be it further Resolved: The MSSA agrees with the recommendation to change the Greek Alcohol Policy to a departmental policy. So long as Greek organizations are held similarly accountable to the policy by the Office of Student Affairs.

President Anderson-This makes a lot of sense. The idea to move the Greek Alcohol Policy to a departmental policy came about when Director Woodward thought it already was a divisional policy. This makes sense because it moves to more local control of the Greek Alcohol Policy where they can make amendments as needed through the governing bodies that they have.

Senator Busch-What did personnel say about the cell phone policy? Do they agree with it?

Senator Wilke-MnSCU was required to make this change because of tax code changes. They were required to by federal law. You can not have a MnSCU paid cell phone for personal use.

Motion Carries

Senator Reports

College of Business-Ryan Johnson

I have been very active on campus. I am on the Parking Advisory Committee. I helped extend the Route I bus hours from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

Off-Campus-Kristy Carpenter (written report)

In our last Student Affairs meeting we talked about the alcohol policy, and will continue to look into this issue. We also talked about the facebook issues occurring with students getting in trouble due to facebook photographs. Personally I think if you have pictures that show you in any way/shape/form that you don't want someone to see, you shouldn't put it on a public site like facebook. However, it is very difficult to prove that the person holding the alcohol is actually drinking the alcohol. What if someone has handed a beer bottle to the person in the photograph to hold while they are getting something out of their purse? Is this deemed punishable if the person has not actually consumed or planned to consume the beverage. The phrase "Innocent until proven guilty" seems to have little standing in some of these situations. I think facebook is an unreliable source for finding proof of wrong doings in many cases.

I have also been attending SAC meetings. I continue to await my constitution commission and elections committee meetings.

Science, Engineering & Technology- Casey Adkins

I have been really busy with school lately. My teachers have decided to load on the homework these last few weeks. In my Parking Appeals committee we have gotten fewer and fewer tickets to deal with. Our last meeting this semester is next week on Thursday. In my CSET Advisory Board meeting, I wasn't able to make the last meeting due to scheduling conflicts. Our next meeting is on Thursday. The last MSUSA meeting was interesting. We passed the policy that asked for a review of the policy allowing administrators to punish people off campus for alcohol related offenses. I look forward to our month off and to next semester's student government meetings.

Vice President Rajabali-What do you think about the 2-5% cut of adjunct faculty or graduate assistants in CSET?

Senator Adkins-It will hurt us. Faculty assistants are already at a low. Students don't have a choice in faculty anymore.

College of Graduate Studies-Ahmet Dursun

I have been busy with my thesis research, so I do not have much to say in this report.

Activities involved

- Academic Affairs meeting every week (COB fee and laptop issue, graduate printing money, policy reviews)
- Bookstore Advisory Committee Meeting (Today at 3:00 PM) The amount of money given to textbooks will increase from \$10-15,000 in the next contract. And also, thanks to Senator Busch, hopefully a possibility of a student exchange.

Senator Busch-We want it left open in the contract so that students could have the availability of a student exchange.

Vice President Rajabali-What is meant by the Student Exchange Program?

Senator Busch-15 years ago we had a program and it did not work out but if someone wanted to do that we do not currently have that option ins the bookstore contract. We want it open so that if someone wanted to do that they could.

McElroy Hall-Michael Cooper (written report)

I have been very busy with my classes lately. I have found time to meet with another McElroy floor. It went well. The need for an ATM in the Carkoski was brought to my attention. We might what to make that a new stipulation in the contract with the bank. I briefly attended the open forum but I had to leave for a study table.

College of Allied Health & Nursing-Robert Dooley

As MSUSA Campus Rep, I will be working on our regional event coming up next semester. I am trying to get together with Brianna Ellison, Director of Campus Organizing for MSUSA.

For the Student Union Board: Dinning Services are looking at moving Jasmines to the north east corner, the bids came back higher than expected, and they are looking for ways to get the needed funds.

We saw the first draft of the proposed fiscal 2010 budget, today.

Tomorrow morning I will be meeting with the CAHN Student Advisory Board

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences-John Busch

Bookstore Advisory Committee-we have asked for money for renovation of the bookstore. Students have asked for a bump out. We should discuss making contributing to the program a yearly.

President Anderson-Did funding for Blue Earth Review make it into the proposal?

Senator Busch-Yes,

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences-Bulour Zarzar (written report)

I am on the Legislative and Academic Affairs committee. I haven't been able to make any Academic Affairs meeting due to my class schedule but I've been updated on the latest information. I was also unable to attend the college of business tech enhancement meeting regarding the laptop policy but I am extremely enthusiastic about hearing specific details concerning the policy. I really enjoyed meet your senator week because I felt it gave the student body a way to get to know who is representing them. I strongly agree with some of the policies that are being passed in the senate meeting. I also enjoyed the presentation in relation to the new sports field and the new development around campus. I have completed two of my requirements to speak to a class, many suggestion and great ideas were given. I am looking forward to working with other senators to pass great policies and help put some of the ideas and suggestions into action.

Announcements

President Anderson- Tribute to Senators Yonis Gabow, Annie Buecksler, and John Busch

It is the last meeting for some of our distinguished Senators and I wish to pay tribute to them by reading from Theodore Roosevelt's famous man in the arena speech.

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat”

So thank you Yonis, Annie and John for running for the MSSA and stepping into this arena and continually striving to make this University a better place. I hope you have enjoyed your time as Senators and gotten nearly as much out of this organization as you have put in. I am grateful for your efforts.

Senator Huynh-Step Show Thursday at 7:00 in Ostrander

Senator Wilke-Choral concert Sunday at St. Johns

Senator Biers-We now have the candidates for the Director of Women's Studies.

Senator LeVahn-Senator Wilke is this your last meeting?

President Anderson-Look for Executive Orders from me over break. Be proud of the work we have done this semester.

Roll Call

Senators Present

Robert Dooley, Kelly Biers, Ryan Johnson, Brian Leonhardi, Ahmet Dursun, Kevin Clement, Casey Adkins, Olja Susilovic, John Busch, Thuy Huynh, Samuel LeVahn, Michael Cooper, Kristy Carpenter, Andrea Buecksler, Abby Knott, Isaiah Maddox Andy Wilke

Senators Absent

Panoulia Vang, Jayme Pretzloff, Udeeb Shankhadev, Yonis Gabow, Bulour Zarzar, Brock Kanstrup, Joshua Gladis, Philip Shea, Amin Abdul-Mohamed, Kris Lovstad, Holly Pahl

Executive Staff Present

President Anderson, Vice President Rajabali

Adjournment 5:40 PM

