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Election results are in, and President Tom Williams is proud to lead the Minnesota State Student Association alongside Vice President Brett Anderson.

“It hasn’t really sunk in yet,” said Williams. The pair ran together with 15 other students for the Students First party.

“I’m just really happy that we won. It’s something that we’ve been thinking about and planning for over a year,” Anderson said.

Anderson said he valued the fact that another party ran against them and got more people involved.

“It was good that they came out and ran a good campaign and really kept us on our feet and working hard,” Anderson said.

Over the summer, Williams and Anderson plan to search for a team of coordinators and start working on MSSA issues such as student services cuts. Both are excited to speak to incoming freshmen during orientations, but they can’t wait for all the students to come back in the fall.

Williams was happy that more students voted than last year, but he would still like to see more voters in future years. 13.7 percent of the student population voted. A total of 1775 people voted for president and 1740 voted for vice.

Mavericks United candidates Pradeep Neupane and Stefan Dudziak said they learned a lot while campaigning. They were proud that they were able to gain a nearly equal amount of support as their opposition in the two short weeks they had to plan before the election.

“We really did care about the issues,” Dudziak said. “We didn’t get elected, but we’re not bitter about it.”

Neupane said if he and Dudziak had decided to run earlier and had more time to plan their campaign the election would have been very different. Neupane knows he will continue to be involved in events on campus in any way he can.

“I have been involved in every single cultural event in one form or another, and I like it,” Neupane said.

Both agreed that if they disagree with how issues are handled by MSSA next year, they would make their voices heard.

Williams and Anderson want to remind students that there are no more party associations — just MSSA. Williams said he appreciates that he had the opportunity to be president and was flattered that so many people believed he was the best man for the job. They were both humbled by the number of students that voted for them and would like all students to feel free to contact them with any issues.

“We’re just as much students as anyone else,” Williams said. “We’re not better, we’re not worse, we’re just students.”

Contact them at thomas.williams@mnsu.edu or brett.anderson@mnsu.edu.