

**78th MSSA Senate
September 8, 2010**

Senate called to order by 78th Speaker Matthew Schmidt

Roll Call (present-absent-proxy-excused)

Jennifer Dooley 3-1-0, Nikki Sabby 4-0-0, Chris Mangione 4-0-0, Brandon Quam 3-1-0, Dan Kromer 4-0-0, Amin Mohamed 2-2-0, Nathan Gustafson 4-0-0, Samuel Adams 3-1-0, Cody Ingenthron 3-0-1, Sarah Koenen 4-0-0, Lani Petrulo 4-0-0, Zachary Lincoln 3-1-0, Braeden Hogie 3-1-0, Cody Buechner 3-0-1, Micheal Do 4-0-0, Benjamin Guthmiller 4-0-0, Lela Magxaka 2-1-0-1, Nansy Pradhan 3-1-0, Robbie Sitka 1-0-3, Matt Skluzacek 3-0-1, President Williams 4-0-0, Vice President Anderson 4-0-0

Open Forum

Dr. Anne Blackhurst, Interim Vice President Academic Affairs

Presentation of Division of Academic and Student Affairs Draft (see file copy of draft)

Senator Kromer-Would the search for the new position, the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, pend on the approval of the new re-organization or would you be able to do that right away?

Dr. Blackhurst-This proposal has been taken to all the Meet & Confers. We are kind of at the final stages of the consultation process so assuming there is general support for the position we would move ahead search that position right away. If for some reason there was strong opposition to creating that position then we would be back in a process of consideration. The urgency is searching that position because when Walt Wolff retires there will be another interim position but we cannot move forward until we resolve what the position will be.

Senator Guthmiller-What is the main argument against the proposal?

Dr. Blackhurst-I don't think there are arguments against it; there have been suggestions for tweaking it. There is not uniform agreement on whether the Women's Center and LGBT should be in Institutional Diversity. People believe strongly that they should remain in the Student Affairs area. There is not universal agreement that Enrollment Management should be a part of this Associate Vice President position. Some people believe this should be separate and at the cabinet level. My position is that if you look at the job market there are lots of positions that combine Student Affairs and Enrollment Management because almost all of the Student Affairs areas are either involved with recruitment or retention of students and that is an important component of Enrollment Management. Some people feel that Trio and Disability Services ought to be in Diversity, but those arguments have been fewer.

Erica and Kevin-Events happening next week. Stompers Cinema-Sex In the City, Fall Fire Dance, Magician-Dave Henderson, Mavericks After Dark and a Trivia event. IMPACT will be doing a monthly calendar of events in the *Reporter* to cut down on costs.

Senator Adams-Will this run in every issue or monthly?

Kevin-This is a trial run, we will have the entire month of events in the *Reporter*, we are hoping people will take it with them and post it at home. This is the best economical option as well as getting to a major audience.

President Williams-Have you seen an increase in your attendance at the few events you have had?

Kevin-We have seen a marked increase. We doubled for the baseball game and hit capacity at the hypnotist with 900 seats. We did have to turn people away. It is hard to gauge Welcome Week because it is easy to target freshmen.

Senator Guthmiller-Why is there an increase?

Erica-We are trying to do different things this year. There has not always been two PR chairs to organize and advertise events like the impact of the Street Team. This year we are making sure this is a group of people that want to be involved and go out to the Residence Halls etc. to make sure people know there is an event going on. Street Team-using students to get involved to get business and managerial skills as well as have fun.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Recognized Student Organizations-Mankato Women's Ultimate Frisbee Club, Sigma Nu Fraternity, Sport Management Club, Psi Chi/Psychology Club, College Democrats, Hmong Student Association, Mankato Young Performing Artist Association, Women's Lacrosse, NAACP, Multicultural Student Council, Men Against Violence (MAVs), InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Gerontology Club, Information Security Student Organization (ISSO), MNSU Law Enforcement Club, Social Work Student Organization, Alpha Chi Omega, Handball Club, Pre-Law Society, National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH), Graduate Advisory Committee of the Department of Communication Studies, Prepare Ministries

Appointments-Mohammed Abdulla- Student Conduct Board, Academic Affairs
Lani Petrulo- Enrollment Management: Transfer Students, Micheal Do- Student Conduct Board
Nikki Sabby- Student Conduct Board

Presentation

**MSUSA-Vice Chair Caitlin Stene, Director of Campus Organizing Matt Smriga
Andrew Spaeth-State Chair, Casey Fossom-Executive Director**

All students pay fees that help us advocate on students behalf. We have a presence at the capitol, system relations. The Director of System Relations works at the MnSCU Office. They have impact at the consultation level. We have staff dedicated to working on higher education issues. Brief Overview-Board of Directors-7 members, each school has representation at the Board level. Organization is non-profit, independent of the System. 70,000 State university students strong-funded by students and ran by students. Structure-Board of Directors, Student Officers (elected) & staff.

Advocating with you for the benefit of all students, engage and organize students, give back to students-Alumni MSUSA -resource for students

MSUSA Affiliate Boards: Penny Fellowship Program, Jared Stene Leadership Scholarship, Alumni Association –offers students and alumni opportunities in mentorship, networking and advocacy. Alumni will be invited to come lobby.

Delegate's Assembly-Prioritizing policy issues, set the student's platform, initiate amendments to MSUSA Bylaws, set next year's budget, gather feedback from other students

MSUSA on your campus-Campus Committees-designed to assist MSUSA with visibility on the campus level, work under the campus organizer and Vice Chair, carry out various campaigns such as GOTV and our next campaign will be Cuts to Campus.

What makes MSUSA valuable- student autonomy, student collaboration between staff and students, representation at the legislature at the system level, unique, consistent and sustained presence, and skill development and new focus on trainings.

Senator Adams-What is the status of the Students First Initiative?

Chair Spaeth-They are moving forward with the graduation planner. That will be the focus on a lot of the work they will be doing this year. There are a number of projects in the works.

Senator Adams-What is the status of the Students First Initiative registration site between institutions?

Ex. Director-There are six different work groups that embody the entire Students First project. Single registration has its own working group, they are working through the technology problems, there will be some test sites around the system on the single application and they hope it might be implemented next fall. There was some initial controversy on the application fee. The kinks are getting worked out.

President Williams-Are you still going to allocate dollars for diversity on each campus?

Chair Spaeth-The Executive Board decided not to dedicate those funds this year. We have talked about potentially teaming up with a school that is offering a diversity conference, we could provide some scholarship money for students to go to that event. Because of budgetary restrictions we are not able to host a conference like we have done in the past.

President Williams-In terms of having a Diversity Coordinator on campus, how do you assist them to promote things to fulfill their requirements?

Matt-We have changed the structure. We want to make it a true collaboration with each individual campus on what they think will work best. We want the coordinators to tell us what they want to work on. We don't have a list of what we want to accomplish but we want to make it a priority.

Chair Spaeth-The focus this year will be to register voters and tell them the importance of being civically engaged. The Diversity Coordinator would work on targeting those diverse groups. The focus is to try to work with people on the campus level.

Ex. Director-Services on campus do not affect every student in the same way. We want the Diversity facilitator to find out how we should be spending our money on reaching those underrepresented groups.

What does GOTV mean? Get Out the Vote

Duration-traditionally includes 1-2 days before Election Day and Election Day itself.

Why is it important to devote time an effort to promote civic engagement on MSUSA campuses?

It is a right we have because we live in a country that is a democracy. The State legislature provides our funding. College is one of the most critical times to shape a person's civic engagement habits. Minnesota voters will elect a new governor, 8 members of the US Congress. Historically, as much as 2/3 of young voters who voted in the previous presidential election will not return. We need to present a compelling message, organize effectively-big 4 Canvass, clipboard, Class raps, Tabling.

The rules, laws, and deadlines of GOTV-please try to avoid getting arrested. Remain unbiased.

Absentee ballot applications available Sept. 17. In Minnesota you need to have an excuse to vote absentee. Two ways to vote absentee-in person at your county auditor's office or by mail.

Early registration-deadline Oct 12, Same Day registration-several identification forms are acceptable for same day registration, housing lists.

Effectiveness of Contact Hierarchy-fact to face conversations, phone calls, text message, Lit drop, Scripted/rushed phone call, Robocall/Email

The more times you reach out to people the better. 1-2 contacts for likely voters, 3-5 contacts for sporadic voters.

Officer Reports

President Williams

Meet & Confer last week. Met with John Frey, Director of IRETI (International Renewable Energy Technology Institute). Talked about partnership, possibly putting wind turbine into IRETI. We are going to be looking at outside funding resources, academic opportunity & possibly a grant opportunity we could explore.

EText Books-Talked to Joan Roca, Dean of the Library and discussed CORE SMART-a program they brought to campus that is essentially a large data base of all the textbooks faculty can look at by publisher on their subject to get cost comparison, reviews and what it covers to see if it the best match for their criteria. The benefit is that it gives them a more informed decision and potentially better textbooks for cheaper costs.

Budget cuts-Athletics, they want us to maintain our funding despite the university eliminating four sports. It would mean rather than us decreasing our allocation in proportion to the four sports we would shift costs from university to activity fees. They are potentially looking at insurance they have to carry on athletes. The issue is a potential for insurance costs to raise increasing student fees which we do not want to happen. We will be sitting down with Vice President Straka in the next two weeks to begin the discussion on this matter.

SAC will recommend what we will be doing in the Spring with the Athletic allocation.

Mark Frost, Mankato City Councilman called and we talked about what we would be looking for in an exofficio council member. We reiterated that it would be a necessity to have a student be allowed to be in open discussion with the city council. He was open to that idea however he said

you have to change the charter which is done through the legislature. There are some hoops to jump but hopefully MSUSA can help us on the legislative level.

Debate Minnesota-we will be having one of the first congressional debates on campus, Randy Demmer/Tim Walz. We want a 3 governor candidate debate. Mankato is not a priority for a debate. This is based on that we do not have a large enough TV market, audience is not large enough. I started calling the candidates and I reminded them that in May we took the initiative to walk from Mankato to St. Paul in hope to remind them that higher ed is and should be a top priority during this election and their term. We want to bring them to campus and engage with students and see how the decrease has impacted us. I also reminded them that the three other areas that they were looking at, Duluth, Moorhead and Rochester did not make the effort. We made the effort to plan our walk in two weeks, just imagine what we can do in two months . MSSA is not about finding problems with MSU but about creating opportunity and recognition of our students. As a senator, set your mind to one goal as simple as small change like the amnesty policy or voicing your opinion when involved with the administration. Your opinion goes a long way and has a lasting effect on the student population at MSU. Determine a goal that you want to achieve.

Senator Buechner-What is the insurance for athletes?

President Williams-That is for the players. MSU requires that athletes have insurance to cover athletic injuries.

Senator Buechner-Why should student fees cover that?

President Williams-That is what we talked about, we wanted to know the cost and what they are looking for. We don't want to be locked into something that has the potential of increasing student fees.

Dan Kromer-Are you aware MSU athletes already pay a \$75 for insurance fee to compete?

President Williams-Vice President Straka did tell us they are required to buy insurance.

Senator Gustafson-What is the potential of putting slight pressure on the three gubernatorial candidates?

President Williams-Well if they don't I am thinking about media pressure. We received media coverage from around the nation, Chapel Hill even covered us. They are not following through on their end.

Vice President Anderson

Update on Hertz, we received cool promotional items today. In terms of Marketing we have decided MSSA will hang posters and target large groups such as Res Life. Marketing Club will help the week of Homecoming along with Hertz. We will assess what we want to do after that time.

Discussed at Meet & Confer last week-Health Services has brought back, for the 3rd year in a row, a tobacco free policy. Read the policy. We need to offer feedback within the month.

Academic Affairs Coordinator, Dan Kromer and I met with Dr. Blackhurst regarding Advising.

Looking at the best way of tackling academic advising. The administration is going to form their own group to study academic advising here at MSU, what it is, who uses it. We discussed tenured faculty review with Dr. Blackhurst. This is an interesting conversation when it comes to IFO faculty. I have been hearing an overwhelming amount of stories from students that faculty say they are tenured, they can do what they want. We need ways to sensitize tenured faculty.

Students First Initiative-big thing we will delve into next week. The graduation planner is a really neat tool. We told Dr. Blackhurst we would be interested in piloting that.

Reorganization-Academic Affairs will look at that next Friday. It is a good plan, there is not really any objections other than the Women's Center and LGBT. If you look at the mission statements they do go together.

Enrollment Management-where are high school graduates going? Enrollment Management is important.

City of Mankato-A Councilman shared same sentiments regarding a seat on the council with me that is a big positive.

Athletics is confusing, it is multi-funded. Private donations, tuition dollars, our dollars. If we don't keep our budget the same on athletics the university will have to cut more which could mean losing another sport.

I would be willing to strap on my shoes and start from the capitol and walk back the message if they don't come. We could walk smarter not harder!

MSSA-get out there. Most enjoyable experiences are going out and meeting with students.

Senator Guthmiller-What is the major objective for not wanting the Women's Center or LGBT under Diversity?

Vice President Anderson-They feel they are more in lines with Student Activities. It is a tossup, you could make a solid argument either way. Their Mission statement is more in lines with Diversity. It will not affect their ability for programming, it is who they report to.

Senator Guthmiller-Are you saying it does not matter either way?

Vice President Anderson-In terms of mission they should be over there and in terms of collaborating with other members of Diversity. In terms of what students see there will not be a change.

President Williams- Can you potentially discuss Enrollment Management?

Vice President Anderson-Enrollment numbers are up. We were at 15,007. On campus is almost as large as it has ever been. Retention numbers are looking very good. Enrollment helps our budget with the amount we can carry over next year.

Senator Adams-Tobacco Free movement-main question is how will you make me?

Vice President Anderson-We have a policy now we cannot enforce. Campuses that have done this have found that it is easier to enforce an all or nothing policy.

Senator Guthmiller-Are you aware that IFO President has said that MSU is doing this because Moorhead is doing this and Moorhead has found it does not work?

Vice President Anderson-There are 30 campuses that have or are pursuing the policy.

New Business

M#09.08.2010 A Community Night to Unite Vice President Anderson

Whereas: The City of Mankato held a "Nite to Unite" on August 31st, 2010

Whereas: The date was moved from the national date to accommodate students and the start of fall semester

Be it Resolved: The MSSA and its members, including all students, appreciated the opportunity to participate in this unique community gathering

Be it Further Resolved: The MSSA encourages the City to schedule future "Nite to Unite" events be held on a similar date when classes are in session

Vice President Anderson-John Bulcock did a lot to get this organized and convinced the neighborhood associations this would be a good thing for the community. The turnout at Highland Park was huge and it was absolutely amazing to see a sizeable chunk of the Greek community for good or bad has an interesting association with the neighborhood. It was good to see them interacting very positively. Neighbors were impressed and this lets the city know we hope to have this opportunity in future years.

Motion Carries unanimously

M#09.08.2010 B MSSA Presidential Award for Altruism President Williams

Whereas: In the course of the MSSA's walk to the capitol, Kate & Dennis Aase from Waterville, MN exceeded the call of a Good Samaritan by welcoming three hurt and downtrodden strangers into their home, providing them with a shower, warm bed and food that were essential to the success of our journey.

Be It Resolved: That as an expression of our gratitude and indebtedness for their humanitarianism the MSSA recognize Kate & Dennis Aase from Waterville, MN by awarding them the newly created MSSA Presidential Award for Altruism.

Vice President Williams-I think those words do not express the gratitude we felt. It was encouraging for people to be so open and gracious with students.

Motion Carries Unanimously

Senator Reports

Julia Sears-Braeden Hogie (written report)

I have been working on becoming more visible in my Julia Sears Area and will be setting up a table in the lobby of Julia Sears with MSSA information and students will be able to ask questions of me and come to me with any concerns or problems they feel the MSSA may be able to address.

I have been attending Student Affairs Committee Meetings and we are currently working on the Amnesty Policy for the University. So be looking for that to come up eventually. It's still in its infancy but we will continue work on it.

College of Graduate Studies-Nathan Gustafson

I. Introduction

- a. Interim Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research – Dr. Terry Flaherty
30+ years experience at MSU, M-5+ years of administrative experience

II. College of Graduate Studies and Research

- a. Research and Sponsored Programs (RASP)
The mission of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (RASP) is to promote learning through encouraging and assisting faculty and staff in their pursuit of external funding for research, scholarship, service and creative endeavors.
To reiterate what Vice President Straka said about the “new normal”, the “new normal” means that higher education has seen a new permanent reduction of nearly 10% of its revenue base, more in some areas of the country and less in others, money that won't be coming back and cannot realistically be made up in tuition increases. It seems as though the state of higher education and the state legislatures have made an executive decision that higher education be more marketable in terms of what our general education programs have to offer. So, in terms of decreasing funding the work RASP is going to do will be of utmost importance.
- b. Graduate Studies
50+ master's programs, 4 applied doctoral programs
Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)
Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)–Counselor Education and Supervision
Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.)–School Psychology
Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)–Educational Leadership
- c. 3rd arm of Graduate Studies and Research
McNair Achievement Program, Honor's, Undergraduate Research Center
- d. Fiscal Year 2011
- e. Dean Flaherty discussion and goals:
Grow programs and find *niche* programs-which ones are unique to university and will be driving force in attracting new students to our institution.
Push for differential tuition-less expensive programs subsidizing more expensive programs (English program does not cost as much to operate as an Engineering Program)
It might be wise for us to bring those programs more in line with what we teach.
Push to eliminate out-of-state tuition-creative way to attract new students.

What are the *unique values* our programs hold to attract out-of-state students- Must focus on objective measures (programs, cost, etc)

Learn how to perform *nimbly*-respond quickly to market needs-focus on programs that are most successful, maybe focus on restructuring those bring the university as much success.

Look at who is going to come to college here to pursue undergraduate or graduate degree. Refocus strategic priorities. We have a dying demographic, we have a massive amount of baby boomers that are going to start eating up our tax services yet the amount of people living in the state that will produce those taxes are fewer and farther in between. Every institution in the country is having to cope with these issues and refocus their overall strategic priorities.

“university administrators now talk about the coming privatization of the universities. If the state is not willing to pay for the universities, then what do the universities owe to their states? Can the great state universities do more for their states by abandoning education and focusing on research often in collaboration with private corporations? Is it foolish to educate children of a state when they grab their diplomas and move to Calif. What should be the goal of a state university in a globalizing world?”

This is a broad assertion with pretty broad questions that have to be answered. With our financial situation not looking all that bright now might be an appropriate time to be asking those questions.

Senator Adams-Regarding differential tuition in graduate programs, you said English would decrease because it is less expensive and AET would increase, is that the way it would work with inflation costs making up the difference for the other one?

Senator Gustafson-As far as I know that is the way differential tuition would work.

College of Business-Brandon Quam

- Attempting to correspond with the various business clubs to attend their meetings. No responses from any clubs' leadership.
- Attending a meeting this Friday afternoon to review changes to the course curriculum. They are trying to find a way to have students graduate on time in the College of Business, eliminating some pressure on them as they are facing budget issues by losing staff and faculty.
- Working on a cost analysis that will detail buying a laptop through the computer store versus outside suppliers. This will allow us to determine the competitiveness of our laptop program with the goal of helping students buy computers outside the computer store but would meet the requirements and match up with those models they sell.

Senator Mohamed-Have you received feedback from students on the .03\$ per page printing?

Senator Quam-People are always asking about it. It is now .03\$ per page, most people are confused about that. Obviously not having free printing is cause for concern but people can deal with it since it is .05\$ elsewhere.

Social & Behavioral Science-Lani Petrulo

RSO's-emailed ones in my major. Offered to stop by and talk to them about funding and what they need.

Announcements

President Williams-Check out the White Board in the office, we will be posting things going on.
Smoke Free Campus proposal is up there.
Senator Kromer-Academic Affairs-Reorganization-1:00 Friday in office.
Senator Adams-Keep the office professional.

Roll Call

Senators Present

Jennifer Dooley, Nikki Sabby, Chris Mangione, Brandon Quam, Dan Kromer, Amin Abdul Mohomed, Nathan Gustafson, Sarah Koenen, Cody Ingenthron, Samuel Adams, Lani Petrulo, Zachary Lincoln, Braeden Hogie, Cody Buechner, Micheal Do, Benjamin Guthmiller, Nansy Pradhan, Matt Skluzacek

Senators Absent

Lela Magxaka, Robbie Sitka

Executive Staff Present

President Williams, Vice President Anderson

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM

