

78th MSSA Senate
September 15, 2010

Senate called to order by 78th Speaker Matthew Schmidt

Roll Call(present-absent-proxy-excused)

Jennifer Dooley 4-1-0, Nikki Sabby 5-0-0, Cody Buechner 5-0-0, Chris Mangione 5-0-0, Brandon Quam 4-1-0, Dan Kromer 5-0-0, Amin Mohamed 3-2-0, Nathan Gustafson 5-0-0, Samuel Adams 4-1-0, Cody Ingenthron 4-0-1, Sarah Koenen 5-0-0, Lani Petrulo 5-0-0, Zachary Lincoln 3-2-0, Braeden Hogie 4-1-0, Micheal Do 5-0-0, Benjamin Guthmiller 5-0-0, Lela Magxaka 3-1-0-1, Nansy Pradhan 4-1-0, Robbie Sitka 2-0-3, Matt Skluzacek 4-0-1, President Williams 5-0-0, Vice President Anderson 5-0-0

Open Forum

Kevin & Erica-Fall Fire Dance postponed until next week 8:00 PM Performing Arts Lawn, Movie tomorrow night on Crawford lawn. Family Weekend Stomper Cinema will be playing Toy Story 3, musician, Mavericks After Dark-Fight the Freshmen 15.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Appointments- Austin Foss- Student Allocations Committee, George Massaad- Student Union Board, Policy Consultation and Approval Committee- Melissa Kerbel

Recognized Student Organizations-Hispanic Scholarship Fund -Scholar Chapter at Minnesota State University Mankato, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Toast of the Town, Fellowship of Christian Athletes FCA, Campus Lutheran Chapel, Phi Upsilon Omicron, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Search for Truth, Vietnamese American Student Association, Campus Bible Fellowship, Recreation Majors Club (Rec Club), Dental Hygiene Club, History Club, Film Society, Students for Sustainability, Phi Kappa Psi, Chicano Latin-American Student Association, Student Ambassadors, Sociology Club, Economics Club, Pre-Dental Club, Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, Somerica Student Union, Student Dietetic and Nutrition Organization

Approval of Minutes 09.08.2010

Move to remove Mark Frost from Agenda or until later time. Move item VII behind New Business.

Presentation

Mankato City Councilman-Mark Frost

I am your city councilman for the City of Mankato. This is the second time I have been here which is unfortunate because until the recent controversy with our mayor I did not realize the community up here felt at odds with the city. I would like to hear what you think our purpose was with some of the ordinances, like the Social Host Ordinance. I can tell you what our thinking was when we did these ordinances. (Amanda Jax example), deaths due to alcohol poisoning.

I read your editor's views after the mayor got a DWI. The editor made it sound like there is a little hostility over the ordinances that we have tried to get this under control with. In your editors' views he made it sound like this is not going to fly. You will be held responsible and he will get off the hook. To be honest with you we do not want that feeling. I voted to ask the mayor to resign. Whether we had a majority or not, we have no way of moving him from office except by election or recall. Everything has calmed down up here since that really bad year that was awful. We want to make sure none of this happens again. We want you to graduate. What we have done is not to put us at odds with the university or your personal lives, but to make sure none of this happens again. Is there a level of hostility with any of the ordinances we have passed and what you think we can do about that? Your president and vice president are trying right now to get a representative from this body on city council. We want your concerns to be communicated on a day to day basis. I need to start coming to more of these meetings so that I can figure out what is bothering you. For the most part I want to know what you think.

President Williams- I don't view it as students are angry at the higher cost of drinking but more so the perception that those rules have been implemented in. The implementation and focus by the city has been that we are trying to protect students from high risk drinking and behaviors. Really

it has created a negative outlook on us in the community and in the university that we are not productive members of this community. I don't think any of us has not felt that negative outlook that says we are not welcome here. The university is up here and the community is over here. Students are just nuances, they are loud, and they trash streets. When you look at the majority of the alcohol related crimes they do not come from students. How come we are still perceived this way? We all are productive, we volunteer, and we contribute in tax dollars. How can we change this perspective?

Mr. Frost-That is the best part of the question, how do we change that? The idea that students are a load on the community is wrong. We all understand the impact of an educated society. How well can we educate our children, our students in universities? You all have the ability to have a great life. I am a pharmacist. There are bad eggs in pharmacy, in the community at large. That does not mean that any one downgrades the value of this university. We value you. We understand the role of this university in the city. We want to make it as good as we can for everybody that comes here. This deal with the mayor has put us back in the toilet again like it was a few years ago. It is enough to make me sick. It is incomprehensible what has happened to the image of this community. Many times students say there is nothing to do here. I don't know how much of a generality that is. The biggest part of the work is changing the perception. I was in college; I know what you are talking about. I had the time of my life and I got a great education. Everyone in the city knows the importance of education and getting it here.

Senator Guthmiller-Do you have any statistical support that directly links the decline of alcohol deaths to the city ordinances passed?

Mr. Frost-No, we were the second or third city in the state of Minnesota to pass the Social Host Ordinance. Two years ago when the police went out on opening weekend to try and send a message that we will not tolerate this I believe they gave out 220 tickets. This year they did 105 tickets of which 36 were university students. The message is for underage drinking.

Vice President Anderson-The Summit you were talking about, I remember that. It was what got me involved in this organization. I was on the High Risk Drinking coalition that started out of that Summit. I got sick of banging my head against the wall to try to get the message out to them to remember "This is the community high risk coalition." I gave up on that group after they spent their little grant money on purchasing a \$500.00 DVD that showed only college students drinking, burning cars and dumpsters. There is not the animosity all the time that college students have to pay \$5.00 for a beer when a few years ago they could have gotten all the beer they wanted for \$5.00 but there is a disconnect between the words spoken and the actions that have been taken. Since school has started, I am on the city email news, I have twice received emails about what the city is doing to combat underage drinking, and I am sure I will get one about homecoming weekend as well. Mayor Brady said "I was the first to say this is a community issue." Yes, you have been the first to say it, but where are the actions? I am sure things are going on but they are not being broadcast like the message about students is being broadcast. I don't think we can fix the perception about college students but what we can do is get serious about the perception of this issue and that it is a community issue and to fully have that seen we need to make sure there are an equal amount of actions going on in the community.

Mr. Frost-Obviously you are right, we need people like Davenport and people at the city to say this is not restricted to the 15,000 people up here. This affects all our children not just MSU.

This group and the leadership of the city need to get out the message this is not just university students but our society. We need your leadership, the community leadership. Leadership is what it will take to slowly change this perception.

Senator Gustafson-I attended Iowa State in Ames, Iowa. My freshmen year a student died on cold medicine, over winter break there was a suicide of a student jumping off the Union. Our assistant football coach was arrested for child pornography on state computers. Our head basketball coach, the highest paid public employee in Iowa was fired for his partying with fraternities and sororities while on a basketball road trip. My sophomore year our Vishay festivities were cancelled because of rioting attributed to large parties and ineffective police work yet social drinking remains

acceptable in Ames besides all the awful things that have occurred. The University and the city never combined to take away the right of an individual student to drink off-campus if they are 21 and older and not be sanctioned simultaneously by the university and the community. My questions are where we draw the line between personal responsibility and community involvement in personal lives. The young lady that drank until she died had a choice to do that.

Mr. Frost-Yes, except when she had almost passed out her friends were actually pouring booze down her throat. But you are right.

Senator Gustafson-Ok, but this actually leads into my next question, social drinking around this campus. I don't know how much influence you have to do with this or if it is university policy but it has to do with tailgating on campus for football games. Tailgating across the country is a massive industry that brings in hundreds of millions of dollars to communities each year. When you come down Stadium here on Saturday, it is a ghost town. There is no interaction between the football fans and the greater community in terms of them spending money here or downtown. What sort of work can we do to maybe break through those barriers preventing us from having a more collegial Saturday afternoon?

Mr. Frost-This has been a problem forever-what can we do? As you move on the examples you set are your responsibility. It is an unending nightmare. My wife was hit by a drunk driver. She has suffered seizures, memory loss. This is nothing new to me. I wish I had the answers on how to get the message across. Unfortunately this is not just a student issue, this is an everybody issue. If we solved this we would be the first community ever. Legal drugs and alcohol are the biggest problems in our society. Here the important thing is the divide between students and 60 year olds. I hope the divide is not as big as it seems. Working together like the Highland Park Neighborhood Association, that is where it starts. They want students involved.

Senator Guthmiller-You asked if the general consensus was or if there was resentment to ordinances passed-you said there was not statistical support with the decline from the past on alcohol related deaths. I think the resentment might be that every student feels intelligent and able to make their own decisions for the first time in their life. Then you have people in a room, the City Council that says you are not capable of making your own decisions so they step in and be your parent away from home. Would you be in favor of reexamining the city ordinances and taking a look at their effectiveness and possibly reworking them to a more middle ground?

Mr. Frost-The Social Host is one, drink special, three strikes for rental issues-we are willing to discuss the issues. You live in a democracy. You bring up an issue and we will discuss it. I would be interested in seeing how you would want to change it. That is why Tom and Brett want someone on city council to hear these discussions. We have been tough on landlords with the three strike policy. We want to listen to your ideas on what you think will make things better on both sides. You have a voice.

President Williams-What can we expect from the city council outside of statues that label that our group is a problem? You are holding us responsible for our actions. What can we do to hold you accountable to make sure you are working on this perception?

Mr. Frost-It is not just students. Mayor Brady was portrayed as the victim. 150 people get killed a year by a drunk driver and he is portrayed as the victim. That is sad. We are trying to hold people accountable at every level. Bars also have three strikes.

Carlos-In regard to social drinking, I just spent time in France where the drinking age is lower than 21 and I never heard of the problems with drinking as here in the US. I think one of the best thing those cities have done is the transportation system and education of families and students. Students are afraid of reporting if someone is drinking too much here. Transportation-taxi's-helps make sure people are not drinking and driving. We need to do a better effort promoting responsible drinking instead of imposing laws.

Mr. Frost-How we change cultural difference would be difficult. We have set up our own culture of drinking. I know other countries don't have the issues we have.

Carlos-Perhaps not only looking into other city images in the United States.

Mr. Frost-The mayor will probably lose his license and go to jail and pay about \$25,000.

Does it work? Apparently we have not done that good a job of education.

Senator Adams-When the Social Host Ordinance was implemented one of the first houses where it was used was named scoundrels and heathens by Mayor Brady. That is the sort of thing that illustrates the divide between the university and the community. What is your reaction to that?

Mr. Frost-This was originally instituted in Chaska where a family unit, parents invited family and friends and children and invited them to drink and one child died of alcohol intoxication. That is what ignited the whole social host. I understand what you are saying, are they heathens?

Absolutely not. I don't recall that being said.

Senator Adams-I am linking this to college not parents and kids.

Mr. Frost-That was a poor choice of words. Labeling students as heathens and scoundrels is a poor choice of words. How do we stop antagonism? We need more discussion like this. Some of what you are telling me is new. We need you involved in the conversation on a regular basis. I apologize for not having been here more often. Getting you involved in city council is the smartest thing I have heard of. We don't want it to be we vs. them.

Senator Lincoln-If we had ideas for changing ordinances who do we contact? What do we have prepared when we bring an idea to you?

Mr. Frost-On the Legislative level-we look at the legal side. What is history-what can you prove as far as history and what is the effect on the community. The City Attorney will then research this as what is happening in other cities. Ordinances are not tough to change; you have to have four votes.

President Williams-Education is essential. Education prevents high risk drinking. Education is the root of solving any cultural change. Are you familiar with the Medical Amnesty Policy? The concept is if two people are drinking and one needs medical assistance it would encourage the person to call on behalf of someone who needs medical attention and they would not receive sanctions from the law.

Mr. Frost-That is a great idea. Why would we be opposed to that? We do not want to send anyone home in a body bag. There should not be any hindrance of keeping you from going home for Thanksgiving. We have to work it out.

Vice President Anderson-We have thought it would be lot more of an education piece to wake up with IV's in your arm than getting another \$177.00 ticket.

Moriah Meyers-How do we compare to other cities in the United State?

Mr. Frost-I don't think we are any different.

Ratification of Fall Vacancy Elections

Academic Senators-Cody Buechner, Matthew Lexcen, Brian Spitzmueller

Student Life Senators-Rachel Sargent, Ted Gibbons, Michael Paul, Mark Morphey, Taylor Pederson

New Business (see back of agenda)

M#09.15.2010A Division of Academic and Student Affairs Restructuring Senator Kromer/S.A.Coordinator Revering

Whereas: The current interim Dean of Students, Walt Wolff, is leaving in December

Whereas: The search for a new Dean of Students has failed

Whereas: A restructuring of the Division of Academic and Student Affairs has been proposed by Acting Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Anne Blackhurst

Whereas: We wish to start the hiring process for an Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment management as soon as possible

Be it Resolved: The MSSA support the restructuring as presented by Dr. Blackhurst as long as the student consulting process remains the same

Senator Kromer-We want to get this process going to get a new Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management ASAP and this is what they need for us to do in order to do that.

Coordinator Revering-The Administration has always been good about keeping us in the process.

Motion Carries

M#09.15.10B Fall Vacancy Election

Whereas: The MSSA fall vacancy elections were held yesterday, Tuesday September 14th, 2010. It is the responsibility of MSSA to approve/decline the election results.

Be It Resolved: The MSSA approves the results of the 2010 fall vacancy election.

President Williams-This is a procedural matter, we have to do it.

Motion Carries

Officer Reports

President Williams

Monday was the Mankato City Council meeting. Agenda item was to ask Mayor Brady to step down. It failed 3-2-1. It failed because they needed 4 votes. It was intriguing to see people were in support of Mayor Brady. Pretty much the general argument rested on that they did not have the right to judge and they can't force him out of his job. It was intriguing however because we can be relieved of our student status if we do the same action from the university. If we get judged twice why can't the mayor? It was interesting to see how the City Council works. Vice President Anderson spoke at the meeting letting the city know the city and the mayor have judged students through a particular lens now they can either move forward and judge the entire community through that same lens that they have judged us for so many years. We did see people agreeing with that. The city is holding students to a higher level than they have been holding Mayor Brady to and it did not pass. It was encouraging to have the support of Councilman Frost. The mayor did approach us and say he would like to attend our meeting tonight and work more closely with the students and start a relationship. He contacted us today and said he would not be attending due to a city meeting he got called into. This is just another thing that does not make him or the city look good in our eyes.

Regarding the exofficio amendment we talked about last week and the charter change which would have to be done through the legislature; I contacted Senator Sheran and two days later she had drafted an amendment to the city charter allowing cities that by a 2/3rds vote in the city council they could allow an exofficio member to be placed on the City Council. We have to wait now and see if that gets passed. We have some logistical things to work out.

Senator of the Week –recognizing work done by senators above and beyond.

Brandon Quam, Chris Mangione-College of Business, both of them have dove headfirst into their college representing students on committees. Chris Mangione is tackling a new curriculum proposal. Brandon Quam is working on the spreadsheet of different prices for laptops in his college. Braeden Hogie-Julia Sears- went out of his way and tabled within Julia Sears. This goes to show that by sitting in his perspective dorm with the MSSA banner it showed a lot to his constituency. Great effort and initiative, you can use your office hours to be in your constituency.

Vice President Anderson

Students First-Single Search, Single application, Graduation Planner, Single Registration, Single Billing/single payment, Shared Services.

Shared Services-it will be easier for students to search services system wide and have a greater visibility of public institutions have to offer them. Single Application-students will be able to complete a streamlined common application for one or more system college/university. Where does the application fee go to if you apply to several schools? They are looking into this. Graduation Planner-students will be able to access course and program requirements, create customized plans for timely graduation/ Share information with advisors and counselors, and create "what if"

scenarios to explore options. Single billing/payment-Students will be able to view and pay one bill online even if taking classes from more than one college/university.

Shared services-students will be able to benefit from operational efficiencies and improved services-focusing on uniform processes such as applying for financial aid regardless of where classes are hosted.

Swim Team met with me about addressing the senate. They have been slated for elimination. If anyone comes to you send them to Dan. It is a complicated issue. They take this very personally. It defines who they are outside their major. I was able to get them their budget. I explained to them that we can be a resource. We can't fund them, we can try to help them fix their problem.

Senator Mangione-What other sports are slated for elimination?

Vice President Anderson-Swimming, Men's' and Women's Tennis, Bowling. \$194,000 from operational budget plus another \$36,000 for scholarships. They are fighting an uphill battle. Not only do they have to fight to save themselves but also the scholarships under title 9

Speaker Schmidt

Order shirts. Office hours will be accepted if you are in your constituency.

Senator Reports

Science, Engineering & Technology-Sam Adams

RSO-Construction Management Student Association. CMSA-they exemplify more than just a club. They assist students in job search and pair them up with potential employers for internships future employment. They do golf outings with higher level construction managers from around the region. They have a poker night. They also have been big about getting recruiters to come to their CMSA meetings. Competitions-CMSA-schools come together for 12 hours and they see a plan and come with a bid. School closest to actual bid wins. Recognition thing. CMSA offers scholarships to its members. Interest is down because of economy and because they are not coming to hire. I talked also about Advising-right now it is very good. Two professors are handling the bulk of the advising. CSET in general is doing well.

Undeclared-Zachary Lincoln

My name is Zachary and I am currently representing undeclared students here at MSU. My report is to be on a Dean or Residence. I reside off campus but have spent time walking the residential halls, especially Gage encouraging undecided students to make their degree choice a priority that they actively pursue. Being that I am an undeclared student the closest relationship to a dean I have is with Kate Hanson, she works in the office of First Year Experience, mainly with the learning communities program. After informing my former academic advisor of my position this year she said she urgently needed my help and the help of the MSSA. There is a concern that students who specialize in specific careers will lack critical thinking skills and the ability to write, analyze, and synthesize information. While business education tends to prepare students to work well in teams or give presentations, it often falls short in teaching students to do in-depth research or to write critically. People need to graduate with critical thinking skills because most workplaces retrain individuals for the needs of the industry, that is to say individuals with the ability to see beyond specific college majors and adapt to the broader job market. Kate recently told me of her idea to form a panel to confront this issue and inform the student population of real world value of general education courses. She discussed the idea with Barb Embacher from Greater Mankato Growth, Jennifer Faust from Snell Motors in Mankato, and John Hoffman of Principal Financial (and an MSU Distinguished Young Alumni Award winner). This event has potential to be a splash of water for some discouraged undeclared students who feel they are wasting time and money when not admitted to a program. As I mentioned earlier in the year, feel free to contact me if you had a life changing general education experience or just want to help.

Off-Campus-Nansy Pradhan (written report)

RSO Group on campus: NeStCom (Nepalese Student Community)

- NeStCom Mankato is the community of the Nepalese students of Minnesota State University, Mankato who thrive to promote understanding, friendship, and cooperation among students, faculty, and the surrounding communities.
- This RSO does not only include Nepalese people but rather is open to anyone willing to learn about their cultures and traditions.
- They are under the umbrella of the International Student Association (ISA).
- Their meeting time is Friday from 9 pm.
- Their main goal is to sustain, preserve, and flourish Nepalese culture and heritage.
- They are also working on updating their website: krypton.mnsu.edu/~nestcom/
- They have different events throughout the year with 'Nepal Night' being the most highlighted not only with the community members but also with the whole MSU students.
- They have a 'Welcome Night' for all the new Nepali Students every semester which took place on September 2nd, 2010 this semester.
- They also have a celebration for 'Dashain', one of the major festivals of the country, by having a dinner party at the Bethel Baptist Church.
- Right now, they are focusing for the 'Nepal Night' which will be on October 30th, 2010 (tentatively). The theme of this year's 'Nepal Night' is 'Festival of Nepal', since this time the 'Dashain' also becomes a part of the night.
- Last year, there were about 800 tickets sold for the 'Nepal Night'.

Off-Campus-Matt Skluzacek (written report)

As an off-campus senator I felt it would be best to meet with some students that live off-campus and ask them what they feel should be addressed at a higher priority. After meeting with some students I found that parking and security are the main areas people want to see change.

The parking issue goes into more detail about prices and distance to buildings. The students feel prices are way too high and the free lot is way too far for some. Some people told me how what they think could be done to help this issue be resolved. One is to obviously lower the prices and the other is to build a parking garage in front of the CSU. It would make parking a lot closer and also increase the number of stalls on campus.

The security issue is something that students just recently felt was an issue. Its not the protect and serve part of the security but letting students know about current issues that they should be aware of. (Example: there is currently an issue about males breaking into houses (when everyone is sleeping) that have only women living in them and raping them). Not many women know about this issue and it should be sent to all students in the area.

Announcements

President Williams-New Ulm Schell's Brewery 150th anniversary this weekend. 2nd oldest family brewery in the nation. They will be doing tours.

Vice President-That is a totally Non Sanctioned MSSA event. If you are looking for something to work on in senate-a little idea about the Amnesty policy to Mark Frost went a long way. It is simple to be successful in this organization.

Senator Mangione-If you want to know more about the College of Business curriculum please ask us, the more people we have informed, the better.

Roll Call

Senators Present

Jennifer Dooley, Nikki Sabby, Matthew Lexcen, Chris Mangione, Brandon Quam, Amin Abdul-Mohomed, Nathan Gustafson, Sam Adams, Cody Ingenthron, Sarah Koenen, Brian Spitzmueller, Zachary Lincoln, Ted Gibbons, Michael Paul, Braeden Hogie, Mark Morphey, Micheal Do, Benjamin Guthmiller, Lela Magxaka, Robbie Sitka, Matt Skluzacek, Taylor Pederson

Senators Absent

Cody Buechner, Lani Petrulo, Rachel Sargent, Nansy Pradhan

Executive Staff Present

President Williams, Vice President Anderson

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 5:58 PM