

**78<sup>th</sup> MSSA Senate**  
**October 6, 2010**

**Senate called to order by 78<sup>th</sup> Speaker Matthew Schmidt**

**Roll Call**(present-absent-proxy-excused)

Jennifer Dooley 7-1-0, Nikki Sabby 8-0-0, Cody Buechner 8-0-0, Matthew Lexcen 3-0-1, Chris Mangione 8-0-0, Brandon Quam 7-1-0, Dan Kromer 8-0-0, Amin Mohomed 6-2-0, Nathan Gustafson 8-0-0, Samuel Adams 7-1-0, Cody Ingenthron 7-0-1, Sarah Koenen 8-0-0, Brian Spitzmueller 3-2-0, Lani Petrulo 8-0-0, Zachary Lincoln 6-2-0, Rachel Sargent 4-0-0, Ted Gibbons 4-0-0, Michael Paul 4-0-0, Braeden Hogie 5-1-2, Mark Morphew 3-1-0, Micheal Do 8-0-0, Benjamin Guthmiller 7-0-1, Lela Magxaka 6-1-0-1, Nansy Pradhan 7-1-0, Robbie Sitka 5-0-3, Matt Skluzacek 7-0-1, Taylor Pederson 4-0-0, President Williams 8-0-0, Vice President Anderson 8-0-0

**Open Forum**

Kevin and Ericka-Dodgeball tonight at 6:00. Homecoming theme is Stomper Saves the World, One Cause at a Time, if you need a cause check out Campus Kitchens. Coronation & Lip-sync Thursday, Parade on Saturday. The countries hanging in the Student Union are made from cardboard and covered with purple and gold and strung with fishline. The Street Team worked really hard on that. We would love to have you at our events. So far we have had nearly 2,000 students attend our events, 1,000 of which came to our kick off-block party event.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

**Appointments**-SAC-Gregory Land, Student Affairs-Kyle Snyder, Academic Affairs-Kyle Snyder, Dave Meyers, Student Conduct Board-Ashley Minshall, Jan Zapata

**Recognized Student Organizations**-Eta Sigma Gamma, Men Against Violence (MAV), Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, Word of Truth Campus, Ministries, Real Talk, Phi Delta Theta, National Society of Leadership and Success Triathlon Club, American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA) Student Group Maverick Jazz Student Organization Philosophy Club, OROMIA STUDENT UNION, Pre-Physical/ Occupational Therapy Club, MMA Club, Maverick Flight Team, Graduate Student Creative Writing Club, Saudi Students' Club ,Pi Sigma Alpha, Ethnic Graduate Organization, Muslim Students' Association, Reproductive Rights Coalition, Blue Earth Review, Society of Professional Journalists Mankato Chapter

**Student Allocation Committee Recommendations**

**SAC Motion #10.06.10A Delta Sigma Pi**

Student Allocations Committee recommends allocating \$600.00 to Delta Sigma Pi to attend the Leadership and Excellence Academies for Deltasigs (LEAD) in Indianapolis, IN

**SAC Motion #10.06.10B Finance Club**

Student Allocations Committee recommends allocating \$1,000.00 to MSU Finance Club to travel to Chicago, IL to visit the Chicago Board of Trade and the Mercantile Exchange.

**SAC Motion #10.06.10C Maranatha Christian Fellowship**

Student Allocations Committee recommends allocating \$500.00 to Maranatha Christian Fellowship to host an on campus conference titled Was Darwin Wrong and Blind Chance or Grand Design.

**SAC Motion #10.06.10 D MENC-Mankato Chapter (Music Educators)**

Student Allocations Committee recommends allocating \$298.00 to MENC to attend the MENC music educators fall conference at Winona State University.

**SAC Motion #01.06.10E Pre Physical/Occupational Therapy Club**

Student Allocations Committee recommends allocating \$150.00 to 3 members of the Pre Physical/Occupational Therapy Club to attend the Northland Chapter ACSM 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Bemidji, MN.

**SAC Motion #10.06.10F Phi Delta Theta Fraternity**

Student Allocations Committee recommends allocating \$1000.00 to Phi Delta Theta Fraternity to attend the Annual Leadership Retreat at Lake Okoboji, IA.

**SAC Motion #10.06.10G Phi Upsilon Omicron**

Student Allocations Committee recommends allocating \$450.00 to three members of Phi Upsilon Omicron to attend the American Dietetic Association's Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo in Boston, MA.

**Approval of Minutes 9-29-10**

Agenda approved

**Presentations**

**Student Health Services-Health Educator-Lori Marti, Erin Simmons-American Lung Association**

One of the reasons we are here is to try to move the policy to where you understand it a little better. We have asked that the policy be expedited. There are over 400 campuses all over the United States that have already adopted a policy. There are over 37 campuses in Minnesota that are working toward the policy; those campuses include the University of Minnesota, St. Cloud State and various

other campuses across the state. Why now is the question people are asking. The Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) was part of the reform that the Minnesota Legislature passed a couple years ago. There is a health care crisis in our country and in our state. Our generation will not be able to pay for it. While the legislature said we are going to pass legislation to help pay for this we are also going to look at how we are going to stop this from happening so that you and I can afford to have good health care. The legislature wanted every county around the state to be working on a couple areas. The first is reducing tobacco use because we know that is the number one driver of health care costs in our country. Number two is obesity so they are asking us to improve physical activity and access to nutrition opportunities. Because of SHIP we can provide staff time in Health Services so it does not come out of the university budget but SHIP dollars. We can work with groups on this campus in writing the policy that would work on this campus. More importantly, should the policy be passed, we are able to help get the word out about the policy and pay for local signage that could be a burden for campuses. We want people to look at this now and that is why we are asking for an expedited process. We want to make sure that if this campus chooses to adopt this policy that we will help pay for it.

Senator Lincoln-With the new policy is it taking away the 15 foot barrier and making it completely non smoking?

Ms. Simmons-Yes, it would be a completely non smoking campus and making it like the others.

Senator Lincoln-What would happen to a MSU student that was caught smoking?

Ms. Simmons- That is why we are here, we want to work with everyone to determine what the enforcement will be. Every campus has chosen a different way to address that. Some have fines, some send to a cessation class similar to what you do with your drug and alcohol program. That is not set in stone. We know what works for other campuses. We want to know what will work for this campus.

Senator Quam-If I remember right this is a kind of like a self enforced program, correct?

Ms. Simmons-What most campuses have chosen to do is have it been the responsibility of the campus community, faculty, staff, administration and students. It has worked quite well for over 400 campuses so far and that is why they have continued to follow that model.

### **Student Union-Ballroom Presentation-Sam Adams/Cory Buechner**

Ballroom renovation-Largest non-classroom, non-athletic space on campus. The Student Union was built approximately 40 years ago; it is the only space needing major renovation in the CSU. It is needed because of old systems, lights, acoustics, projectors, 40 year HVAC system, roof is in need of replacement, and asbestos-ceiling cannot be touched. \$450,000 project-this will not increase student fees, this comes from deferred maintenance. Year 2023 the bond runs up and we might actually see a decrease in student fees.

Debt service-\$25 million from state bonding. Designed by Kaas Wilson architects from Minneapolis. Entrance-Kasota Stone, space for highlighting student life, floor-renewed and re-used, stained new color. Ceilings-Clouds and re-used wood from walls, Ballroom divided into 4 rooms, nearly soundproof dividers, HVAC and roof-40 year systems, will service surrounding offices and hallways. All walls are projection surfaces, nine projectors, four levels of lighting-normal room lighting, Party style lighting, LED lighting, graphic project. All materials are selected for optimum acoustics. Scaled down version of Ostrander's capabilities. Plans sent out for bid-late January, contract signed-March 2011, low bid was awarded the project along with responsible and responsive, successful history, good safety record. Construction starts April 18, 2011-starting with five weeks of asbestos abatement. Project Complete October 1, 2011.

### **Elections-Undeclared, Off-Campus**

#### **Off-Campus Candidates Mike Hanson, Kelvin Borchardt**

Mr. Borchardt-I was past President of Normandale Student Senate. I just got back from Iraq and would like to get involved in student activities on campus. I was in many RSO's and MSCSA. I worked with MnSCU on various committees.

Mr. Hanson-I am a current sophomore, I have lived off-campus my entire time here. I am involved in theater and other organizations on campus.

President Williams-What is the most pressing issue for off-campus students?

Mr. Hanson-I think a pressing issue is safety. Since I have lived in Mankato there has been a limited amount of cross walks for students that walk to school, an example would be the intersection of Warren and Birch there is already recess in the concrete that would allow easy access for a stop sign.

Mr. Borchardt-My fellow off-campus students would say parking. 3 out of 5 students I talk to would say they can't find parking. Parking is pretty crowded.

Vice President Anderson-Do you feel you would have time for this position and highlight your time management.

Mr. Borchardt-Yes, before I came here I researched what it would be and made sure it would fit my schedule.

Mr. Hanson-My answer is also yes. As a theatre major we don't have to rehearse until after 6:00 P.M. I would be able to make this meeting and do office hours.

President Williams-What other organization are you involved in and how would those benefit you working with MSSA?

Mr. Hanson-I am a member of Sigma Nu fraternity. I help out with Mankato Performance Association and when I have time I try to help IMPACT. They are a bridge between organizations.

Mr. Borchardt- I am in a fraternity. I am involved in Veterans Club, IMPACT, RSO's and getting involved in the community.

Senator Kromer-What is your greatest strength and weakness?

Mr. Borchardt-I am an extrovert. I don't mind getting out there and talking to people and finding out what they need.

Mr. Hanson-I am an extrovert, I can talk to anybody. I would be a voice for people I represent. My greatest weakness-balancing schedule.

Mr. Hanson-I am very strongly interested in joining senate. Last year I did not think I was at a level to help out.

Mr. Borchardt-I hope that I can be your next senator and represent students on this campus.

### **Elected Kelvin Borchardt Off-Campus senator**

#### **New Business**

##### **M#10.06.10A**

##### **Tobacco Motion**

##### **Student Affairs Committee**

Whereas:

A tobacco free campus policy was proposed by Health Services for expedited review, and it is the responsibility of the MSSA to submit a formal recommendation on said policy

Whereas:

Enforcing the proposed policy is a major concern for the campus community

Whereas:

The current tobacco policy sets a fifteen foot non-smoking barrier around every entrance at Minnesota State University, Mankato, which served as a compromise between all parties involved

Be it Resolved:

MSSA does not support the proposed tobacco policy

Be it Further Resolved:

MSSA recommends addressing and revising the enforcement aspect of the current tobacco policy

Senator Guthmiller-Basically what Student Affairs felt based on the people we had come in; we had RHA and the international students come in and other outside perspectives to try to get the voice of students. We felt the proposed tobacco policy is not enforceable and if the administration reworked and fixed the current enforcement aspect it would fix the problems and concerns on campus. Many res hall students felt the dorms were their homes and they should be able to smoke outside their home. International students felt that their colleagues were not happy that they were not able to smoke, most of them live on campus and they wanted to be able to do their thing. We need to make the barriers work, right now it is not enforced. Currently no one obeys the 15 feet policy.

Senator Mangione-How much would it cost to paint a radius around the doors?

Senator Guthmiller-We did not look into that. We know Health Pros do chalk off the areas. We want people to know there is a 15 foot policy.

Senator Gustafson-If we are looking to reinforce the 15 foot policy what is preventing us from enforcing a campus wide tobacco policy? If it is in place for 15 feet, why can't it be campus wide? If it is extended to 25 feet that is not alleviating anything. I still have to walk between clouds of smoke. If people think they are entitled to smoke because that is their right, I am just as entitled to have clean air. If you want to smoke go off campus. Why don't we look at the positives of a smoke free campus. There are 400 campuses around the country have done it successfully.

Senator Sabby-Why is Student Affairs so concerned about enforcement? We saw information about the SHIP program that will pay for signage. Why do we think it will be so hard to enforce at this university when it has already been done so many times?

Senator Guthmiller-We think enforcing a tobacco free policy vs. 15 feet would be harder. If you tell people they can't smoke they will be spread around and not as easily tracked down, not contracted in one area. What do you do about people that go to their cars and smoke? In the current policy it does not say what they are going to do. We are going to rely on faculty, staff and students to say we have a smoke free campus. We will only get shame on you-don't smoke. It would be harder to enforce.

Senator Sabby-I feel enforcement is not set in stone-how do you feel about signs?

Senator Guthmiller-I would not be opposed to signs. We need to figure out those aspects of enforcement, the policy was not sound. It was not a worthwhile policy. I don't think we are opposed to a smoke free campus but we are not supporting the proposed policy.

Vice President Anderson-Historical perspective-I was on the Health and Wellness Committee. I shared the same concerns that the Student Affairs Committee has now, enforcement is tough, it is inherently always going to be tough. What we decided to do is focus on a compromise between all parties involved. They even took pictures of cigarettes before and after on the ground. It did not work. We spent all semester trying to develop this and put interventions into place. We have the age old debate of personal privilege vs. the good of others. This is tough, some days personal privilege and other days the good of others. Last week I spoke with the chief author of the Freedom to Breathe act which got rid of smoking in indoor places. We now don't have to worry about our clothes smelling. Professional nursing things-SHIP-we have a health care crisis. SHIP aims to change the environment and the culture. We have spent a lot of money on individual programs on this campus, they are not sustainable. A policy like this is long term, it changes the culture. Those types of interventions are what the data has shown works. That is why SHIP is gaining as much speed as it is. We don't have enforcement but we are making the debate on enforcement and not health, people or safety. Is enforcement an escape goat to the policy-or as an educational institution and as leaders is it about health and wellness? We could say this decision focuses on the 15,000 students we have here but think about the lifelong impact this has of raising their children, maybe they came here as smokers but now their children won't be affected by lifetime smoke. This is a small piece of a statewide program in part of a larger national initiative.

Senator Mangione-The biggest thing is that I don't think you can prevent students from smoking-in reality you are just pushing it somewhere else. You are pushing it out to the neighborhoods.

Senator Adams-Using enforcement as a scapegoat-I agree with the motion. It seems like hallow legislation which is about as good as no legislation. What is the point of a policy if you can't do anything about it? We also have to represent the ones that do smoke.

Senator Quam-Could you distinguish between academic areas and non academic areas-would that be an option?

Senator Koenen-I know that we do have areas that are smoke free and they are not enforced very well. If we take a stance we are not taking a stance on the policy-when do we have to have a policy in place? Can we still use the SHIP money?

Coordinator Revering-We will not have the SHIP money if we don't act on it now? It is not our policy, it is Health Services policy. We can give suggestions.

President Williams-Policies are on cycles. When it is expedited it is altering or amending a current policy. It still goes to the bargaining units and they decide if they support it. It is not a new policy.

Senator Kromer-Did the committee see any government encouragement toward legislation or are we just taking the 400 as why we are moving in this direction.

Senator Guthmiller-They want to push this because they do want to be cutting edge and not behind the curve. They cited Iowa was easy to enforce, but Iowa was a state policy and you would be violating a law. This would just be violating a policy. There would not be the same incentive. If

you feel strongly about this it would be better to go to the state legislation and bring it down. It would mean every state institution would be smoke free.

Senator Lincoln-Does the policy include penalties for enforcement?

Senator Guthmiller-We did not have any major way of looking at this or adding fines, we just did not support the policy at hand not because it is a bad idea but because the way it was approached was not done properly and affectively. We recommend they look at enforcement of the current policy or come back with a better policy with more thought in it. Sometimes doing research of better ways will produce exponentially better results. That is what needs to happen here.

Senator Sargent-I am on Student Affairs-it is going to be pushed in the legislature anyway. Why not be proactive and do it now when we have the money. We can do this and we should not push it away and deal with it latter.

Senator Guthmiller-I don't like the fact that there is money available so we should use it because we have the money and it will be cheaper now etc. We should not enact a policy that affects everyone based on having money .

President Williams-In terms of state wide legislation. I spoke with Graham Allen from MSUSA on whether or not this is being discussed on the state level. He said it is almost a guarantee that it will be a state wide ban in 4-5 years. The momentum is going in that direction given Iowa's turn toward it. Are we mandated by the state to implement the policy or do we implement it on our own? Where do we want the authority to come from, is it us making the policy or the legislature making the decision? It is more effective if it is a state law vs. simple policy on campus. One thing brought up was idea of extending barriers-one issue with that is that they detract from cosmetic appearance of campus. Speaking with Dean of Students Wolff-one of the discussions is that this is not being taken up too quickly in the other bargaining units. We are ahead of the discussions. The expedited review process will be a longer process. I echo Vice President Anderson that broad policy is not designed to state specific change but broad over arching cultural change. It is not expected to work instantly. We won't have a smoke free campus upon implementation, even for the first year. We would be changing this for the incoming students. The incoming students will know that this campus is smoke free. Through time it becomes a permanent feature of the campus. It takes a number of years to see the affect of the policy. A study was done last semester that asked students whether they prefer a smoke free campus or a tobacco free campus. An over whelming number 53%, favored a tobacco free campus. At times the minority is overshadowed by the majority. Often the large portion are uneducated on their decision. We do have to account for the minority that may be educated on what they are supporting.

Senator Kromer-SHIP-when do you have to have a decision made for the money? Does it have to be 100% smoke free to receive the money?

Coordinator Revering-I will look into when the decision has to be made and it does have to be smoke free.

Senator Kromer-The way proposed is not the way I would want this done but we do have to think of the health of nonsmokers as far as asthmatics, allergies, there are people that have smoke induced migraines, even walking through a puff could be dangerous for them. But it is not right to infringe upon the rights of those that do call this their home.

Senator Gustafson-I am struggling with the notion that we have to have a solid enforcement policy in place. A few years ago when the state went through nonsmoking in bars etc. signs were put in bars and there was no smoking, other public areas, there was no smoking. I don't think we are giving people enough credit. Those that choose to smoke are not respecting my rights to not smoke. No smoking is the only way to promote health on this campus.

Senator Lexcen-The money now vs. money later. I think we are capable of getting money now or later. More research of the policy needs to be done.

Vice President Anderson/President Williams-Move to amend M#10.06.10A Tobacco Policy

Strike current Be it Resolved and Be it Further Resolved	
Be it Resolved:	MSSA does not support the tobacco policy as proposed and recommends revisions addressing provisions for enforcement before an official stance be taken.

Be it Further Resolved: The MSSA recommends Health Services and the University Health & Wellness Committee research effective enforcement strategies and submit the policy for the year-long review process.

Vice President Anderson-If we are worried about money we could find that later on. As President Williams said, this has not had a chance to be engaged in any further campus wide discussion is an issue. Other bargaining units are probably going to balk at it as long as we are. We should let Health Service's take a little more time on this. Put this with the Health and Wellness Committee. Let's let this policy be discussed throughout the year at Meet & Confers, so we don't make a rash decision. I echo the sentiments that Senator Gustafson has as well. We just scratched the iceberg of this. To make a decision tonight to say we don't support this outright is not the best thing to do. We could say as it is written right now, no but come back to us, we don't have to have any broad solving the world strategies, just see what you can come up with and let's put this through the normal process so there is no rush.

President Williams-The general feel is that it is not a bad policy but the way it is proposed and written does not seem to be the most effective in implementing this change. To make sure it goes through the review process and Health & Wellness is the general consensus I am feeling.

Vice President Anderson-I don't think this will negate any back and forth we are going to have. The opportunity to expand the conversation will be a little larger. It will be highly contested anyway.

President Williams-The one thing I can see potentially throwing a wrench in this is that although it is on the final policy draft for this year to be discussed it is October 15. It is on the agenda for the policy consultation and review committee. We may discuss this same motion in the spring.

Senator Hogie-We should look at other alternatives to fix things.

**Amendment passes**

Senator Gibbons-I think this could be done in more of a compromising manner. One of the biggest problems I see is if you don't have enforcement it is wasted energy. If this becomes a MN law would it cost the school money?

President Williams-It would be hammered out in legislation.

**Roll Call Vote**

Senators voting yes-Cody Buechner, Matthew Lexcen, Dan Kromer, Amin Abdul-Mohomed, Sarah Koenen, Sam Adams, Lani Petrulo, Ted Gibbons, Braeden Hogie, Micheal Do, Ben Guthmiller, Calvin Borchardt, Lela Magxaka, Nansy Pradhan, Matt Skluzacek, Taylor Pederson

Senators voting no-Jennifer Dooley, Nikki Sabby, Chris Mangione, Brandon Quam, Nathan Gustafson, Cody Ingenthron, Zachary Lincoln, Rachel Sargent, Robbie Sitka

President Williams-yes, Vice President Anderson-yes

**Motion passes** 18 yes, 9 no

**M#10.06.10A**

**Tobacco Motion**

**Student Affairs Committee**

Whereas: A tobacco free campus policy was proposed by Health Services for expedited review, and it is the responsibility of the MSSA to submit a formal recommendation on said policy

Whereas: Enforcing the proposed policy is a major concern for the campus community

Whereas: The current tobacco policy sets a fifteen foot non-smoking barrier around every entrance at Minnesota State University, Mankato, which served as a compromise between all parties involved

Be it Resolved: MSSA does not support the tobacco policy as proposed and recommends revisions addressing provisions for enforcement before an official stance be taken.

Be it Further Resolved: The MSSA recommends Health Services and the University Health & Wellness Committee research effective enforcement strategies and submit the policy for the year-long review process.

## **Officer Reports**

### **President Williams**

Meet & Confer tomorrow. We will be talking about what we did today as well as CAP reorganization, Hertz, amnesty policy, debates and an overall budget review.

Attend Homecoming festivities. Letter sent out today from MSSA.

Senator Sheran will be presenting the ex officio bill. We met with her last week on how we want it worded and incorporating multiple institutions like Mankato. What we determined is that there will be two requirements-first priority will be to institution with the largest impact on the community. Also if there was a student on there, you would have a city-wide student affairs committee that would incorporate all the city wide student leaders from the institutions. This would ensure that they would also be engaged in the process. We tossed around ideas on who we want to propose it. We discussed putting this in front of someone from a Northern district. Higher Education Summit-We began discussion on what higher ed should look like within Minnesota. We covered broad topics like providing affordable education to everyone in the state. Upcoming MN will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest education market. How do we change the state knowing the trend we are taking in our economy. How will it dictate the state's interest in funding or appropriations. How will the state look at higher education in the future. We talked about changes in institutions specializing with areas of interest, for example in engineering no one could be better than Mankato, Winona with nursing with commitments with Mayo. It was also discussed having it all a U of M. A recent trend among two years-all community colleges have one president, then directors or vice presidents of each campus or other variations. This is a cost savings as you don't pay the president's salary. Wind turbine-Sam Adams has been doing research-using student dollars would not be most favorable option. There is extensive grant funding.

Tomorrow-Sound & Vision Festival – allows students to go on stage in Ostrander and present any form of art. 11:00.

Debates-we need students to help. Greet and usher, hand out programs. Monday 5:00 PM

Please push debate-Monday 7:00 ballroom. Governor Debate-Oct. 26, Bresnan Arena.

Float-it would be great if you could help.

### **Vice President Anderson**

President Williams and I will be meeting with Councilman Frost tonight. Tomorrow we will be meeting with Asst. City Manager to discuss the same topics on the logistical position of getting the city council involved and technical changing of the structure. We will also meet with the city manager intern.

Parade-we need help.

Thank Union Board for coming up with such a great plan that has produced no increases to student fees.

Hertz is on campus! Apply to be a member, it is free. It would be great for RSO's. Marketing Club has had it out on the mall, people have been hopping in. It is going to be bigger than we anticipated.

### **Speaker Schmidt**

Have a good and safe homecoming.

## **Senator Reports**

### **Allied Health & Nursing-Jennifer Dooley (written report)**

Last Friday the 3 senators from the College of Allied Health and Nursing met with the interim dean of our college, Harry Krampf.

We discussed many important issues including the pros and cons of the college and what things we are looking forward to.

We first discussed the con of the physical separation of the college. The dean agrees that the physical separation makes it hard for the college to interact. He then talked about the new clinical building. Throughout the years, the blue prints of the building has changed and he believed the current plans held the school of nursing, dental hygiene, speech, hearing and rehabilitation services. There might be room for another department, but was not able to recall which one. Last year the clinical building was the first priority on new building and was vetoed. It was again brought to the state government and we are still waiting to hear the discussion for this year. The dean believes this will bring the college together, because we will all be to closer proximity to each other.

We then discussed the Dean's background. This will currently be his 10<sup>th</sup> nonconsecutive year serving as interim dean. Due to the large amounts of interim deans serving at the university, he may stay for another year or two, for consistency purposes.

The budget and future plans for the college were then talked about. The dean mentioned the possibility of creating 3 schools within the college, instead of 7 departments. This will reduce staff costs. The university as a whole has discussed looking into switching to trimesters, instead of semesters. The trimesters will speed up graduation. These options are just brainstorming ideas in order to prepare for future budget cost, but nothing has been truly discussed.

We then discussed the idea of the entire college working on a case study. Students from all 7 departments would team up and receive a patient. The students will then discuss all the options to help this patient. The idea of this assignment is to give true perspective of a healthcare team. This is something the college would like to do in the future.

Having regular meetings with the dean was mentioned and will hopefully take place.

### **Allied Health & Nursing-Cody Buechner**

Meeting with Dean of Allied Health and Nursing

I, along with Jen Dooley and Nikki Sabby, met with the Interim Dean of Allied Health and Nursing. His name is Harry Krampf. This is not the first time he has covered Interim Dean, in fact, it is third time. He has roughly 10 years of experience in this position, and will most likely continue his role next year as well.

We asked him about what was going on behind the scenes and he informed us of some very interesting news. He told us of a project that has been in the works for a little while, but is not losing any interest with our college. We are trying to secure funds for a new building out by Ford Hall. This would be entirely for Allied Health and Nursing. The purpose of the building is to bring together the multiple components of our college so we can utilize our skills and develop the teamwork early on. As he said "we need to utilize a team philosophy. In the real world it takes much more than a single nurse to diagnose and treat patients, and we should be uniting all of our practices here in the University." The idea of making a building aimed towards this goal made us all pretty excited and we hope to see it built within three to four years.

Other than the building project, Harry informed us that he would like student involvement on all of the College Committees. This was brought up entirely by him, and impressed me. He will be sending me the list so I can get students involved on these.

Lastly, he told us of an idea the college was looking at suggesting a 3 and 2 idea. Simply, a student could take 3 years of undergraduate studies, and move straight into a doctorate program. After the five years, the student could graduate with both degrees. This is simply an idea they are exploring, but he did say faculty were anxious about this idea and it would take a lot more looking into to bring it up for any further discussion.

Overall, I was immensely impressed by my meeting with Harry. After hearing how many years he has spent in this role already, and seeing how transparent and honest he was with the current conditions of our college, I gained much respect for him. I look forward to future talks with him.

### **College of Education-Dan Kromer**

This week I met with Ryan Hirsch, President of the Campus Atheists and Agnostics student organization on campus. It is a group designed around the concept and practice of group discussion. Every Monday night at 7 p.m. they meet in CSU 204 for an open discussion/forum on topics of science and religion; such as Islam or the Big Bang Theory.

Ryan explained to me that in the past the group had been dominated by administrative decisions taking up most of the meeting time so he has developed a more web based alternative for picking topics. With the new blog he explained that the discussion times this year have been much more productive with the extra time for discussion. Ryan also mentioned that he puts a lot more time into preparing this year than last year.

One thing that he wishes was different was the diversity of people attending the meetings. As an RSO it is mandated to be open to all students, but these people really want students with differing (respectful) opinions to come.

Lastly, the Campus Atheists and Agnostics do one big event per year called Ask an Atheist. They put up a panel of their members for anyone to come and ask questions about atheism or just how

they individually live their lives as Atheists; further promoting their goal of spreading “ideas of Atheism in a positive way to the public.” I did mention about using SAC and SOAFC funding for conferences or bringing a speaker to campus. However, Ryan already knew about it and explained how they have tried in the past, but all the speakers they would want to bring to campus are usually pretty busy.

### **College of Graduate Studies-Amin Abdul-Mohomed** (written report)

The Students’ Association of India is an organization under the belt of the International Students Association. It provides a platform for students of an Indian origin to showcase their culture to the MSU community. Membership is open to students of all ethnicities interested in learning about the Indian culture. The Students’ Association hosts a potluck once a semester where students and faculty gather and exchange home cooked meals. The association also hosts various other events on campus throughout the semester such as a free henna tattoo session in the CSU. Members also actively participate in the South Asian night and the International Festival. At the International Festival, organization members perform dances and skits. The association also sponsors a food stall at the festival.

Annually, the organization hosts an Indian Night. The event is usually held in the Ostrander Auditorium in the CSU. The event showcases the diverse cultures and traditions from India and its neighboring countries. Since its inception, the event has been attended in large numbers. Indian food is also served at the event and artwork from India is displayed in the CSU.

### **College of Science, Engineering & Technology-Sarah Koenen**

#### Dean Meeting:

On Wednesday October 29<sup>th</sup>, I met with CSET Dean Knox. We discussed a few things currently going on in the college. One of the things that is being looked into is setting up some majors to have 3 year track undergraduate programs and possibly 5 year track programs to obtain a bachelor’s and a master’s degree. However the problem with this is that it is obviously hard to get classes to be offered year round, or on the right schedule to make it possible and for students not to get stuck waiting.

Dean Knox mentioned that he is going to try to set up student meetings with each department where students can come and meet up with him and talk about what is going on in the majors good or bad. He will be doing this month.

Also, I mentioned to him the need of updating our college website. He admitted that some things have fallen a bit behind since one of the SRC’s left and they were looking to replace her. He gave me the contact to help with reviewal of the website and we have a meeting to do so next Monday. Dean Knox is also excited to start up the CSET Advisory Committee.

#### CSET Advisory Committee:

CSET has an advisory committee that includes one student from each department. The students are nominated by professors or advisors in the department. I served on this committee last year, and plan to do so again this year. It is a way for students to bring up and discuss issues going on in the college with each other, Angie Boimer the Student Relations Coordinator, and Dean Knox. We also vote on the CSET awards for excellent teachers and advisors within the college. This committee has not started up yet due to many of the members graduating but will as soon as departments nominate the students.

#### **RSO:**

Earlier this semester I tried to contact many of the CSET RSOs. At that time many of the RSOs were still just getting started up for the semester, but hopefully I will get in contact with some more of them later.

#### NSBE:National Society of Black Engineers

I was able to get in contact (and was available to attend the meetings of) NSBE - National Society of Black Engineers. Although it is comprised of many black engineers from different departments, the organization is open to anyone who supports their mission. The group meets every Thursday with the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month being devoted to tutoring others. The society holds regional and national conferences that often include competitions. They were excited to hear about potential funding for this from SAC. They are currently working on increasing overall visibility on campus, reviewing their mission, and figuring out how they can best utilize and increase visibility of the

tutoring sessions.

### **LTR/ Technology:** CISCO Telepresence

At yesterday's LTR, we continued on last year's discussion of getting a CISCO Telepresence system on campus. CISCO Telepresence is basically a system where you can interact with other people from different locations and feel as though you are talking face-to-face with them. This may sound like iTV or Skype, which it is, but it is a much more enhanced, interactive, and higher quality versions of it.

At the meeting we had a demonstration where we used a portal single camera version of Telepresence (which we were loaned to try out) to interact from LTR to members over in Armstrong. The main selling point to this system is that it is completely real-time based, there are no delays (ie hand gestures are fluent), there is much more interaction, easy start up, better analysis of depth, and much better sound.

There are a variety of different configurations that could potentially be implemented here at MNSU. Yesterday we used a portable version with only one camera. When some of the members of the LTR visited CISCO last fall, we were in a room meant for 6 or 8 people at our half of the table and then we connected to others all around the country as well as (I think) Japan. Some of the larger systems have a specialized room that is used to maximize the illusion that all parties are in the same room. You can link into a variety of different locations to "complete the circle".

Potential First implementations would probably be with a small 1 camera portable system. The system is expensive and the cost increases the larger you go. However, there is thought that we would be able to get enough funds to get a small system from areas such as the Regional Telecommunications board (COMIK?) We would then see how this works out. Possible first uses would be between here and 7700 France and in counseling.

### Tech Fee Advisory

Bryan Schneider is looking for student representation on the Technology Fee Advisory Committee. He would like to get this committee going this semester (opposed to Spring semester in the past). This committee discusses the technologies on campus and what technologies we can implement and improve on. We then develop focuses for the upcoming year along with how what the student technology fee will be. Let me know if you or someone you know is interested in joining.

### MNSU Search update.

Last spring the Tech Fee Advisory Committee made it a very high priority to increase the usability of the MNSU website search. Later we had a meeting to brainstorm what could be done to improve this. One of the suggestions was to create a more user-friendly interface and possibly use a better search system.

In the Learning Technology Roundtable Ted Johnson (director of Web Application Development) discussed the current and future of the MNSU website's search feature. They have been working to improve the search user interface to make it appear more like Google's. Some of the changes include bolding rather than highlighting the word being searched, better synopsis of what is on the page, and the date of when it was last updated. Basically it is a new search interface that is closer in looks to Google's. This interface will be rolling out next week.

Currently our on-campus ITS control the MNSU search engine. Right now the search is a system of sponsored results that is based on the A to Z index on the page. Basically it takes the ranking of words that was created in the development of the pages and uses those to help search. However the issues with this come when the word that you are searching does not appear on the website. For example, if you search "food" you probably want to get to the dining home page, however you get the results of a study done and the fire and safety protection policies. This is because the exact term "food" does not appear on the webpage nor in the home page window title. So, if you find something that when searched you think should be linked to something in particular, you should contact that department and urge them to change their homepage window title to some of those words, or to include the word somewhere on the page. They were open to the idea of setting up some training to help with this.

However there are approximately 110,000(?) documents on the MNSU website and it has been increasingly difficult for ITS to keep up. They have recognized this and are now looking into to

outsource the searching tool to a company such as Google to aid in searching in the next couple of months. –The reason why they had not done this in the past is because of the cost.

Other Tech:

I also will be researching what could potentially be done to reduce the amount of printing and the amount of ink that is used on campus.

**Other:**

Advising Taskforce

I have also been serving on the Advising Taskforce where we have been busy discussing and defining the mission and goals of advising as well as what can potentially be done to improve advising on campus.

Vice President Anderson-CISCO-we heard this same thing last year. How serious are they about this? It is expensive, where are they looking at funding it from?

Senator Koenen-They are looking at getting a portable one first and seeing how it goes. They are looking at partnering with regional telecommunication board and are confident they can find the money.

**Announcements**

President Williams-Need names of those interested in attending the Penny Fellowship.

Meet & Confer-Ben, Nikki, Dan, Brett, Tom

**Roll Call**

**Senators Present**

Jennifer Dooley, Nikki Sabby, Matthew Lexcen, Chris Mangione, Brandon Quam, Dan Kromer, Amin Abdul-Mohomed, Nathan Gustafson, Sam Adams, Cody Ingenthron, Sarah Koenen, Zach Lincoln, Rachel Sargent, Ted Gibbons, Braeden Hogue, Micheal Do, Ben Guthmiller, Calvin Borchardt, Lela Magxaka, Nansy Pradhan, Matt Skluzacek, Taylor Pederson

**Senators Absent**

Cody Buechner, Brian Spitzmueller, Lani Petrulo, Michael Paul, Mark Morpew, Robbie Sitka

**Executive Staff Present**

President Williams, Vice President Anderson

**Adjournment** Meeting adjourned at 6:14 PM.

