

**78<sup>th</sup> MSSA Senate**  
**November 3, 2010**

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

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

Jennifer Dooley-10-1-1, Nikki Sabby 12-0-0, Cody Buechner- 12-0-0, Matthew Lexcen 6-1-1, Chris Mangione 12-0-0, Brandon Quam 11-1-0, Dan Kromer 12-0-0, Amin Mohamed 8-4-0, Nathan Gustafson 10--2-0, Samuel Adams 10-2-0, Cody Ingenthron 8-2-1-1, Sarah Koenen 12-0-0, Brian Spitzmueller 5-3-0, Lani Petrulo 12-0-0, Zachary Lincoln 7-4-0-1, Rachel Sargent 7-1-0, Ted Gibbons 8-0-0, Michael Paul 8-0-0, Braeden Hogue 9-1-2, Mark Morphew 5-3-0, Micheal Do 11-1-0, Benjamin Guthmiller 9-1-2-proxy Zach Quad, Kelvin Borchardt-5-0-0, Lela Magxaka 10-1-0-1, Nansy Pradhan 11-1-0, Robbie Sitka-8-0-4, Matt Skluzacek 11-0-1, Taylor Pederson 12-0-0, President Williams 12-0-0, Vice President Anderson 12-0-0

**Open Forum**

**Karlos Posios**-Tonight Fall Fire Dance 8:00 PM in the Ballroom, Homecoming Chair applications due at 6:00 today, Mavericks After Dark on the High Seas-Friday 9:00. ACUI Region 10 Conference-be ambassadors for us. Pick up your IMPACT events calendar in the Reporter tomorrow. Birds Gone Wild, Nov 10 11:30-1:30 in Ostrander.

**Lani Petrulo**-Gama Phi Beta-French Toast Feed Saturday, Nov. 6, 12-2 at the American Legion.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Appointments-Student Allocation Committee-Christopher Frederick

Recognized Student Organizations - Ethiopian Student Association at MNSU, Student Association of India, National Society of Black Engineers

Approval of Minutes 10-27-10

Amend to Add Closed Session after Senate Meeting

Vice President Anderson-This will give us time to work on some things and it will end at 6:00 PM.

**New Business**

**M#11.3.10A Graduate Student Out of State Tuition Senator Gustafson/Vice President Anderson**

Whereas: Our regional, and more importantly, our national and international economy will be driven by knowledge based economies; requiring a highly educated and skilled workforce.

Whereas: Minnesota State University, Mankato's College of Graduate Studies and Research must position its resources to provide the highest caliber graduate education possible.

Whereas: The combination of competing national and international graduate programs, coupled with the knowledge-based foundation of our globalized economy, Minnesota State University, Mankato's College of Graduate Studies and Research must integrate an appropriate incentive structure to attract high-achieving graduate students.

Whereas: Approximately 30-45 currently enrolled graduate students are paying tuition at the out-of-state rate (out of > 2,000 current enrollees).

Be it Resolved: The 78<sup>th</sup> MSSA support eliminating out-of-state tuition for graduate students. Senator Gustafson- Minnesota State University, Mankato has the opportunity to implement a powerful tool to attract new graduate students to our campus. By eliminating out-of-state tuition rates for graduate students, MSU, M's College of Graduate Studies and Research will position itself strategically to best attract future graduate students.

Currently, MSU, M's College of Graduate Studies is a great *regional* institution for graduate level education. Yet, as the demographic background of Minnesota residents continues to age, the College of Graduate Studies and Research must begin attracting future students from outside our immediate geography. The elimination of out-of-state tuition rates is one such tool to accomplish this enhanced recruiting.

Through strategic market-based research and an enhanced study of MSU, M's most successful graduate programs, coupled with the implementation of a single tuition rate for graduate students, the College of Graduate Studies and Research will be able to attract high-ability graduate students from a much broader geographic area. Furthermore, with the forecasted increase in future graduate students, it is reasonable to assume that the academic excellence of those aforementioned students will continue to increase as well.

The evolution of a single tuition rate for graduate students at MSU, M nested within the strategy to focus our resources on our most successful graduate programs will allow the College of Graduate Studies and Research to more actively recruit high-ability graduate students to our *niche* programs. MSU, M's College of Graduate Studies and Research need the available tools to position it to educate and produce the future leaders of our state, region, nation, and world. The ever increasing international, knowledge-based economy will dictate that more and more of our future workforce must obtain a graduate-level education in order to remain competitive on a global scale.

Additional tools available to increase graduate student enrollments at MSU, M include updating the website, generating support for graduate student housing on campus, improved web-marketing to national and international prospects and focusing on MSU, M's most successful graduate programs.

Vice President Anderson-We have great opportunities in Business, Engineering, doctoral programs in Psychology, Ed Leadership and Nursing leading the way but this would hopefully open the doors to increase others from the Iowa region and Midwest and boast the statue from outside Minnesota. Our biggest market would be Iowa. Right now if a graduate student came from Iowa to a non-doctorial program, MBA or Social Work, there are some differential tuitions, but for a straight graduate program they would pay about \$9800 a year for a nine credit semester, at Northern Iowa they would pay \$8,000, Iowa State is \$7500. We are way more expensive. There is argument as to whether tuition pays a role in where you go to school. Our residents pay \$6200. This would be a good selling point for the quality of programs that we have.

Senator Mangione-How many extra students would we need to enroll to cover the cost of cutting out of state tuition?

Vice President Anderson-If there were 45 you would need 45. It is about \$180,000 of what it brings in. As Risk Straka put it this is a relatively low cost risk.

Senator Gustafson-This is not meant to increase graduate enrollment to that of undergraduates. That will not happen. That is not something we would like to see because we would place undue burden on the university to try and integrate those students into the resources that we have now. By implementing this type of tool to attract new students to the university we want to try to focus the enrollments on our niche programs where we stand alone amongst our competitors in the region and look more broadly at the national level.

Senator Dooley-Is it common for universities to eliminate graduate out of state tuition?

Senator Gustafson-I can't answer that at a national or regional level. Looking at this as a means to attract new students here would be equal to us offering more dollars and assistantships. That is one of the ways around the country that graduate students are offered a discount on their tuition.

President Williams-This is being explored at other state schools, Southwest is exploring it. I don't believe SDSU has out of state tuition. It is a trend that is happening at graduate institutions.

Senator Kromer-With increased enrollment in your personal onions will there be a significant improvement in quality, quantity or both in the research being done in our graduate programs?

Senator Gustafson-We would like to say with increased quantity it would increase quantity as well. This university already does produce a tremendous amount of research and this would be one more tool to increase that. We could start marketing the publications our faculty do, and the future careers our graduates undertake, whether that is in academia or industry.

Senator Mangione-If this passes, how would you advertise this?

President Williams-It would be similar as to how we advertise to high schools and extended out to Iowa schools, it would be the same marketing just decreased price.

### **M#11.3.10B By-Law Revisions – Moved by: Task Force**

Whereas: The "Future of the MSSA Task Force" has submitted several bylaw revisions

Be it Resolved: The MSSA approve the changes to the By-Laws.

Vice President Anderson-Bylaws are tricky. The task force came up with some bylaw changes. I am going to present to you the changes then we have to vote to initiate the changes. You would have to vote by majority to approve the changes to be tabled. It must be tabled one week where a stronger majority the next week would approve that. I will show you the changes and you will have to vote to change them. (see By-Law Revisions in office)

Senator Lexcen-Move that the Taskforce send out an electronic version of the amended bylaws.

Vice President Anderson-I will do that it will also be posted in amended paper copy.

Senator Mangione-Are there senators that are having trouble meeting two hours per week?

Speaker-There are some that have trouble and there are some that are not recording their hours.

Vice President Anderson-There are people that struggle with two hours. We would like some of the hours to be outside of the office at activities. 2 hours is not a large requirement in the week. Office hours don't have to be all at once. 3 hours is reasonable and more so to be effective you could spend an hour and a half outside of the office. Part of the original concept of office hours was to have people in the office answering questions.

Senator Dooley-What would happen if you did not do your hours?

Vice President Anderson-It does not say. We could put something in there similar to a meeting attendance requirement and we would have to amend these and then it would be tabled again but that is ok because we have to get it right or we leave it to the Speaker or leadership to determine what will happen.

Senator Do-Office Hours Requirements-the wording is vague, is this every member of the MSSA including coordinators or just senators?

Vice President Anderson-It was meant for senators and executives.

Senator Dooley-If we were to do our hours in the office, would it have to be when the office is open?

Vice President Anderson-The point of office hours is getting senate stuff done but also to be there when the office is open for student concerns. If it is left open very leadership could do things how they want. Are we being too prescriptive on requirements or are we just establishing a structure and every senate could adapt a structure for their needs?

Senator Mangione-Regarding Diversity Program-are there no mandated requirements?

Vice President Anderson-That is what tricky-it is is encouraged and falls on the executives to coordinate that.

**Motion Tabled.**

## **Officer Reports**

### **President Williams**

MSUSA-if you signed up and do not attend it is student fee money you have wasted so you will have to reimburse us. We do have one spot left if you are interested in going. We will be talking about the billineim budget and there is an interesting take on it. We will also be electing a Treasurer-we have 10 votes to be giving Nikki who is running for Treasurer. We will be leaving at 4:00 PM.

Wind turbine update-Doug Mayo has started discussions with Energy Solutions and Vice President Straka to see the donation process and to use the \$2 million dollar one time money we talked about two weeks ago. Vice President Straka is very interested in the process and in getting the wind turbines as well to possible charge the vehicles. We will let them do their magic for this partnership to the university.

Vice President Straka will be talking to us next week on the accurate numbers and financial breakdown of the Graduate Tuition.

Amnesty policy has been submitted. There is talk of incorporating it into the Alcohol Policy.

Planners-I was contacted about a company that wants us to market and distribute planners. They grant our organization \$750.00 and the first nine pages for our use. We could put all our services in the first nine pages. There is no money coming from our end, simply time to get our face out there.

### **Vice President Anderson**

Last week was exciting-I saw someone leave in the Hertz car! Throughout the weekend both the Prius and Escape were used. We changed our mind on how we are going to work with the Marketing Club. We do have enough money to hire a Marketing Coordinator to work directly with Hertz and to help us logistically. They will be paid \$500 per semester.

MSUSA-Penny Fellowship, the Chancellor will be there, university presidents and former Senator Tim Penny.

I have been working with Enrollment Management Committee on High Ability and Retention and I think a t-shirt, window stickers and a magnet would be good to give to new entering high ability freshmen, as they have many competing offers. They are students that tend to apply or visit here right away. We then go through a lull with them in January and there is waffling time so if we send them a Maverick shirt they can get excited and feel like a Maverick. So we are doing this for retention and making them have a little more pride in the institution. If you put a sticker on your car you are stuck. New entering freshmen automatically get scholarships for their ACT score and class rank. Out of 1160 scholarships that were given out only 90 students declined. That is big these are students that are in the 26 and above ACT ranges. That is big for the future stature of the institution.

Movember-thank you for those that have signed up. Doug Mayo is one administrator that jumped on the bandwagon with us, Ryan Schuh from Printing Services is another.

### **Speaker Schmidt**

Make sure you write down your office hours. Stingers will be coming soon.  
Senator Kromer-Are stingers the only way you plan to enforce office hours?

### **Senator Reports**

#### **College of Arts & Humanities-Matthew Lexcen**

Academic, Off-campus, and undeclared Senators, I come to you today representing my constituency—the College of Arts and Humanities. As an academic senator, my primary concern with our campus is the relationship between faculty, professors and students, specifically and personally, as it pertains to academic advising. As a forewarning, this report is initial and inconclusive and is to be built upon in further reports.

Our graduation timeline here at MSU is not exactly 4 years...that said, a four year degree, in many cases, does not take four years to complete. Many students have been in enrolled beyond the four year mark on their completion of what is supposed to be a four-year bachelors degree. That said, I, personally, have been on the worst end of this spectrum. I have been on academic probation. I have fallen below the 2.00 GPA. And I have been on academic suspension. All that aside, I was able to pull my way out of the trenches into good standing. And I did so with the help of the College of Arts and Humanities SRC (Student Relations Coordinator) Connie Miller. I had an interview with her earlier this afternoon and would like to present to you, my fellow senators and campus leaders, my findings.

My goal is for us, as the student leaders of our campus, to improve upon the existing foundations of our institution. We need to increase the graduation rate, lower the average time of completion of a four-year degree, and improve upon the quality of our advising in general—Advising task force, anyone? Because when students first experience with advising is negative, they are, in most cases, deterred from further pursuing help from additional faculty resources. If they slip, in both my College and in others, they must meet with an SRC, like Connie Miller. Connie advises over 200 students—which is almost double that of any other faculty member within our college. In addition to these students, she has over 500 meetings with students over the course of the semester. Students who have previously, or have just fallen, under a 2.0 GPA. This makes me wonder how she does her job so well, how she is able to proactively engage each student that comes into her office, and how she is able to muster the energy necessary to build relationships with these students. So my personal project, so to speak, is to understand how one paid, professional advisor can do such a stellar job while other paid faculty and professors continue to discourage my constituents (as is the word). That said, currently, advisors need no special training in interpersonal skills—the foundation for the relationships a successful advisor is supposed to cultivate—to become an advisor. This is one thing that needs to change.

During the rest of my tenure as the senator for the college of Arts and Humanities I plan to investigate this condition. How it can be improved, the trends of students who fall under academic

probation and suspension, and how these students fair when it pertains to obtaining a BA or BS. Even though there are success stories, I also care about the students who struggle (whether it is year one, two, three or, well, eight).

### **McElroy Hall-Michael Paul**

Senator Mangione and I have begun to do research into a policy we plan on proposing spring semester. The aim of the new policy will be to prevent assaults in the dormitories, (i.e. Que Wilson). We have met with the Women's Center, Men against Violence and Campus Security to get input on what can be done. We still have many questions that we have to get answered, but as of now our idea is to prevent future assaults in the dormitories by screening incoming freshman for a record of assaults or other serious crimes. What we've found so far in our research is that felons have a 50% chance of repeating their crimes; we feel that if we can prevent those with felonies on their records from living in the dorms, there will be a significant drop in the number of assaults in the dorms.

Our next step is to talk to Mary Dowd.

Senator Gustafson-Have you spoken with Malcolm O'Sullivan? He is the guy to speak to.

Senator Petrulo-Que was not a freshman, have you welcome the idea of screening anybody that lives in the dorms?

Senator Paul-We have to talk to Mary Dowd and get more information. Some people consider dorms public housing which would be a major hurdle.

### **Off-Campus-Lela Magxaka**

#### Nepal Student Community (NESCOM)

- I attended NESCOM's final meeting Thursday night from 10 to about 11:30 pm before their important annual event *Nepal Night*.
- As shocked as they were to see me seriously attending their meeting they were very happy to have my input on important issues like would a 2 year old sing for 700+ people with a spot light on her face to how important it is to keep people entertained and keeping it as short as possible but long enough to cover the subject.

#### The Ethiopian Student Association (ESA)

- ESA organized a fundraising dinner on Friday October 29th, they had auctions of beautiful Ethiopian art works and entertainment called "*Wells Go Far*"
- An event that would go to help dig clean water wells in Ethiopia.
- The well would be built under Charity Water, an organization that has already built 33 wells in the country and it would serve a village of 400 people with water for the next 20 years.
- ESA has in the past successfully sent 2000 books to Africa and
- This semester, ESA was able to raise \$2000 + dollars. 100 % of the proceeds go towards charity water.

### **Off-Campus-Mark Morpew (written report)**

This report is on the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity and RSO. Phi Psi is a philanthropic organization consisting of 17 active member and currently 8 incoming members. It has been a busy fall for the men of Phi Psi as they have been working to ever improve their decaying house on Lincoln St. (which is rumored to be one of the oldest houses in Mankato). So some fresh paint and ongoing repairs have kept many of its members busy. Along with that the members of Phi Kappa Psi have been striving for their yearly goal of 500 service hours. With a lot of hard work they are already very well on their way. Members have been involved in such philanthropic endeavors as adopt a highway, working around their Lincoln Park Community alongside its other residents, Get up Minnesota, Volunteer police work, and much more. Even with all of this the men have found time for a relaxing weekend in northern Minnesota to strengthen their bonds of brotherhood and talk of things to come. They are all looking forward to Movemeber and plan to take full advantage of the good their facial hair can do to raise awareness for prostate cancer.

### **Off-Campus-Kelvin Borchardt**

Projects that I have been working on are meeting with Detective Commander Matt Durose, the public safety officer in Mankato. The agenda of the proposed meeting would be to discuss the

current and future public safety objectives and how they relate to the off campus community. As well as discuss the possibilities of how students can help with public safety issues. Due to his busy schedule I have not been able to schedule a meeting thus far, but plan to have one scheduled for next week hopefully. This meeting should be either Monday or Wednesday at noon on campus it would be open to any senators to attend.

I have been meeting with off campus students to discuss any possible issues that may be related to off campus students. Though those meetings I have found that the main responses seem to be Security and parking. But a few new issues were as follows.

- GI Bill issues: length of time to receive benefit payments for housing allowance.
  - Follow up: This issue is caused by a federal policy that delays payment for a month due to verifying student participation in classes.
- Motor cycle parking: why is it not possible for motor cyclist to buy a gold pass as well as their silver and park in gold spots if they pay the extra fees?
- University Square Parking passes: Passes are bought then handed to residents as being part of their lease. Problem is when a ticket is cited the # on pass is not registered to student and cannot be dropped without bringing in the number.

I plan to follow up on all issues and report my findings at report back. I am also looking to collaborate on projects / issues that relate to off campus. Please let me know if you need help. Thank you all for your hard work.

### **Announcements**

Vice President Anderson-Senator Borchardt ran down our police liaison Detective Commander Matt Durose and he will be in our office around 12:00 on Monday if you would like to talk to him about public safety concerns.

Senator Gustafson-MPR will be here next Tuesday in the Ballroom. They have a live program called – Calling Mankato Home. It will be a unique opportunity if you are interested in attending a live event. There will be a reception following the event. You can RSVP on the MPR website.

President Williams-Authentic Mavlankin dinner at Bethel Church. Extremely good!

Senator Adams-Campus Kitchens needs volunteers during December break.

President Williams-President Davenport will be in the office from 9-3 tomorrow. Tell everyone in your classes.

Senator Kromer-I need book recommendations. This is a great opportunity to do something for your constituents.

(Closed Session)

### **Roll Call**

#### Senators Present

Jennifer Dooley, Nikki Sabby, Chris Mangione, Dan Kromer, Nathan Gustafson, Samuel Adams, Sarah Koenen, Brian Spitzmueller, Ted Gibbons, Braeden Hogie, Kelvin Borchardt, Lela Magxaka, Matt Skluzacek, Taylor Pederson

#### Senators Absent

Cody Buechner, Matthew Lexcen, Brandon Quam, Amin Abdul-Mohomed, Cody Ingenthron, Lani Petrulo, Rachel Sargent, Michael Paul, Mark Morphew, Micheal Do, Ben Guthmiller-Proxxy Quade, Nansy Pradhan, Robbie Sitka

#### Executive Staff Present

President Williams, Vice President Anderson

**Adjournment** Meeting adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

