

78th MSSA Senate
December 1, 2010

Senate called to order by 78th Speaker Matthew Schmidt

Roll Call (present-absent-proxy-excused)

Jennifer Dooley 13-1-1, Cody Buechner 14-0-0, Matthew Lexcen 8-2-1, Chris Mangione 15-0-0, Brandon Quam 14-1-0, Dan Kromer 15-0-0, Nathan Gustafson 13-2-0, Samuel Adams 13-2-0, Cody Ingenthron 10-3-1-1, Sarah Koenen 15-0-0, Lani Petrulo 12-3-0, Zachary Lincoln 8-6-0-1, Steven Johnson 2-0-0, Rachel Sargent 10-2-0, Ted Gibbons 9-2-0, Michael Paul 11-0-0, Braeden Hogie 10-2-3, Mark Morpheu- 6-4-1, Micheal Do 14-1-0, Benjamin Guthmiller 11-2-2, Kelvin Borchardt 7-1-0, Lela Magxaka 13-1-0-1, Nansy Pradhan 13-1-1, Matt Skluzacek 14-0-1, Taylor Pederson 15-0-0, President Williams 15-0-0, Vice President Anderson 15-0-0

Approval of Consent Agenda

Student Allocations Committee Recommendations

SAC M# 11.12.10A MSU Handball Club

Student Allocation Committee recommends allocating \$2,000.00 to MSU Handball Club to attend the United States Handball Association National Collegiate Tournament in Tempe, AZ. 20 MSU students will attend.

SAC M#11.12.10B Saint Thomas More Newman Center

Student Allocation Committee recommends allocating \$1,000.00 to Saint Thomas More Newman Center to attend the annual Newman Center leadership conference in St. Paul, MN. 50 MSU students will attend.

SAC M#11.12.10C University Repertory Dance Theatre

Student Allocation Committee recommends allocating \$4,111.00 to University Repertory Dance Theaters to attend the American College Dance Festival Associations (ADCFA North Central Regional Conference at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN. 17 MSU students will be attending.

SAC M#11.12.10D Sigma Sigma Sigma

Student Allocation Committee recommends allocating \$350.00 to Sigma Sigma Sigma to attend the Tri Sigma Officer Academy in DeKalb, Il. 7 MSU students will be attending.

SAC M#11.12.10D Mankato Young Performing Artists Association

Student Allocation Committee recommends allocating \$300.00 to Mankato Young Performing Artists Association to host MYPAA Cabaret on Monday, Dec. 6 in Ostrander Auditorium.

Approval of Minutes 11-17-10

Presentation

Hillary Geesman-Residential Hall Association President

Residence Hall Room and Board Rates 2011-2012 Consultation

(see 2011-2012 rates in office file)

President Geesman- We have had the binders in the office and the rates. Basically RHA has had time to go through the process and take it to their floor and get opinions from them to base their vote on. Overall they voted to increase the base rate \$8.00 except for additional flex dollars. The promo items did pass.

Proxy Miles-Did the process take 6 weeks?

President Geesman-We did sit down with the MSSA leadership, we did two presentations at senate, the binders have been in the office and other locations. Yes it was 6 weeks.

President Williams-Do you feel the General Assembly was adequately informed and had enough time to deliberate the rates and changes and consultation was appropriate?

President Geesman-Yes, I do.

IMPACT-Karlos Posas, President

The life of an IMPACT programmer....Joys and Sorrows

Main Problem-Time, it usually takes a year in advance for some events.

Timeline Overview-Program Proposal, Budget, IMPACT Checklist, Promotions

Program Proposal-Innovation and life is tough-Approval: President=Lead=Board

Budget-no clear area of money for concerts, homecoming, events. This allows us to bring innovation. Homecoming and Mavericks after Dark have their own budget.

IMPACT Cost Per Student for events. 7,004 students-\$3.94 per student. Overall cost per student \$3.94.

IMPACT Checklist-Programming 1-2-3, 5 pages of programming goodness, Timeline

Budget-2002 \$128,940, 2007-\$172,170, currently \$95,670

We want to program events for campus, we are a tool to get people involved and know each other and have the full university experience. If we want to have a big concert our budget is too small.

Do we want a big concert or spread it around and have more things going on? We need to find balance but you won't find a big name on a balanced budget.

Senator Do- Have you compared yourself to other colleges of similar size?

Karlos-St. Cloud has great events-they have at least \$120,000 for programming.

Director Wilkins-At my last school we had 18,000 students and a budget of \$1.5 million dollars. We did not charge admission for events.

Karlos-St. Cloud does charge and then they have to make it back. At \$70,000 we could have a great concert. We want to have a concert and we are working. We are restricted.

Senator Quam-When you plan events do you do cost and analysis or just plan events?

Karlos-We get the proposal and discuss it.

MSUSA-Andrew Spaeth, State Chair

There are a lot of difficult conversations going on at the campus level about potential cuts to the budget and what that means to you not only in terms of programs and services available to you and students that come after you but with that comes the pressure to increase tuition and fees. The numbers that have been given from the MnSCU central office is to plan for a \$220 million cut to state appropriation, as well as a 5% increase in tuition each semester over the next biennium. On top of that is the loss of the 2% stimulus funds that were buying down tuition the last year. Tuition will probably increase by 7% next year, 12% over the next two years. That is equivalent to about \$731.00 more a year. This is a challenging time. We will have to make decisions on what we want to focus on. How much can we limit access to our low income population? Georgetown University came out with a study that says for the United States to remain competitive in a global economy we need 70% of population to remain educated with a minimum of a two year degree. Currently 38-40% of the citizens of Minnesota have a two year degree or better. We have a lot of work to do if we want to remain competitive in the global economy. This is the time to ask questions of administrators and leadership on campus to be able to make informed decisions on what direction we want to go as students. The MSUSA fee of .43 cents per credit will remain the same. How can MSUSA be more efficient with student dollars? One half of our budget goes to personnel. They are working at the state office and the legislature on various programs that MSUSA offers to insure that affordability and access are top priorities for our state decision makers. President Williams and Vice President Anderson have some really compelling ideas on what they want to do with the MSUSA budget. Two weeks ago the State Board of Trustees had their meeting and they approved a legislative recommendation to increase their funding level by \$47 million dollars. That would be great. The reality does not speak well to their optimism. More than likely we will not see an increase in the state appropriation. Laura King from the Chancellors Office has told your CFO to plan for a \$220 million dollar cut. MSUSA and MSCSA has not supported the Board recommendation to the state legislature. The main reason that we did not support that yet is because they did not adopt any tuition language and are not willing to put that in their recommendation. Trustee Frederick did advocate for that but the other trustees did not feel this was the appropriate time to be advocating for a tuition cap. MSUSA and MSCSA will be taking up the tuition cap issue. What is a comfortable level? Can we say 5% is good enough for us? They will be cutting higher education; we can cap fees and tuition. The state legislature ultimately has that authority. MnSCU policy wise we are working on differential tuition, course fees not included in tuition such as an Art course that has a \$60.00 fee. Differential tuition includes that fee so that now your financial aid can cover those. At some schools there are 100rds of courses that now fall under differential tuition. We feel that was not the original purpose of differential tuition and the definition needs to be clarified. A course like Spanish should not be falling under differential tuition. Market driven tuition and on-line tuition are being talked about at the MnSCU policy level. We have found that the time has passed, the infrastructure, where it costs more to put the courses on line. We feel on-line tuition should fall under the normal umbrella of tuition. This has been a back door way for institutions to raise more revenue. US Congress is back in session and is as unproductive as we might have expected. The Dream Act may be taken up in the next month or so. The nation wide USSA student association has been advocating for this a decade. MSUSA has taken a position on it, it was in our packet proposed in Nov. We are gearing up for a legislative session. It is critical that we will have a strong voice at the capitol. Join the Lobby Core that we will have on campus. Tell elected officials why public education is important to you.

New Business

M#12.01.10A Graduation Application Advising Survey

Senator Kromer/Senator Koenen

Whereas: Advising is central to the academic success, retention rates, interaction between students and faculty, and the overall collegiate experience of students at MNSU

Whereas: Advising is multifaceted and filled with evolutionary processes that are constantly in fluctuation due to individual differences between students and advisors

Whereas: MNSU and the MSSA both value research and data driven solutions

Whereas: The current undergraduate application for graduation is only one page

Whereas: A brief survey on how students viewed their overall advising experience at MNSU could be used to track student views on advising year to year

Be it resolved: The MSSA support a brief survey on advising being added to the undergraduate application for graduation

Senator Kromer-We have been looking on this all year long and should continue to look at as long as MSU has advising. We thought the best people to ask would be recent graduates because it is fresh in their minds. A short one page survey would not add a lot to the application.

President Williams-Is this feasible and how did the process come up with this idea?

Senator Kromer-A Student Relations Coordinator actually came up with this idea. They are having a difficult time getting this going but felt it would be best coming from students.

Senator Johnson-What will the information be used for once you compile it?

Senator Kromer-I would hope we could take the information and use it to decide what to do based on research done at other universities and how it would best apply to MSU students.

President Williams-This is all wrapped into the whole advising taskforce?

Senator Kromer-Yes, the taskforce in general agrees this would be a good thing.

Motion Passes

Officer Reports

President Williams

The consultation process-The Administration is required to meet with us twice a semester. We meet with the cabinet at Meet & Confer once a month on top of regular meetings we can personally schedule with them. The policies 2.3.1-student involvement in decision making clearly states they have to meet with campus associations twice a month. It covers a wide variety of topics. This is why Hillary the RHA President and Director Janney have come to us twice on the Res Hall rates and additional fees. When you couple those rates with tuition going up and contractual things going up, general living expenses and books, remember the grand picture, it can add up.

Amnesty Policy was added into the formal review policy. It will be coming to us added to the alcohol policy. The caller will not receive formal discipline, they will be within good standing in the university. They will have to go through the limited program. As long as they don't have another offense within a 12 month period or are the caller they won't have to pay for the education piece.

We are getting the education out there but it decreases the amount of negative impact it has on the student. The person that needs medical attention, given the fact that they needed medical attention will have to pay for the education but they will still be in good academic standing. That also goes for the 12 month probationary period. That will be discussed in full with Student Affairs and will come to the senate for approval or denial.

Mary Dowd was named the Interim Dean of Students. She is open and honest with students.

Sam Adams, our lone graduate of MSSA-I would like to offer my thanks and gratitude to your service here. You have a logical and genuine perspective. Thank you

Safety-there was a star alert last night. It is a growing and prevalent issue at this university. We will move forward and focus on getting information and better safety on campus. We want students to know precautions to decrease risks.

This semester we clearly have made an impact as an organization.

Senator Paul-Movember is over.

Senator Quam-In order for us to do better I think we need to ask the tough questions. It will be a better outcome.

President Williams-Have we reached out to the students, have we gotten the MSSA name out there? Is there anything we can do better in that aspect?

Senator Kromer-Tabling once a week.

Senator Adams-Hold meetings in open area for anyone to attend.

Senator Lela-Attending a lot more campus events as MSSA

Senator Revering-We have talked in Student Affairs about cutouts of senators, updating our web page and maybe video profiles.

Proxy Miles-Some of you care about RHA, some don't. Tom and Brett have come to RHA and they speak. The members definitely remember MSSA, RHA has 3300 members and MSSA has 15,000. Tom and Brett have made an impact.

Vice President Anderson

It is graduation time. We have one lone graduate, Samuel Adams. Sam is a good role model for senators. He always comes to his committee meetings. When he says something it is always one of those game changer comments. He is involved in what is going on when he is at the table. I had the pleasure of having him on Academic Affairs last year. He is a good, hard critical thinker.

The Textbook Reserve Program is coming close to having over 1,000 users. When you think of things that we do extremely well-1,000 students using one of our programs is big.

In the world of Hertz-the Prius was gone from Tuesday to Sunday. We are close to our utilization goal this month. We will have a big welcome re-role out in January.

At our last meeting we talked about St. Cloud's referendum on supporting the Athletic Dept. It went to a student vote and it did pass. They will be adding \$1.70 a credit to their students fees for the next two years. The swim team here has contacted me about the feasibility of a referendum. They have been talking to some alumni supporters and things like that. We need to think about this over break as budgets need to be set. We will have to deal with this when we come back. It would cost us for the four athletic programs slated for elimination .70 cents a credit up to 12 credits per student per semester to support. When you add that to our current level which is \$3.33 a credit it would be about \$4 a semester. The MnSCU cap on athletics is \$50.00. That would be about \$21.00 per student. Participants are limited in those sports. If we were to play savior to these sports we would have to pay the total cost of \$231,000 to save 15 men's swimmers, bowling, tennis, I don't want to minimize because .70 cents does not sound like a lot but \$231,000 more is a lot. If we cut those sports we have already said we would keep our funding to sports current or we would lose more athletics. It is dangerous to think about supporting something that would put us that close to our cap. It would just be a temporary fix similar to the stimulus money we were just talking about. We fund athletics at a high rate compared to other institutions.

Senator Lela-If we fund the programs you are saying we have to fund the complete cost?

Vice President Anderson-Athletics is multi-funded. It is funded with state and tuition dollars, we fund it and it is privately funded. There is no way the administration can afford to pay for these four sports. We would have to pick up what the university was paying as well as our portion.

Speaker Schmidt

Over break I will look at what has worked and what has not worked this semester and what I can do as a Speaker. I will look at accountability requirements, are they necessary, what is severity of punishment for missing meetings?

Senator Reports

College of Business-Chris Mangione

The College of Business is bringing in their dean candidates this week. We hope to have one of the candidates hired soon. In addition, I'm looking to make a meeting with Interim Dean, Marilyn Fox to discuss the future of the College of Business.

Off-Campus-Micheal Do

Enrollment Management – New Incoming Freshman meeting went very well. Out committee put together a list of proposals to affect NEF in Fall 2011

I have a new goal to work on for the upcoming semester with privacy issues and smart phones. I will be working on this over winter break.

Also Newspaper Board is almost complete I am just waiting on a few more students and this board will be up and running.

Have a fun and safe winter break.

Crawford Hall-Rachel Sargent

Pre-Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Club

Goal of the Pre-PT/OT Club:

To help prepare students for physical/occupational therapy school. They try to offer student volunteer opportunities and assist them with applying for physical and occupational therapy schools.

Events: They have attended the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) conference in Bemidji this Fall and they'll be attending the St. Cloud conference in the Spring. They have also participated in multiple volunteer opportunities.

Restarting the group: The founders of the club this year decided to restart the club as upperclassmen because they found it extremely helpful on their journey towards graduate school as underclassmen. The most beneficial part of the club is to be able to talk to other members and find out where they are in the process of getting into PT/OT school and be able to get advice from one another.

College of Science, Engineering & Technology-Cody Ingenthron

Textbook reserve program

The textbook reserve program has been in existence since the fall of 2008. The program allows students to check out textbooks that are required for their courses, at no cost. The textbooks are available in two hour increments with immediate renewal; however the textbooks cannot be removed from the library. Over the past two years the program has seen a significant increase in use. The number of available textbooks has risen from just 65 in the fall of 08 to 228 this fall.

Student interest has also increased, as is evident by the massive increase in users, from 0 in the fall of 08 to nearly 1000 students this fall. Books are also being checked out two times more frequently this semester than last semester. Currently a list is being created of the books that are to be added for next semesters use. The textbook reserve program has been a success.

Off-Campus-Nansy Pradhan

Housing for MSU Mankato International Students

- I have talked to the International Students Association (ISA) about the various issues international students face with living off campus.
- International students also have problems when they come to MSU Mankato as freshmen since they are not familiar with the apartment complexes or even the dorms on campus.
- Even though they might find an apartment they would like to live in, they may face problem while renting them because some apartments require social security number or credit history which they won't have.
- My goal is to provide better and understandable resources to the existing and incoming international students about the off-campus housing.
- I have already created a Facebook page "Housing for MSU Mankato International Students" as a small step towards letting them know about what I am doing.
- I have been posting some helpful links from our own website (mnsu.edu), Uloop, and CampusRent on the Facebook page.

- I am also working on a short and simple survey with the help of our student Affairs Committee Coordinator Sarah Revering which will be mailed out to the international students through the Grad Assistants in the IC.
- I have talked to the ISA Vice President Sobia Khan to incorporate this information in their website too.
- I am planning to attend the ISA weekly meeting and keep updating them about my progress and ask for whatever help I would need from them.
- If possible in the winter break, I am planning to meet with Tom Gjersvig from the International Center and Greg Wilkins from the Student Activities to know more about the housing situations.

College of Science, Engineering Technology-Sam Adams

Wind Turbines-Dept of Energy spokesperson told me there are a couple different options. Wind Power America has a wind energy program that only creates awareness. ERE, has a renewable energy tax credit, so you would save money in that perspective. Recovery Act 2009-established cash grants. Desire-has 100% exemption from real and personal property taxes. This seems like the most promising one of all. You can apply for cash grants. Xcell Energy has funded 75 million dollars worth of stable energy products. I met with Dr. Davenport and talked about the wind program and eventually the rest of my life. He said when he originally came here he was looking into a 1.2 mega watt turbine on the top of the hill. They talked to the city and the neighborhoods and got rid of the idea because of safety issues. It is still being looked into by one of the five strategic planning committees. It is chaired by Vice President Straka and there is one student on the board. I feel we should combine our efforts and get moving on it.

Vice President Anderson-What again is your favorite MSSA memory and worst MSSA memory?

Senator Adams-My favorite was the Red Carpet in St. Cloud, dancing Dan Kromer. I loved Academic Affairs discussions. Least favorite-CSU Board stuff.

President Williams-If you could offer advise one piece of advice?

Senator Adams-Ask questions no one else will-it might not make everybody happy, bite the bullet and say no.

Senator Kromer-Were you aware if this was equal to the distance of the Pacific Ocean, this is how much you will be missed?

Announcements

President Williams-Skate Break next week in the Ballroom.

Roll Call

Senators Present

Jennifer Dooley, Cody Buechner, Matthew Lexcen, Chris Mangione, Brandon Quam, Dan Kromer, Nathan Gustafson, Samuel Adams, Cody Ingenthron, Sarah Koenen, Steven Johnson, Michael Paul, Micheal Do, Lela Magxaka, Nansy Pradhan, Matt Skluzacek, Taylor Pederson, Braeden Hogie-proxy

Senators Absent

Lani Petrulo, Zachary Lincoln, Rachel Sargent, Ted Gibbons, Mark Mophew, Benjamin Guthmiller, Kelvin Borchardt

Executive Staff Present

President Williams, Vice President Anderson

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM