

**78<sup>th</sup> MSSA Senate**  
**February 9, 2011**

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

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

Jennifer Dooley 18-1-1, Matthew O'Flaherty 4-0-0, Matthew Senator Lexcen 13-2-1, Shay Ademola-Sadipe 4-0-0, Spencer Johnson 3-0-0-1, Dan Kromer 20-0-0, Nathan Gustafson 16-4-0, Scott Boyd 4-0-0, Cody Ingenthron 13-4-1-2, Sarah Koenen 20-0-0, Micheal Do 18-2-0, Moriah Miles 3-0-0, Stephen Johnson 6-1-0, Amanda Blomgren 4-0-0, Rachel Sargent 13-4-0, Ted Gibbons 13-2-0, Braeden Hogie 15-2-3, Kelvin Borchardt 12-1-0, Lela Magxaka 18-1-0-1, Luke Van Beek 2-0-0, Nansy Pradhan 18-1-1, Ritesh Mahargan 2-0-0, Sarah Revering 3-0-0, Tyler Ulferts 4-0-0, Taylor Pederson 20-0-0, President Williams 20-0-0, Vice President Anderson 20-0-0

**Open Forum**

**Laurie Woodward- Budget Handout**

(Passed out handout. Will discuss Feb.23)

**Whitney Moore- Career Development Center Graduate Assistant**

I work in the Women's Center. We are providing a "Running Women" workshop for women to gain skills to run for MSSA. We have noticed, looking back, that there hasn't been a lot of women involvement in a while. We would like to see some more women represented. We are putting on this workshop Feb 25 from 3-9pm. If you would like to attend, you can register by coming into the Women's Center office, or by contacting Karie Diekman. One of the other things we would like to do is have a panel of women who have been on MSSA. We are looking for 3-5 students. I have talked to Sarah a little about it. We want to learn more about the organization so we can do some planning. Let Sarah or Karie know if you are interested. The panel will be at 4:45 P.M. on the agenda for that day.

Senator Lela- Are men involved?

Whitney Moore- It is geared more towards women.

**IMPACT-** At 7pm today, we are having speed dating. It is a cool way to meet people and a good way to meet that special someone.

Also, there will not be a movie this week, but next week we will have Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1.

Feb 14<sup>th</sup> we will have Build a Bear in the CSU. This year there will be a monkey as well as a husky. We are taking applications for our board for next semester. You can apply in Student Activities or go online to our website.

**Moriah Miles-** I am president of Tom's Shoes. If you buy a pair of shoes from them, they donate a pair of shoes to a child in need. We are working on our big awareness day. If you have any input, we are still planning. Let me know if you are interested.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

**Appointments-** Constitution Commission- Scott Boyd, Assistant Director for Admissions for Transfer Students- Shay Ademola-Sadipe

**Recognized Student Organizations-** ASL Club, APICS- Association for Operations Management, Shotokan Karate Club, Sudanese Student Association, Secondary Education Club, MSU Pre Med Club

**Student Allocation Committee Recommendations**

**SAC M#02.07.11A Council for Exceptional Children**

Student Allocation Committee recommends allocating \$100 to the Council for Exceptional Children to attend the CEC 2011 Convention & Expo in Washington, DC.

**SAC M#02.07.11B Triathlon Club**

Student Allocation Committee recommends allocating \$1300 to Triathlon Club to attend the National Collegiate Championship in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

**SAC M#02.07.11C Drag Race Team**

Student Allocation Committee recommends allocating \$69 to the Drag Race Team to attend the Chicago Auto Show in Chicago, Illinois.

**Presentations:**

**Andrew Spaeth- MSUSA**

I see a lot of new faces, so congratulations to you new senators. It looks like you have had successful elections this semester. We were established in St. Cloud University in 1967. We represent the 70,000 students of the 7 state universities in Minnesota. I really appreciate your time today.

The Penny Program: Fellowships and Scholarships- Every year we give away \$9,000 to students who are engaged in community service. You can apply for the scholarship. You don't have to have an internship secured for until the next year. I encourage you to take a look.

Jared P. Stene Scholarship- he was a member of MSUSA. He passed away. The scholarship has been carried on in his name by his family. This year it will be a \$1,000 scholarship.

Application is due April 1<sup>st</sup>. For more information, check out our website.

(February MSUSA Conference Activity)

New Director of Government Relations: Jonathan Bohn. He's been a lobbyist for 5 years. He's mostly worked on water issues. He's successfully transitioned to the world of higher education. He's doing an outstanding job.

I commend Tom Williams for his outstanding leadership. If you have any comments or feedback about MSUSA, he's your direct contact.

Tuition Freeze Bill- It came out yesterday. Senator Carlson and Michelle Fishbach co-authored this legislation (File 248). Essentially, it freezes tuition for the next two years and then limits increases in tuition to whatever the Consumer Price Inflation rate is. We are looking at being part of the solution. We don't want to see tuition to go up by double digits.

Veterans Funding Bill- Representative Detmer will be authoring this bill. There is a regional representative that comes to the state and state institutions to serve the veterans who are looking to get a secondary degree or higher degree. The funding is due to expire in 2012. Detmer is looking to continue funding for this.

Ex-Officio Council Bill- Senator Sheran is still carrying this. We are still shopping for a republican member in the house to author that.

Rally Day- Feb 16<sup>th</sup>. This is a large gathering of MSUSA and MSCSA students from all over the state. We hold this every other year. There are a lot of issues going on with higher education. Funding is obviously the big issue. It's important for students to get involved.

Lobby Cores- It's a group of students that will go and meet at the capital with State Legislators. It's a great opportunity to get involved in the legislative process. I encourage you to talk to Matt if you are interested.

**Elections- Off-Campus (1), Graduate Studies (1), Allied Health and Nursing (1)**

**Off- Campus Senator Elections- Michael Hanson, John Obergo**

Mr. Hanson- I have been looking to get on senate since my freshman year. My ultimate goal would be Arts and Humanities. I ran for the Off-Campus senator vacancy last semester and Senator Borchardt won. He's been doing a great job. I am a sophomore at MSU. I am majoring in Theatre and French. I have lived off campus all of my years here. I am 26 years old. I was in the military for six years. I want to make sure students get to school to do their studies and are safe about it. Safety issues with crosswalks. People taking night classes need to be safe walking to their cars especially with the recent assaults. We need to make campus a safe place for everybody.

Mr. Obergo- My name is John Obergo. I am a senior here at MSU. I have lived off campus for three years. I'm an Automotive Engineering Major. I am involved in the Lincoln Park community. I plan on continuing that.

Vice Anderson President- Highlight your other involvement or activities in the MSU community.

Mr. Obergo – I am a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity. I am currently the President. I am a member of a few RSO's.

Mike Hansen- I am a member of Sigma Nu in an executive position. I am a member of the Hmong Association. I reached out to that for diversity aspects. Being a Theatre major, I work on shows and plays that we have on campus. I work with the Dance Line on technical stuff such as lighting.

President Williams- What are some of the most prevalent issues that you see for off-campus students?

Mr. Hansen- More crosswalks and crosswalk safety. Possibly more lighting especially for people walking after night class and safety walk. I have notices that we pay a lot of money to go to school. It's winter out. We should get salt to help prevent slipping and falling. I want to make sure there are options for off-campus students to commute.

Mr. Obergo- The parking lot across admissions office. I would like to make that more efficient. I want to get it more salted.

President Williams- How would you go about tackling those issues?

Mr. Hansen- I would have to gather information to find out who is responsible for funding that project. Crosswalks, I would imagine that it is the responsibility of the city. I would definitely like to present that to the city. I would try to stress the importance of it.

Mr. Obergo- I would try to get into the parking committee and attend meetings.

Senator Kromer- Highlight your strengths and weaknesses.

Mr. Obergo- I have been involved on campus in leaderships roles. I feel like I can handle the job.

Mr. Hansen- I think my biggest strength is that I am here. Adaptability. When you come across an obstacle, the first response you may have might not necessarily be the right one. You need to take a step back, examine your options before you proceed. Weaknesses, right now I have a lack of experience on the Senate as I have not being on senate before.

Senator Koenen- How would you reach out to your constituents especially those who are farther off campus?

Mr. Hansen- I have been thinking about this since last week when I decided to run for the vacancy. This is the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I could set up a facebook group or web blog or use text messaging.

Mr. Obergo- I would set up tables on campus and attend the city committees.

Vice President Anderson- What is your personal definition of leadership?

Mr. Obergo- Holding a role that involves representing other people. You have to represent their best interests over yours.

Mr. Hansen- Interesting question. I think leadership is stepping up to the plate when no one else will to ensure that you have a common goal and common interest with the people you are looking out for. I would associate these values with leadership: honor, loyalty, ethics, and advocacy.

Mr. Hansen- My name is Michael Hansen. I am really motivated and have a strong drive. I have been looking to join Senate for three semesters. If I don't get it today, I will definitely be trying again at the next opportunity.

Mr. Obergo- I feel like I can do this. Vote for me. Thanks.

Move to caucus for 5 minutes.

**Michael Hansen Elected Off-Campus Senator.**

## **New Business**

### **M#02.09.11A Voter Registration Bills Senator Do/ Vice President Anderson**

Whereas: The Minnesota State Student Association is the recognized voice of the Student Body at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Whereas: Current proposed voter registration bills in the Minnesota House of Representatives, H.F. 89 & 210, would adversely affect a student's ability to vote.

Whereas: Many on campus students are already preregistered through campus housing registers; but, off campus students frequently run into registration problems given a lack of a utility bill in their name, utilities being in the landlords name (as required by Mankato Statute), or lack utilities due to an all-inclusive lease.

Whereas: Given the previous scenario, the "vouch" was extremely successful in allowing students the ability to vote.

Whereas: H.F. 89 and 210 would make current voter ID mandatory and remove the option of the vouch system.

Whereas: H.F. 89 and 210 would establish difficult barriers that would prevent students from voting in the precincts and cities where they live, work, study, and contribute to the local economy.

Be it Resolved: The Minnesota State Student Association oppose H.F. 89 & 210 as proposed because of the obstacles it would create in allowing students to register and vote.

Vice President Anderson- During the election this year, we worked the “Where’s Your Precinct” table down in the union. We ran into so many students who were having trouble registering to vote in the current system. If this goes through, the only way for off campus students to vote in Mankato is to change their driver’s license to say your Mankato address. The other option would be absentee balloting for your district back home. I never go home. I don’t care to vote at home. I live here year round. I would have liked to vote for Chris Frederick. I would have wanted to vote for the legislators that are serving the MSU area. This really puts up some barriers. It would allow the three of us as executives to draft some sort of response similar to what is in the motion. MSUSA is already pushing this. It doesn’t hurt to add a little extra muscle in this debate.

Senator Dooley- Isn’t there something that you can send to the capital to change your address to be registered here?

Vice President Anderson- You could, if you were on top on the ball. Same day registration would be impossible.

Senator Hogie- I don’t like this motion because I believe that these two bills have been put out there on the house floor to prevent voter fraud, not to prevent college students to vote in their precincts. There are other means to change your residency. Many other precincts have been impacted by voter fraud. It has impacted my high school district in previous years. I am not in favor of this motion.

Senator Lexcen- From my experience working the “Get Out the Vote” campaign, getting college students to vote isn’t the easiest thing in the world. I think informing people of what affects them is difficult to do. Especially if they have to go through paperwork after paperwork, having them do that every time is difficult. A lot of people want to do same day registration. For example, people at summit don’t have a utility bill to same day register with. Certain people got turned away four to five times at some precincts. I can understand the fraud stuff, but this is something we need as college students to enable us to vote and voice our opinion.

Senator Gibbons- I understand the concerns about the possibility for fraud. I think what should be kept in mind is that we are supposed to represent the students, not the people of the state of Minnesota. The bills would make it more difficult for the students on campus to actually get registered and vote.

Senator Hogie- I think it would be in our best interests to think about tabling this until next meeting. This is something big that we are taking a stance on.

Senator Borchardt- I move to table until next week.

**Motion tabled until next meeting.**

### **M#02.09.11B Advising Website Senator Koenen/ Senator Kromer**

Whereas: Advising is a crucial factor in the success of students’ college career.

Whereas: The MNSU webpage currently has a link for academic advising.

Whereas: The academic advising link links to each college, FYE, and center for academic success.

Whereas: The preliminary survey results from the adviser and advisee surveys suggest that students are confused about where to go to get information about advising concerns.

Whereas: The Advising Taskforce supports the creation of a centralized webpage for academic advising.

Be it resolved: The MSSA supports the creation of a centralized advising webpage.

Be it further resolved: The MSSA supports and pushes for updates of the individual colleges’ webpages.

Senator Koenen- I am on Advising Taskforce. The advising website we currently have has a few broken links, ect. Eventually we might need money for it. This just says that we support it.

Vice President Anderson- I commend Senator Kromer and Koenen. If you have ever been around the MSSA office, you have probably heard that we need to do something about advising. It’s a big, most complicated, messed up system there is, but they are advancing the ball one yard at a time with everything they have been doing for the last year and a half.

Shay- When you say the advising link, what are you saying? Would you explain that?

Senator Koenen- Under the main webpage, go to academics. There is a link to academics. From there is a link to each college. For example, SBS is broken. CSET hasn’t been updated in years. This

would push to update that. I have already met with Ted Johnson to figure out what we would have to do to get the ball rolling.

**Motion passes.**

**M#02.09.11C Outdoor Recreation Research Vice President Anderson/ Senator Gibbons**

Whereas: A new outdoor climbing wall is being built this spring behind Gage Towers  
Whereas: The AEP Program and the College of Education currently run the wall for academic programming  
Whereas: University budget reductions leave the AEP in jeopardy for at least the next year  
Whereas: Campus Recreation has had a vision of increased outdoor recreation activities for some time  
Whereas: Sport Management Seminar students are available to conduct a market research study regarding expanded outdoor recreation programming

Be it Resolved: Pending IRB approval, the MSSA charge the Sport Management Seminar students to conduct a market research study regarding outdoor recreation to be reported to the Senate mid-semester.

Vice President Anderson- Adventure Education Program in the College of Education is part of the Experiential Ed program. They run the ropes course, the challenge course, the propelling tower and the climbing wall. Last year they were able to give an institutional equipment grant to update that wall. By June 30<sup>th</sup>, there will be a new climbing propelling facility out there. The director for that program who is in the AEP College of Ed area is slated for elimination. This wall is going to be built, and his position is no longer going to be around. We will have this wall and no one to run it. Campus Rec has always wanted increased outdoor recreation. This year they have also submitted an institutional equipment request for an indoor climbing wall in Otto Rec. We don't know the status of that. It's going to take some time. Generally speaking, this will allow us to conduct research on whether outdoor rec and climbing facilities is something we want to get involved in. If we want to get involved, it would allow some sort of partnership with the College of Education so that their program would be able to exist. We would throw funding to it so that there would be open climbing hours to students. If we can get the one in Otto Rec, it would allow for someone who is licensed to man that facility. It would also allow us to offer recreation at the outdoor facility and share the burden of that cost with an academic program. This gets us some information for later in the semester.

Senator Gibbons- When I talked to Todd Finkston who operates and runs Campus Rec he told me it was more developed that it actually was. I think it would be really cool to have on campus. I realize that this is going to be difficult to get done, but I think it's worthwhile.

**Motion Passes.**

**M#02.09.11D MSUSA Board of Directors Vote Approval Senator Miles/Senator Lexcen**

Whereas: There was an MSUSA Delegates Assembly this past weekend February 4-6<sup>th</sup>  
Whereas: The MSSA Senate, per our bylaws, needs to approve the Directors votes

Be it Resolved: The MSSA approve Director Williams votes at the February Delegates Assembly  
Senator Miles- This is basically housekeeping. If you did have any questions, you were supposed to ask them earlier. So I see no need for you to feel uninformed or misinformed.

**Motion Passes.**

**M#02.09.11E Legislative Rally Day Senator Kromer/Miles**

Whereas: MSU-Mankato helped to bolster its' presence at the Capitol during the summer of 2010

Whereas: Our collective presence at the capitol is altogether important because as far as the MnSCU schools go, are, in the flagship

Whereas: Rally Day is at the capitol Wednesday, 2/16/2011

Be it Resolved: MSSA senators and executive leadership attend Rally Day

Be it Further Resolved: If a majority of MSSA senators/executive leadership attend Rally Day, taking the bus to and from the capitol/St. Paul College, we will cancel next week's meeting in lieu of the rally.

Senator Lexcen- We have a rally next Wednesday. We got a lot of press when the executive leadership walked to the capital. It's something that we preach to have a voice in our legislature. I think it's important that we be there rather than rely on our constituents. I know we haven't missed a meeting, but I think it's cool to go do something different for a day. There will be hot cocoa. Transportation is included. I could probably get you out of class. I think this is something where we need to come together and get our voices heard.

Senator Miles- I agree. We would be leaving at 8-8:30 and be back around 3:00 at the latest.

Vice President Anderson- I'm pretty sure, looking at the Bylaws that this counts as office hours.

Senator Revering- What time would transportation be leaving?

Senator Miles- 8:00 or 8:30 and then returning around 3:00.

Senator Borchardt- I love this. This is great. I think we should all challenge ourselves to get 3-5 people to come with you. We need to advocate for this. It will be really fun.

Senator Lexcen- There is limited bus space. Turning people away is a problem we want to have. Our bus capacity is 56. Keep that in mind.

Vice President Anderson- This would be very "Senator of the Week" worthy for those who go.

Senator Miles- We would have at least 15 spots reserved.

Senator Gibbons- Remind me, we are going to go to the capital. What are we going to be doing there?

Senator Lexcen- We will get on a bus. You are going to dress warm. We are going to drink coffee. We are going to rally for higher education cuts. We want to make sure our voice is heard. We are there with a bunch of other colleges. People will be wearing weird little hats, tuition caps. Get it? We'll make signs.

Senator Gibbons- I like the idea of tuition cap hats.

Senator Pradhan- Is this an open event? And how can we contact you?

Senator Lexcen- Yes, this is an open event. We have a facebook group. They can also contact me.

Senator Borchardt- Just to clarify, this happens every two years. This is the students' way of showing our presence. We are all going to be on the capitol steps. There will be a podium and speakers. Senators will be coming outside and noticing students saying what we feel is important. It's a good time.

Vice President Anderson- When are we going to need to know?

Senator Lexcen- There is a facebook group. I know that you are senators, if you are listed as confirmed, then I know you will be coming. I will contact you on Monday.

Senator Boyd- Is there a way for us to get this information for those who do not have a facebook?

Senator Lexcen- I will make a sign up sheet and give you my phone number.

Senator Pradhan- Can I also get a sign up sheet for the ISA office?

Senator Lexcen- You can get civic engagement hours for this as well.

## **Motion Passes.**

## **Officer Reports**

### **President Williams**

There is a motion on the agenda that you will be approving my votes for MSUSA. I voted for increasing the Student Union fee cap currently set at \$300.00, no Student Union can charge over \$300.00 to \$400.00. That is because Southwest is at their cap because their student union burned down twice and they need to do renovations. Southwest voted to a 2-3% increase per year for the next five years. Southwest said they were comfortable with that level. MSU is the only one not raising the student union cap. I move to allow for the flexibility for Southwest and bump it up to \$400.00. It is a 5% increase. St.Cloud is looking to transition some of their cuts to student live fees. We advocated that you should be hesitant with the student life fee because it is a safety net for organizations. Everyone knows student fees don't go down they only increase. No recommendation was made to increase that cap, partly because how does it look when we lobby for freezing tuition and we will increase our caps for student fees? We also approved removing one of the delegate's assemblies for next year. They are very expensive, \$9-10,000 and what you receive from it is not

necessarily transmitted to the campuses. It will be a one day campus conference. It saves quite a bit of money. It was originally a board conference. If it's a one day, then it reduces the price substantially. We approved the federal agenda. House File 21089. It limits what you have to have when you go to vote for identification. That hampers students because we often use our parent's home as our permanent address. We voted to oppose that as well as the renter's credit, they are reducing that rate from 17-15%. A lot of students use that for tax write offs. That is the MSUSA conference. Feb 17<sup>th</sup> I am looking for someone to attend at 5pm. Someone who will be around next year. We are looking for the house rep. Priority Registration Committee that we discussed last semester is discussing the practicality of doing that and they need a student representative.

Dean of Extended Learning- We need a student representative on there.

Student Union Budget- This is a very crucial part. Be sure to look at it and know what is going on.

Website photos- Amber will be taking pictures after the meeting.

Marketing Strategies- Our website is horrible. There is an organization on campus that will help us with our website. It is free of charge. It will help us create a marketing plan. It would be extremely beneficial to have some consistency.

Congratulations to Student Affairs on their tabling for student safety. They had some great feedback.

I have noticed a very big difference in senate this semester. It's something that I haven't ever seen. I am really excited for what this semester will entail. Use the veterans around the table to reach your goals. Senate is what you make of it. Nothing is unattainable. You can always ask.

Senator of the week- Theodore Gibbons. He has tackled some issues relevant to Gage and other on-campus members. He has been remarkable in addressing nutritional facts with Sodexo. He is working with Campus Rec. His report last week should be the bar. That should be what everyone should be seeking for in their reports. Congratulations.

Senator Kromer- When you say Veterans, you mean vets of the senate correct?

President Williams- Yes.

### **Vice President Anderson**

Congratulations Senator Gibbons. That is where the bar should be set. He has taken what he's learned and really started to do things. New folks, that is what you should strive to do. The Hertz program is really starting to take off. For those of you who went to MSUSA I want to apologize for the disorganized chaos. I promise you a much richer experience in April. Skype stations-We have a red telephone booth sitting downstairs that is getting a tablet PC. We're having a little trouble adjusting it to get it to fit in the small both. It will be downstairs by Infinity Plus for students to make Skype calls. It's big part of international community. Take a look at the budget. If you have any questions about it, contact Tom, Alexi, or myself. I would like to thank everyone for the atmosphere. I like to see a lot of initiative. That makes things easier for us. Without you, we have no accomplishments. There are plenty of ways that Tom and I have fallen short, so I really thank you. I am excited for that website.

### **Speaker Schmidt**

We had ten people get their hours done this past week. I want to give a reminder to document your service hours. When I was a freshman speaker I did a segment called, "You Know What Really Grinds My Gears." I just want to bring that back for today. I was reminded about the Old English phone booth. IT does not know anything about furniture. That thing is wobbly and will break within the year.

### **Senator Reports**

#### **Crawford Hall- Rachel Sargent (written report)**

Marketing Club

Goal of the Marketing Club:

To help prepare Marketing majors for life after college and to help them get a feel for what jobs are available in the Marketing field. It's also an opportunity for members to efficiently network and just have fun. They usually initiate activities for the members and bring speakers in. They also not only do they bring speakers in but they also go to the businesses themselves to get a better understanding and experience from the speaker. The Marketing Club has also already taken

advantage of requesting money from MSSA and they were, surprisingly, well aware of all that MSSA had to offer and their role on campus as well.

Upcoming Events:

Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup> – Dawn Shafer from Creative Ad.

Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup> – MOA Tour/Timberwolves Game

Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup> – Activity

Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> – Spring Break

Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup> – Jeff and Patrick from Service 800

Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> – Activity

Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> – Jo Bailey from Radio Mankato

Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup> – Activity

April 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> – Chicago Trip

Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> – Brienna Schuette from MN State Fair

Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> – Vote next year's officers/Activity

Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> – End of Semester party

\*Meeting Times: Mondays @ 4:45-5:45pm in AH 102

### **Off Campus- Tyler Ulferts (written report)**

#### *Current Projects*

- *Working with Kelvin Borchardt to secure continued state funding for Veteran Resource Centers in Minnesota universities*
  - Gathered survey results and had a discussion with the schools VRC representative, and full time staff, David Schrader
    - Survey included usage statistics for MSU's local VRC, and comments and suggestions from soldiers who utilize the provided service
    - Given an informational packet about the state-funded VRC program to share with my National Guard unit to garner support
  - Contacted and set up a future meeting with CPT Christopher Andersen from Minnesota National Guard 2-135 HHC in order to discuss the program and garner support
    - The 2-135 Infantry Division is a Minnesota National Guard unit of nearly 1000 soldiers which will begin mobilization to Kuwait in May 2011
    - The plan is to gain support from the overall battalion in order to help lobby the state legislature for continued support of the VRC program
      - Must research what, if anything, the government-funded military can do to show support of legislation (search for restrictions)
      - Must research statistics to learn how many of the deploying soldiers will be returning from their first deployment, and how many will be attending school
  - Minnesota's legislature releases budget projections on February 15
    - Steps forward can be taken only once the projection has been released
- *Working with Student Affairs to produce a website that can obtain survey results from students who have experience living off campus so we can provide the results to students looking to move from campus living, or international students, so they can make the best decisions for themselves*
  - Attempting to find an RSO in the CSET school who can design, create and maintain the website
  - Discussed with the campus lawyer if there was anything that we would have to do to avoid potential legal issues with the site
    - A quality terms-of-service document would have to be created and reviewed
      - Must attempt to prevent any libelous comments about any renters off campus, and try to keep all information as pertinent and helpful as possible

- If a satisfactory document can't be created, and the rules become too burdensome, we will have to maintain the website separate from MNSU or MSSA's website

### **College of Allied Health and Nursing- Matthew O'Flaherty**

I sat down with Operations and Finance Director Tim Marshall on Tuesday to talk about MSU's Athletic Dept. budget. As this being my first meeting I didn't really know what to expect, but thankfully everything went well. As we talked about last week or the week before, the proposed 75 cent per credit rate increase to help save the four programs up for elimination. When I brought that up to Mr. Marshall he stated how all of this has been done solely by the people out petitioning around campus. He said he and the rest of the dept. are happy that students have been receptive to those student athletes out campaigning, but it does put the dept. in a bind.

They fear that any attempt to raise fees to support the rest of the programs will come off as "competition" against the other four. They haven't had to increase student fees for 3-4 years and they do not want to do that in this current budget either. This may seem minuscule, but one of the few things they do to save money is skip uniform rotation. It costs around \$35-\$45 per football player to properly equip them, so it is saving them a quite a bit of money, but unfortunately not enough.

Operating all athletic programs costs \$2-\$3 Million annually. Student fees account for about \$1 Million annually. They have to utilize different strategies to make up the extra couple million in debt. Mr. Marshall said that if budgets continue as they are they may have to charge admission for students to certain sporting events, like the U of M and most to all division 1 programs do. Men's hockey ticket sales are what drive our athletic program. If no one is spending money on them, barely any money comes into the dept. They don't receive parking, concessions, or suite fees. And on top of that all they pay a lot to rent the Verizon Center for the games. Something has got to give. The other reason why they need to start addressing all the issues with more urgency is that the Big Ten Conference is now starting plans to make hockey part of their conference. Mr. Marshall said we would be able to schedule the U of M and U of W still as non-conference, but not every year. This in turn will drive down revenue for all WCHA schools.

With all that in mind they will be meeting regularly to discuss possible actions, and will be meeting with SAC in mid-march with their plan. He said they will probably go for a student fee increase for the whole department, or a onetime fee to help balance the budget in the short term.

Senator Gibbons- Did he give any figure for the possible fees? Or are they just looking in to it?  
O'Flaherty- When I was talking to them, I said there is a \$100 fee for men's hockey at the U of M. Kids here I bet would pay \$50-\$75 to go to hockey for the whole season. He brought up a football game a few years back where we charged a \$5 admission. We had a poor showing because of the admission fee. If they are going to charge tickets for football, how many students are going to buy it?

### **College of Business- Spencer Johnson (written report)**

In order to get an idea of what problems the College of Business is facing now and the problems that they will be facing in the future, I decided that it would be a good idea to sit down with a high-ranking faculty member to get their views on the issue. My fellow COB Senator Shay and I met with the Dean of the COB, Marilyn Fox, to get her input on the important issues the College of Business faces. We asked her how she felt about the growing class sizes and shrinking number of faculty first. Her thoughts on the matter were that with the economy and expenses the way they are, there would have to be occasional cuts and that is what we have seen in our college. For the most part, her views on most problems in the college were positive and she seemed to think that things were heading in the right direction. She was able to put down rumors that the Accounting program might be in danger of cutting. This held specific significance to me because I had heard that because of lack of faculty members that MSU would have trouble keeping the program. However, Marilyn informed Shay and I that this notion was preposterous and that the Accounting program was one of the strongest in the COB and was in no danger of being removed. It is important to talk to Deans and other faculty about these issues before they get turned into wild tales that can do much more harm than good. Shay and I agreed to meet with Marilyn later in the

semester to continue to get updates on the college and stay in the loop of what the faculty's thoughts are on a number of things.

In addition to my talk with the Dean, I have just started my meetings on the Tech Fee Advisory Committee and the Academic Affairs Committee. We had a brief introduction at the Tech Committee where we reviewed a number of things that technology has been able to accomplish for this campus. I learned a great deal at the meeting. Our campus is far more technologically sound than our competitors and it needs to remain that way to keep life for students efficient and up to date. The Technology Department is hard at work to get Skype Phones installed around campus among many other projects that will take place later in the semester. They are also dedicated to cutting wasteful spending evidenced by their cutting of a dialup connection that is only used by a few students. This cut occurred last week and, although it will hurt those few students, it will save approximately \$8,000 that it was costing to keep up and running. I think we only breached the tip of the iceberg in our first meetings and I know there will be much more to come in the future.

At our Academic Affairs meeting last Friday, we were able to get a lot of ideas on the table about what we wanted to get done this semester. Shay had a very good suggestion for the College of Business that involved only using core courses as an evaluation to be accepted into the College. This would change the way the system is currently run which involves evaluators looking at a transfer student's GPA in not only business courses but general courses as well. This method doesn't make a lot of sense because what should be the most important aspect of admission is a person's GPA in classes directly related to their field of study. I look forward to helping Shay talk with school administrators to see what we can change about this issue.

Finally, I met with my advisor and faculty member Byron Pike from the Accounting Department this Monday. I wanted to add his thoughts on what needed to be done for the COB in addition to what Marilyn had said. He said that one of the biggest problems students will face will be registering for classes. Kids who are majoring in Accounting may face the reality that they are not even able to get into the upper level classes that they need to graduate because their spots are already taken by someone that doesn't need the class nearly as much. This problem can be solved but it would involve taking a closer look at how students currently register for classes and how the process could be improved. An example solution may be giving priority registration to students with outstanding GPAs or allow students in a particular major to sign up first for courses in that major. More consideration would have to be taken to find the solution that is right but the system we are currently working with has issues that need to be addressed. This will be an issue that I want to put a lot of time in to figure out a way to help students graduate on time and have their schedules work better. Hopefully an answer can be found that can benefit everybody.

### **College of Science, Engineering & Technology- Scott Boyd**

This being my first Senate report, I hope to inform the Senate of what I have accomplished since I have been elected. While I haven't been given a lot of time to accomplish what I want, I feel as though I am moving forward in my goals that I set out to finish. Among these are to alter and upgrade the way that CSET views student course evaluations, upgrade the general technology of CSET, and to be a connection from the students to the faculty of CSET.

On Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, I met with the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Drake University to discuss how Drake manages course evaluation. Last year, I was employed in his college, and part of my job was to compile the scantron sheets that held the course evaluations and write a program to analyze the information. I was given information on what was done with the evaluations after they had been analyzed, and the information was shocking, and something that I hope can be implemented here at MNSU.

Every professor at Drake University is required to give out course evaluation sheets, each of them containing a certain criteria of questions, along with anything else the professor wants to know. These questions, answered while the professor is outside of the room, are turned into an envelope and brought to the Dean of the college by one of the students in the class. The evaluations are then placed through a scantron reader and the information is sent to the chair of the professor's department. The information is read by the chair, marked and noted, and then sent to the professor for his or her own personal information.

I believe that if this style of course evaluation was implemented here, it would require teachers and professors to hold themselves to a higher standard of teaching, and thus better the

entire university. I hope to be working with the Dean of CSET, and all of you to possibly get this idea working at MNSU.

In a recent meeting with the Dean of CSET, Senator Koenen, the Dean, and I discussed what the college will be doing in the months to come. One of the main things we discussed (besides his adorable granddaughter) was the new technology coming to the Mankato campus. Among the new equipment is a 4,000,000 volt ion focus beam. Without going into too much detail, this product is a machine ten times more powerful than the one we currently have, and will likely bring new information to multiple departments including art history, archeology, anthropology, physics, and chemistry. This is a great first step to bringing technology to Mankato, and Mankato to the frontiers of technology.

On the final project I've been working on, I have used my connections in many of the RSO's I am involved in to look for problems within CSET. Most of the problems that have been brought up directly relate to the quality of the education that many of the students are receiving, which is something that I hope to better with the remodel of the course evaluations.

### **Undeclared Major- Amanda Blomgren**

Last Friday, I got the chance to meet with Wendy Schuh, the interim director for Health services. In past years, she has been the associate director, focusing on alcohol abuse prevention. Since I've never done one of these line item reports, and since Wendy is just filling in the director position for this year, I took the chance to get to know the department. She wanted us senators to know all the offers provided. Numbers have been very strong in both the clinic and the pharmacy. MNSCU did an audit a few years ago, and Mankato's health services numbers were thriving compared with St. Cloud's. Health services also offers Health Pros, which are students who do a weekend long training, and serve the campus by educating other students on health issues. But, you probably all know about those services.

Wendy was very particular in telling me how tightly-knit the health services staff is on campus, even though the majority of them have other part-time jobs at other clinics. She was also very specific in telling me how happy she was that almost all physicians or nurses that work in the clinic have a specialty. She was also very proud about the job health services does to provide a stepping stone to students, so they can manage their own health care. Part of the success of the clinic is the affordability. Each visit only costs about 25-35 dollars a student.

In my discussion with Wendy, she told me about two problems facing health services this year. They recently lost the psychiatrist, Peter Johanson. Other psychiatrists have been contacted, but it's been hard to find one, as many are already working full-time for the state, and since we only need one about 4 hours a week. She mentioned we will see a surplus in the budget this year because of this problem, but that the remainder of the budget is similar to last year.

The other problem that will be arising soon is the construction in the Carkoski parking lot. Since there will only be one entrance to the building, they're worried about visibility and numbers. In the long term, Wendy is very excited about moving to the new building. They have even adapted a new electronic charting system to prepare for the move in 2016. All in all, I got great feedback from Wendy. She also wanted to thank us because we're able to keep health services highly staffed and able to help students.

### **Science, Engineering & Tech- Cody Ingenthron (written report)**

Met with the dean of CSET

This week I met with the dean of CSET. This was not my first visit to the dean's office; however this occasion was on much better terms. Currently the college of science engineering and technology is looking for a new dean. The current dean, John Knox, will be stepping down at the end of the spring semester after serving as the dean for the past 3 years. The search for a new dean has begun, and applications are currently being accepted for the position. The conversation focused mainly on the new dean and what was to be expected. There are a few events taking place this week in the college. On Friday the college is hosting the Rube Goldberg completion in the CSU ballroom from 8-2pm. This year's task is "Watering a Plant." Also on Friday, the college will be hosting a seminar titled "Mathematical Modeling for the amateur. The seminar is from 12-1 in MH112 with MSU's math department chair, Brian Martensen as the key-note speaker.

## **Announcements**

Vice President Anderson- I will send everyone copies of House file 89. I encourage you to keep thinking about them. It's all over the state news. I haven't had a wed night off in two years. If you really want a challenge, leave on Monday and go on foot.

Sarah- The student affairs meeting will be cancelled in light of the Rally. For the Women Panel, I only have Moriah who is going and Sarah who is not. Could the rest of you get back to me?

Senator Lexcen- I would like to say thank you. Thanks for all the support. You have big voices.

Senator reports given today, awesome job.

Borchardt- Thursday, February, 17<sup>th</sup>. I will be presenting for the honors students. You guys said you were going to go. I am going to tell them why they should become senators next year. If anyone else would like to come that would be great. It's at 8:00.

Senator Koenen- I serve on Res Hall 2012 Phase 2 Building Update. They have their budget. They came in under budget so far. Go visit the ITS tech fair. It's going on today through tomorrow. You asked for it in the tech fee.

## **Roll Call**

### **Senators Present**

Jennifer Dooley, Matthew O'Flaherty, Matthew Senator Lexcen, Shay Ademola-Sadipe, Dan Kromer, Scott Boyd, Sarah Koenen, Moriah Miles, Amanda Blomgren, Ted Gibbons, Braeden Hogue, Kelvin Borchardt, Luke Van Beek, Nansy Pradhan, Ritesh Mahargan Sarah Revering, Tyler Ulferts, Micheal Hanson

### **Senators Absent**

Spencer Johnson, Nathan Gustafson, Cody Ingenthron, Micheal Do, Stephen Johnson, Rachel Sargent, Lela Magxaka, Taylor Pederson

### **Executive Staff Present**

Vice President Anderson

### **Executive Staff Absent**

President Williams

**Adjournment** Meeting adjourned at 6:12pm