

**78<sup>th</sup> MSSA Senate**  
**August 25, 2010**

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

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

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

**Open Forum**

Mr. Greg Wilcox-Welcome and we had an awesome Welcome Week. Your tone sets the pace. Upcoming-tonight ISO Meet and Greet and Magic show in the ballroom. Also Stomper Cinema-highest rated events. Screen on the Green Friday. Saudi Student Association-Breaking Fast Friday in the ballroom, everyone welcome. Cheap Date-bowling.

John Wilcox-Welcome Week-was great. I worked with the Backyard Bash, the Greek community helped host that event. The new student gathering was on Sunday night. Sorority recruitment starts tomorrow. Interest for both sorority and fraternity is at a high. We will host 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Greek Leadership Conference the last Sunday of September. The Greek community will also be hosting National Hazing Prevention Week, National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week. Night to Unite-August 31, 6-9. Interaction with students and neighbors for a positive way to start the year off right. Meet your neighbors and city officials.

Anne Blackhurst- Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Walt Wolff- Interim Dean of Students

Hilary Geesman-RHA President and Moriah Miles, RHA Vice President. We are here today to improve relations between our two systems. We will have someone from Executive Board come at least twice a month. I think we have gotten off to a good start communication wise.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

**Appointments** Enrollment Management-Graduate Studies-Nathan Gustafson, High Ability-Brett Anderson, NEF-Micheal Do, Marketing-Lyndsay Sadler, Diversity-Sarah Revering, Retention-Brett Anderson, Financial Aid & Scholarship-Tom Williams, Dean Search Committees-College of Education-Dan Kromer, Allied Health & Nursing-Nikki Sabby, College of Business-Christopher Mangione, Union Board-Sam Adams, Constitution Commission-Sheka Mansaray, Sarah Koenen, Bookstore Advisory-Daniel Kromer, Sarah Koenen, Learning Tech Roundtable-Sarah Koenen, Student Technology Advisory-Sarah Koenen  
President Williams-amend to add Katie Palazzo-Legislative Affairs, SAC-Ben Guthmiller, Amin Abdul-Mohomed, Jennifer Dooley-Allied Health & Nursing Student Advisory Board

**Presentation-Vice President of Finance & Administration Rick Straka**

Budget Update for FY10-11 and Outlook for FY12-13

Very crucial year as we move forward in funding for higher education in the state of Minnesota. We have balanced budgets for FY10, enrollment is up, reserves look sound 7-8% projected for reserve level, last year we had about \$2.4 M in ARRA (Stimulus) Funds. We used \$2.0 M for Academic Affairs Bridge Funding, cuts were identified a year ago, and some departments were allowed a little time to achieve those reductions. \$400 K reserved for BESI (retirement incentive) Reserves in Excess of 7% to fund BESI costs-ARRA

**FY 11 Update**

Appropriation nearly flat, projected base surplus of approx. 1 M. The tuition increase brought in some dollars. Enrollments look to exceed projections-we feel we will be well over 14,000 students, (will need to finalize impacts of BESI, round 3 currently)

Surplus must be treated as one-time funds, need to retain flexibility to react to FY 12-13.

Suggested uses- Infrastructure/beautification, investments, retain ability to react to Legislative

Action or unallotment. BESI-money needed to cover staffing and spending level to get to what we have to a year from now.

FY 12-13 Outlook-Estimated State Budget Gap of \$5.8-\$17 Billion, Gap approx. 18%- 23% of State General Fund, State Revenue Base of \$30.5B.

#### FY 10 Update-Budgets

November forecast expected to be slightly worse. "The New Normal"

How big is the states 2012-13 budget problems? \$3.54 billion. 9% shortfall in state expenses-that has to be solved. There are fewer people coming in to pay taxes. We are hoping state levels will stabilize as the economy stabilizes. Part of what we are experiencing on a financial level in the State of Minnesota is being termed the great recession, the worst economic recession since the great depression in the 1930's.

Higher Ed will probably not get pardoned from their share of the cuts. Students pay tuition, so there is another source of funding.

Other factors-coming off salary freeze-bargaining pressure to not have salary freeze. Insurance to climb-10% prior to any FY 12 inflation. Federal stimulus will be gone, structural budget reductions must have been realized and achieved. We will have to have a balanced budget as we get into next year.

#### MSU Budget Impact by Variables

Appropriation-\$45 M 1% reduction=\$450K. I have heard 12-15% reductions for higher education for us that is somewhere around \$6 M. We are an organization of people rather than materials.

Inflation 1% = \$1 M

Tuition is made up of two factors, how many people do we have and Enrollment Change 100 FYE=\$600,000 Tuition Rate 1%=\$700, 000. Small changes, even if we are off by 1% it could be big impact so it is hard to nail down impact.

Key dates-November-elections, Dec. -State Revenue Forecast and that sets the Governors plan based on that, Jan-Gov Budget released, Feb-revised state revenue forecast that is the one that sets the checkbook for the legislature to propose a budget. March-May-Legislative budgets set, May-legislature adjourns

When are budget variables set enough to finalize reduction level required? From last March to this fall we will have about \$8M in reductions. I am hopeful that is the worst case scenario.

You cannot reduce yourself to success. We have to invest for growth. We have to be very cognizant and give respect to the bargaining units and individuals affected in the campus community.

Good news for you is that enrollment looks positive so you will not have to look at making some of the same kinds of decisions in student allocations that we are looking at so fees are looking good.

Senator Quam-How will you entertain suggestions?

Vice President Straka-Official way is through Meet & Confer leadership. You tell us how you would like to best get your voice to us. We will be open to how you want to get it to us. We will talk about proposals and impacts.

#### **Officer Reports**

##### **President Williams**

Meet and Confer open to everyone, limited space. MSU Facebook is being updated by PR Coordinator Higginbotham, as well as brochure. Appointments will be happening on a weekly basis. We are limited on numbers for some committees. We will try to accommodate your interests. On line Vacancy Elections, Sept. 14. Tell your friends about the vacancies.

Wind turbine-I met with Director Woodward and other directors. We will be writing up a project proposal and following proper steps the Union Board takes. I have talked to Sean McGoldrick about procedures such as soil boring and we will have to factor in those costs. Working with Doug Mayo, Vice President of University Advancement, with a company on donating in-kind services to

lower the costs to students. Working with John Fry from IRETI, this is renewable energy technology institute-looking at more ways of tying in more renewable energy.

Vice President Anderson-What would the cost be if this were student funded?

President Williams-\$45,000 for a 10 kilowatt wind generated turbine, funded through various avenues.

Senator Guthmiller-When will we have a formal presentation?

President Williams-Hopefully in the next month or two.

Senator Adams-What feedback have you received from facilities?

President Williams-Generally hesitant, they look at things we don't know about like electrical etc? They have not been too resistant just questioning which is appropriate.

Senator Adams-What is the overall payoff to recoup our investment?

President Williams-It is life timed for about 30 years, rough estimate about \$700 a month saved on utilities.

Senator Mohamed-how soon will it affect student fees?

President Williams-We are trying not to increase student fees.

### **Vice President Anderson**

Hertz contract was signed. Cars are ordered. Website is being built. There will be a week delay. Membership can be used anywhere there is a Hertz Company. Oct 4-roll-out. We will get them in the parade and at the football game. We are looking at a partnership with the Marketing Club for them to work with a global company to get tangible experience for them and free us up with marketing.

Senator Quam is working on a huge spreadsheet on a cost benefit analysis of bringing in a laptop vs. buying the universities laptop.

Tonight is ISA Welcome Night.

Senator Guthmiller-Part-time job fair, are we tabling there?

Vice President Anderson-Hertz does plan on being there. We have our own table.

### **Speaker Schmidt**

Office hours in affect next week. Reports start next week-branch out and speak to other RSO's that you are not involved in. During Presentations make sure you are only asking questions and when you ask for a follow-up, make sure I recognize you to do a follow-up.

## **New Business**

### **M#08.25.2010A – Future of the MSSA Task Force Vice President Anderson**

Whereas: The future of the MSSA depends on its ability to adapt to a rapidly changing higher education climate as economic and demographic changes shape the future landscape of the "new normal" in higher education.

Be it Resolved: The MSSA form a "Future of the MSSA Task Force" to evaluate the Constitution, Bylaws, structure, and any and all facets of the MSSA it deems necessary to meet the challenges presented by the future

Be it Resolved: The Task Force findings be presented no later than the first meeting in March 2011 of the 78<sup>th</sup> MSSA

Vice President Anderson-What is the "new normal" and where is the MSSA going? Are we doing anything for the 7700 France site? Dr. Davenport mentioned at the convocation that they are exploring a second site in the cities. We need to think about those things and there are things we need to think about eternally. We need to get better at connecting and engaging the student population. We need to look at a shift of how we operate, our Bylaws and how we meet needs of demographics. How do we get out and meet students that are busy and don't come to the office. We need to meet them where they are and get them connected.

Senator Kromer-How many times are you looking at meeting?

Vice President Anderson-It is open for those interested. We do not need it to be formal.

Senator Buechner-Who will be the official Chair?

Vice President Anderson-I will be for the first year. I think it would be great if everyone would look to the future, but this is for this year if we need to change the constitution.

President Williams-The Constitution and Bylaws are outdated in terms of where the university is processing in terms of technology and the new student demographics as well as to the new student teaching of pedagogy on-line and off-campus. It is definitely time to look at how MSSA functions.

**Motion carries.**

### **Announcements**

President Williams-The wind turbine project is open to anyone that is interested in working on this project. The more the merrier.

### **Roll Call**

#### Senators Present

Jennifer Dooley, Nikki Sabby, Chris Mangione, Brandon Quam, Dan Kromer, Amin Abdul-Mohomed, Nathan Gustafson, Samuel Adams, Cody Ingenthron, Sarah Koenen, Braeden Hogie, Cody Buechner, Micheal Do, Benjamin Guthmiller, Dannie Higginbotham, Lela Magxaka, Nansy Pradhan, Matt Skluzacek

#### Senators Absent

Lani Petrulo, Zachary Lincoln, Robbie Sitka

#### Executive Staff Present

President Williams, Vice President Anderson

**Adjournment** Meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM