

**74th MSSA Senate  
April 11, 2007**

**74th Senate called to order Speaker Jered Jackson**

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

Jessica Kallio 26-1-0-1, Casey Carmody 27-0-0-1, Brett Fleck- 27-0-0-1, Nikki Hanna 23-2-0, Brandon Ross 25-3-0, Jenna Ault 27-1-0, Katie Ischkin 22-1-0-1, Kristeen Giese 23-4-0-1, Murtaza Rajabali 9-1-0, Oliver Okoye 24-4-0, Kenneth Willaert 23-1-0, Peter Jennings 25-2-0-1, Ryan Anderson 28-0-0, Brad Kraus 10-2-0, Sanju Nepal 5-2-0, Evan Trosvik 28-0-0, Jennifer Hansen 21-1-0, Jon Sands 22-0-0, Cole Fink 17-0-0, Abbie Hill 10-0-0, Michael Norton 17-0 -0, Allan Gould 21-7-0, Jon Hurm 25-3-0, Jason Schilling 28-0-0, Caroline Kornowicz 20-8-0, President Gabe Afolayan 28-0-0, Vice President Chris Frederick 28-0-0

**Approval of Agenda** Agenda Approved

**Presentations**

**Laurie Woodward-Director, CSU**

I come to you asking for \$10.45 cents per credit for the Student Union Fee. That is the same amount we asked for last year. We are not asking for any increase and that is due to the Student Union Board. We had originally gone to the Board and asked for a 14 cent increase based on the fact that that the credit hour projection this year that is less than it was last year and utilities have gone up and staffing costs have gone up. The Student Union Board asked us to look harder, and we have done that. They actually gave us suggestions for getting there. The Hub is not paying rent, they asked us to look into that. They asked us why we do not have a Wells Fargo ATM in the Student Union and Mike is looking into that. They asked us to look at hours, currently we are open until 2:00 A.M. for 10-13 people. By doing those three things and rearranging a couple other things we were able to bring it down to a zero percent increase, which is actually a decrease when you think of less students coming in. The other thing that helped us is that MnSCU is finally giving us interest from the bonds we have with them. We have about \$50,000 of interest from them that we have not gotten in the past. We have increased rental rates all the way around. We were told to expect a .05% increase in utilities, internally we are projecting a 3% increase in supplies and materials. We are not changing professional staff. We are closing at midnight instead of 2:00 AM. We anticipate some growth in Dining Services, the first year was a rocky year and we think we will grow by about 5% in the next year. Game room rates are going up for the first time in about 8 years. The Union Board has recommended that we negotiate with the university administration for some reimbursement for scheduling costs. We are in the process of doing that.

President Afolayan-In regards to renovation, how does that affect the budget?

Director Woodward-It is part of our R&R deferred maintenance. No additional increase in cost.

President Afolayan-Does that include the ballroom?

Director Woodward-No, the ballroom renovation is about a \$2 million dollar project and we are looking for a private donor to do that. It may not happen for a while.

**Chair Brett Fleck-Student Allocations Committee (document available in file)**

SAC has spent a lot of time working on this and we feel it is one of the most consistent and responsible budgets that has been put together in a long time. Right now we are

sitting at a 20 cent increase between Health Services at SAF funds. That is with zero programming increases. The fact that we have lower revenue and a lot of staffing increases kind of makes up for all that. If this were to go through we would have a 20 cent increase with no programming increases. This is the kind of fiscal situation we are in. SAC tried to be as responsible as possible.

No one likes to see line items cut. The survey shows people want fees allocated where they are most used. We have been very consistent in not funding any programming. This is not the year to do that. We need to be fiscally responsible. If this were handed to the state legislators or the university they would have done it this way. We do not support program coordinator positions for this year. If someone really needs a new position, it should be funded by M&E. SAC is for programming. Fiscal responsibility, thank goodness some people are doing it these days. This is not like we are cutting anybody. We are not trying to tell anyone what to do. We relied on people's surpluses.

Once again, we do not support any new positions, this year of all years. Homecoming is a new line item, however there is no new money in this line item. It was taken from other areas in the budget. We would like to see a big name entertainer. We can not afford both a concert and a lecture. I would encourage everyone to join the Homecoming Committee. This is not singling anybody out. Anyone can be involved in homecoming if they choose so. There is a substantial obligation for us to fund the football program going to Washington. We only funded contractual costs and no new funding.

Money was moved from SOAFC to SAC. SAC does not support a tuition waiver or depreciation fund for the Reporter. We are not singling anybody out.

Think about the budget, about being a delegate. Can you justify raising fees without doing this across the board. We have been told to hold fees down. This budget does that. A lot of this is in salaries. If salaries have to be cut for programming, that is up to a department. This is the best we can do. The tone of SAC was to go under this budget. I feel good about the budget. Spend the next week thinking about what the students have said all year. Think about who you represent. Everyone has told you to keep fees down. Can you justify raising any line item without raising it across the board? This budget is consistent and does what it needs to do. Think about the merits. Question anybody that wants to raise anything. It is very important.

**Approval of Minutes 04-04-07** Minutes stand approved

### **Old Business**

#### **#04.04.07B Technology Fee Senator Trosvik**

Move to: Support the current student technology fee (\$7.00 per credit—\$84 maximum per semester) and recommend staying within the 2007-2008 budget.
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Senator Anderson-Thank Senator Trosvik and the committee for controlling the tech fee, they have done a very good job.

President Afolayan-I would like to reiterate that we have heard from SAC and the Union Board about keeping fees down and frozen and that speaks leaps and bounds for the whole division and speaks for the mission of the MSSA and filling the role of 70% of the students that do not want to see increases. I think this is great.

Senator Norton-Speaking to the service provided by IT and coming from a different school, the level of service and technology at this school is similar to a campus four or five times it's size. It is wonderful we have this.

**Motion Passes**

**M#04.04.07C LGBT Senator Sands/Senator Kallio**

Whereas: The LGBT Center provides education, resources, and programming for all MSU students, not just those who identify as LGBT.

Whereas: The LGBT Center increases diversity on the campus and community settings and produces and provides educational materials to students not likely to receive knowledge of LGBT issues and concerns elsewhere.

Whereas: The LGBT Center was recently listed under the Top 100 LGBT Friendly schools in the nation, though it does not experience parity of funding with similar offices within the University settings, nor does it receive equal funding to LGBT offices and centers serving other universities.

Whereas: The LGBT Center needs a source of permanent funding substantial enough to provide a sufficient operating budget to properly implement its mission and goals to the full potential.

Be it resolved: MSSA supports the LGBT Center on its quest for more M&E funding that will provide more resources for diversity operations and programming here on the MSU campus.

Senator Schilling-Move to amend by substitution

Whereas: It is a strategic priority of MSU-Mankato to promote diversity.

Whereas: The MSSA recognizes the importance of supporting any group or initiative that promotes diversity. *Therefore,*

Be It Resolved: The MSSA reaffirms its support of the LGBT and all other M&E funded diversity initiatives and encourages continued support for investments which promote diversity on campus.

Senator Schilling-This speaks volumes to support all diversity and not single any group out. I think it is imperative that if we do show support for M&E funding that we show support for all and any initiative receiving funding.

Senator Trosvik-We need to support all groups and this is a great way to do that.

Senator Sands-I think what they are saying is great. Diversity has a great need of funding but the purpose of the motion is to say that the LGBT funding is lacking. By changing this motion we are changing the whole reasoning of why this motion was drawn up. The motion was to say we support the LGBT in funding, they are lacking in funds compared to the Women's Center. This motion is to support them so that they do not have to come every year and ask SAC for funding. I ask every senator to support this motion and leave it as is because this is the way the motion is intended to call upon MSSA and our school to give more funding to LGBT. I would recommend not amending this.

Senator Norton-The intent of the motion and nature of the discussion was in comparison to other groups. LGBT is underfunded. The vote was 6-2

in Student Affairs to support the motion as worded. The two no votes were Senator Schilling and Senator Trosvik. Everyone else was in support, as it pertained to LGBT. Senator Fleck-As a representative of the entire student body, it would be very inconsistent to single out any group this year for additional M&E funding. We have supported diversity all year long. It would be wrong for us to support any particular group over any other group. Otherwise I would expect to see a motion for every other diversity group on the floor. I leave that for the other 15 to bring that forward. Senator Anderson-I will vote for the Schilling/Trosvik amendment in hopes that afterwards a compromise could be reached and we could specifically put the LGBT into the new language.

President Afolayan-In reading the motion and hearing the amendment I don't think any one can dispute the intention or the integrity of the Whereas and Be it Resolved statements. The fact of the matter is there is a reality and a process in how the university makes decisions like these. When we say M&E funding, there is a general fund in which they allocate funding. We listened to a presentation from the Vice President of Finance and Administration talking about strategic funding. The university has a slush fund where the university can allocate different academic initiatives, student life issues, things like that. That goes through a planning sub meet and confer process. Those requests must validate exactly what is needed along with the request. After that it goes through scrutiny to have people make the decision and rate the issue in how it should be funded. Vice President Straka announced that no new money was allocated out. They just reallocated, there were no new funds. To say we should fund something out of M&E is to say we would be throwing a basketball 1,000 yards a way and hoping it goes in. It is not realistic. We are just throwing MSSA influence towards an initiative that would most likely not happen. Obviously the intention is to highlight the fact that the LGBT Center feels they do not have enough funding. We have to look at the fact that it is only LGBT. What about other internationals or other ethnic organizations on this campus, what about non-traditional students or people of different diversity backgrounds that might not know how to navigate the MSSA process of bringing forth a motion? For us to single it out and push forward one motion singles out everybody else. It is almost like we are neglecting everybody else because they did not know how to navigate our system. The best thing we can do to represent everybody is to pass the motion that supports everybody. That is why it is my strong opinion that it would be a miss use of MSSA influence to single out one individual group to get them more funding which I have outlined is a very limited option to get funded. I hope through support of this amendment or another motion that we would not single out groups but support everybody as a whole. We have a Dean of Institutional Diversity who should be charged with outlining what groups on campus are getting funding. That would be a better place to start. We have not heard from the director on what the needs are. There are so many ambiguities that we can't put forward. And so I feel the best thing we can do is reaffirm our support for all diversity issues and support all 14,000 students.

Senator Sands-I keep hearing a constant reminder that we need to support diversity. That is great but I don't think the LGBT Center was supported in the past. The LGBT Center has received an 80% increase in the past five years. Why was the LGBT budget not supported more in the past? We are trying to correct a wrong. We need to support funding. 80% is a high amount of funding but it should have been done 20-30 years ago. We are the second oldest LGBT Center in the United States, yet the funding does not match where the resources lie. I am not hearing support. What I am hearing

is that we are leaving people out. Well the LGBT Center was left out years ago when funding was increased for everyone else. When funding goes up for the Women's Center it was \$40,000. The LGBT Center has a thousand dollar operation budget. That means they were left out. We should support this and not look at petty grievances. It is a shame we are not seeing that. Their budget should be a lot larger than \$1,000. We are grateful for the full time position. At the same time, that was created a couple years ago. From the creation of the Women's Center there has been a full time staff member. Two years ago we got a full time staff member for the LGBT Center and we are trying to debate this by saying we are not going to support them to get any funding. By changing this from LGBT to diversity is wrong. I don't see how we can sit here and do this. In order to step forward and say we are correcting a wrong we need to be able to recognize that and we do that by leaving the motion as is.

Senator Norton-changing this to include more groups makes it even more unlikely to happen. The nature of the discussion was that LGBT wants to be treated fairly.

The intent was not that all groups should get funding. It was to get more funding for LGBT. I think that changing the wording is inappropriate.

Senator Schilling-I would like to remind everyone who we represent-we do not represent special interest groups, we need to show all diverse groups that we support all of them.

Senator Ault-Senator Sands made a very good point in that the LGBT Center has been around a long time and yet they have not gotten adequate funding. We should vote this amendment down.

Senator Hurm-Student Affairs voted in favor of this motion 6-2. There should not be any debate. They made their recommendation, they are doing their job. Let the motion stand.

President Afolayan-Amendment to amendment Second Schilling

Be it Resolved: The Dean of Institutional Diversity shall investigate the funding status of the LGBT Center and present findings and explanations to the MSSA at the April 25 <sup>th</sup> meeting.
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President Afolayan-Obviously, we don't agree that we have adequate information for funding on these diverse groups so why not bring in the campus specialist to do the research and find the facts and present it to us. We need to know why the funding is the way it is. This is the most suitable compromise without jeopardizing the integrity of MSSA by making the mistake of singling out other groups on campus.

Senator Kallio-Aren't the facts on the sheet the facts?

Speaker-We need to decide if LGBT needs that amount of funding.

Speaker Ischkin-I am actually curious why they have been underfunded. That information would further my decision.

Senator Carmody-I personally am struggling. I don't feel I have been informed.

I would like to see some numbers and hear the history. I think this would help all members of the senate. It would help us make a more informed decision. This would be the best route of reaffirming all diversity groups on campus. You can't vote incorrectly if you are informed.

Senator Trosvik-Information is very vital. Sometimes information is wrong. It has been said in this very meeting that the LGBT Center has \$1,000. That information is wrong. They receive \$80,000 and even that number is unsure. They did not know if that was an accurate number or not. This would be good for the Dean of Diversity to create a report and tell us what is going on.

**Amendment to Amendment Passes**

Senator Hurm-Amendment to add time line for Dean of Institutional Diversity to report back on April 25.

**Amendment passes**

Senator Anderson-Move to amend by insertion all LGBT and all M&E funded diversity initiatives.

Senator Anderson-This represents the most reasonable compromise. This inserts the M& E funding but we should try to preserve the original motion.

Senator Norton-The intent was to draw attention to the LGBT being underfunded, not other diversity groups on campus.

Senator Schilling-Vote this down, it is prime example of double speak. It is like saying basketball and all sports. I don't think by adding LGBT it makes it any stronger. I think it would be stronger with out the insertion.

Senator Ischkin-I think there is a link missing with the LGBT Center.

President Afolayan-I am befuddled by the amendment. This is obviously a regressive step. The Be it Resolved statement does more than enough justice.

**Amendment Passes**

Senator Norton-I am going to support this not because I support funding but because LGBT is being underfunded. I still can't say enough that I think money would be far better spent on academics excellence and integrity

President Afolayan-This motion completely lost its integrity with it's last amendment. I will not support it.

Senator Sands-This motion would satisfy us and possibly the LGBT Center. They have been treated unfairly.

Senator Schilling-This motion lost integrity. By adding in LGBT it singles out groups which was the point of the amendment.

Senator Trosvik-With the addition of that we just started singling out other diverse groups. If we single out one group how are we to say we are representative of all groups? I am ashamed of this senate.

Senator Hurm-Is the Women's Center considered diversity?

Senator Hansen-LGBT has not received support from MSSA and this will show our support.

Senator Ischkin-We should address specific concerns. With proper information we as group should address concerns. If other groups came to us we would be just as willing.

Senator Trosvik-Senate not supporting LGBT is 100% wrong and there are 7200 reasons why senate has supported LGBT in their support.

Senator Sands-LGBT does know that they have received 80% over the past five years. Diversity, I believe has over a million dollar budget. Shouldn't they have received more over the past 30 years? The Women's Center has received over \$180,000. Why is there over \$100,000 dollars difference between the Women's Center and the LGBT? The LGBT Center represents 10-20% of this campus. Last year over 5,000 students utilized the LGBT. How can we support by attending events but not by additional funding.

Senator Ross-With this motion, why would it not make sense for someone on senate That supports LGBT to make a motion at the budget hearing to give them more money?

Senator Sands-SAC is never guaranteed to be there. Last year we raised the money from \$8,000 to \$9,000. There was a senator that made a motion to put it back to \$5,000.00. The money here is never guaranteed.

President Afolayan-Point of information-did that motion to cut to \$5,000 pass?

Senator Sands-No it did not. But if it did they would lose funding.

Senator Anderson-Assurances were made at the Student Affairs meeting that this was not a strategic move but about making the awareness of the LGBT Center and the amount of money they get.

Senator Norton-Assurances were made and the intent was to discrepancies.

LGBT knows SAC does not have money and is inconsistent in funding. The reason I am supporting this is because there is a discrepancy.

#### **M#04.04.07B LGBT support Senator Sands/Kallio Amended by Senator Schilling**

Whereas: It is a strategic priority of MSU-Mankato to promote diversity.

Whereas: The MSSA recognizes the importance of supporting any group or initiative that promotes diversity. *Therefore,*

Be It Resolved: The MSSA reaffirms its support of the LGBT and all other M&E funded diversity initiatives and encourages continued support for investments which promote diversity on campus.

Be It Further Resolved: The Dean of Institutional Diversity shall investigate the funding status of the LGBT center and present findings and explanations to the MSSA at the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **Roll Call Vote**

##### Senators voting Yes

Kallio, Ross, Ault, Ischkin, Okoye, Willaert, Anderson w/r,  
Kraus, Hansen, Sands, Fink, Norton w/r, Hurm, Kornowicz

##### Senators voting No

Fleck, Jennings w/r, Trosvik, Nepal, Hill, Schilling w/r, Carmody w/r

##### Executive Staff voting no

President Afolayan, Vice President Frederick

Rights: Senator Jennings-No-The reason I voted against motion 04.04.07C is that we were all given a poor presentation of the facts and reasons for what we would be paying for and the need for it.

Senator Norton-Yes-While it is my opinion that any money spent on diversity groups is inefficient, and that the money would be better served if it were to be spent on increasing academic integrity, it is my belief that LGBT is receiving proportionately less funding than similar groups. As I believe the intent of the motion was to call attention to this discrepancy, I voted in favor of the motion.

Senator Carmody-No -The reason I voted no on this motion was simple. I did not believe there was sufficient information given to the Senate in regards to the implications of this motion. I felt this way with the original motion. Although there were several presentations to the Senate by various groups, I felt more information was needed. When the amendment came forward to change the wording of the motion, I initially did not agree. When President Afolayan offered an amendment and the Senate agreed to it, I felt satisfied that sufficient information would be given in order to make a well informed vote because, as I stated, an informed vote is never incorrect. When Senator Anderson offered the amendment to change the wording to give the motion its original intent once again, the problem of lack of enough information once again came to the forefront since the amendment explicitly stated the LGBT program. I would have no problem supporting a motion such as this had I felt sufficiently informed, but at this point I did not feel that I had the proper information to vote for this motion.

Senator Anderson-Yes-I chose to amend the motion, and supported the subsequent motion because I feel it represented a reasonable compromise between the competing interests today. I

feel that students from SAGE presented sufficient information about the LGBT's current M&E funding situation. I was convinced that they are justified in requesting more M&E funding to continue to provide high quality programming and become less reliant on Student Activity Fee dollars. I feel that receiving greater M&E dollars would allow the LGBT center to become a permanent fixture on campus on par with our other diversity institutions. I think there is a clear distinction between M&E funding and SAF dollars. My support for this motion, for the MSSA to support the LBGT asking for M&E dollars, does not translate into unconditional support for increase in SAF activities.

I also supported the Schilling/Trosvik amendment because I feel that it is important that the MSSA reaffirm its commitment to all our diversity offices and groups. President Afolayan also showed great leadership in requesting a presentation be made about the M&E funding process. Hopefully, after this presentation is made, those Senators who voted against the Sands/Kallio motion will have sufficient information to support the goals of the motion.

#### **14-9 motion passes**

#### **New Business**

#### **Approval of 2007 Election results**

#### **Approved**

#### **04.07.07 B Senator Anderson/Schilling**

Whereas:	The Centennial Student Union Board has worked diligently to keep the current fee frozen
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Be It Resolved:	The MSSA supports the proposed FY08 student fee of \$10.45. per credit.
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Senator Anderson-I think the Student Union Board did an awesome job of cutting revenue sources and of keeping costs down.

#### **Motion passes**

#### **M#04.11.07C Academic Affairs Committee**

Be It Resolved: The MSSA supports the Administrative Drop Policy, given the following changes are made:

- 1.) Administrative drop occurs when a student misses a second class (first, if a class meets once a week) without notification.
- 2.) A student may avoid an administrative drop by notifying the department in writing before a second class (if class meets more than once a week) or first class (if class meets once a week).
- 3.) Administrative drops, in regards to grading and tuition, be concurrent with student drop policy.
- 4.) The process for enrolling students in the place of those administratively dropped would be as follows:
  - a. Faculty would add student wishing to enroll to class roster at end of first class.
  - b. Faculty accompanies new student to office so they may register on telephone in departmental office.
  - c. Other spaces would be filled by standard registration process.
  - d. No waiting list would be maintained by the department.



Senator Carmody-Academic Affairs have looked at this for the past three weeks. We did not support the new revised policy and did not think it was the most effective way to have the Administrative Drop go up. Instead of just saying no we are giving them our suggestions as we would like to be student friendly in regard for the need for the policy. Senator Trosvik-I don't think at this point in the policy procedure senate can make those changes. It should have been done earlier.

### **Motion passes**

### **Officer Reports**

#### **President Gabe Afolayan**

The administration made their final decision on the Parking recommendations. The free lot will remain free. They will be illuminating Wiegley gold, which is the parking on the street by Otto Arena for safety reasons. The pay lot will increase from \$2.00 to \$3.00 for the first hour and \$2.00 every hour after that. They will be adding moped permits.

Elections, we had a record turnout, 3117. The referendum on the outdoor facility 56% voted no, 43.8 voted for proposition B. 27% voted for proposition A.

I can proudly say I am impressed with SAC under the leadership of Senator Fleck. This will probably be the most controversial budget in years. Most people like getting their money and that conflicts with our interests of representing the students. There is a copy of the tuition and fee survey in the office. Look at the activity fee portion where over 70% of students do not want increases in fees but want reallocation of resources. This follows directly in line with the Student Allocations recommendations. Obviously next year there will be a decrease in revenue because there will not be as many credits taken and there will be an increase in expenses. Recommendations were made for Homecoming, there is not a lot that can be done for than except make compromises on going a different direction with funding. Read through the recommendations and talk to SAC and find out their justifications. The senate gallery will be packed with students that have interests. I am going to vote with the SAC recommendations. I will not entertain any idea to go across from it. If you are thinking different consider the majority of students that just voted yesterday on no increases.

#### **Vice President Chris Frederick**

SLD&SL review-we have another meeting scheduled for next week. It will deal with financial resources, mission, program leadership.

#### **Speaker**

Budget Hearing 3:00 PM. Wed. April 18. Dress professionally

### **Senator Reports**

#### **Brett Fleck – College Of Business**

- Most of my time is spent with SAC hearing RSO requests and making the budget recommendations for next year.
- I met with Dean Johnson Monday and talked about; lowering the summer laptop fee, starting a laptop fee survey, providing upgrade options for laptops and the possibility of incorporating environmentally friendly building codes into the new building. He inferred this would be expensive and probably won't happen.

- Student Technology Fee Advisory Committee is complete with our yearly meetings; we recommended a flat fee rate. The committee was very enlightening and I encourage everyone to join it next year or at least sit in on a session.
- Academic Affairs is currently working on reviewing administrative policies.
- I attended the latter half of the Campus Recreation proposal/Get to know your candidates forum. From what I saw it was sparsely attended and once again proved how apathetic students really are. I also attended the Margaret Cho lecture and was unimpressed. I felt it did not appeal to the majority of the student body.
- Discussion of election results...
- I appreciate everyone encouraging me to run again, however I chose to abstain from the election.
- It has been an interesting year on Senate, I have learned a lot, met a lot of wonderful people and hopefully can walk away knowing I served my constituents well.

Senator Trosvik-In your talk with the Dean was there discussion on future Software?

Senator Fleck-I was told that nothing needs to be changed.

Senator Trosvik-Will people be getting set up for failure when they switch over to the new software?

Senator Fleck-You would have to plan four years ahead if that were the case?

Senator Hansen-Is it true Margaret Cho was sold out?

Senator Fleck-Yes, I am one of the students that did not laugh the whole time.

I feel it did not speak for the majority of students.

### **Jennifer Hanson – McElroy**

- Now that I have experienced being on the senate, I feel that I know a lot more now than I did before, even though I'm not more experienced and know what I'm doing, I did not run for re-election because I feel I don't have the time right now. Maybe later in the future.
- Some people were upset on election day, because a certain party was campaigning in the CSU, handing out fliers, basically telling people who to vote for.
- Many have e-mailed me about SAC's decision on the budget for the IMPACT team. I personally think it's ridiculous. The big concert every year is gone. Many things IMPACT does will not happen. Half of IMPACT is gone. Again, it's just so ridiculous, there is a reason for IMPACT

### **Peter Jennings – Social & Behavioral Sciences**

I campaigned a little bit and I won, even though I was not with the smug group of guys on the poster. I did talk to the Cigar Af Club. The Model Union made about \$140.00 on the root beer floats, not as much as they would have liked. Latino night is coming up. This will be one of the best nights all year.

Senator Trosvik-How did you feel when you could exercise your right to smoke?

Senator Jennings-I enjoyed myself.

Senator Norton-Do you think Mavericks Standing Up to be smug because you were not on their posters?

Senator Jennings-They did not tell me about their little party thing. I can be smug too.  
Senator Ross-Do you think going outside and smoking cigars that you are killing yourself?

Senator Jennings-No, I felt masculinity flowing through me.

### **Casey Carmody – Arts and Humanities**

Since my last report, I have been up to a variety of different things:

#### MSUSA

- I attended the DC Summit, which many other Senators have already reported on
- I thought that there were several different sessions that were very interesting, while I found others to be not as useful
- My favorite session was one on the Academic Bill of Rights. I enjoyed this one for a variety of reasons, mostly due to the fact that I could see Senator Trosvik getting somewhat squeamish by the end. Although the session was highly biased, I do believe there was some pretty decent information.
- I also had the opportunity to meet with various legislators. I met Amy Klobuchar, and then we talked with some of her legislative aides about our lobbying agenda. We also met with Representative Walz. He was very receptive to what our concerns were, and, needless to say, I was highly impressed by his attitude, enthusiasm and general concern for what is in the best interest of students.
- I also attended the Internal Affairs meeting in St. Cloud several weeks ago. I was very grateful other members of the committee were accepting of the platform that Senators Anderson and Schilling, along with me, spent several hours working on. During the meeting, we made giant leaps and bounds on several of the internal documents.
- I attended the Delegates' Assembly two weekends ago. I once again attended the Internal Affairs meeting on Friday. We worked late into the evening but were able to finalize the documents. The following day at the assembly meeting, I was very excited to see that much of the work done in Internal Affairs was accepted by the Delegate's Assembly as a whole. I think that the members of MSSA can rest assured that Mankato's fingerprints will be left for quite sometime on MSUSA due to our avid work on the internal documents.
- Also, at the end of the conference, there was an outburst by a delegate about other members of the assembly. I believe what was stated was "All of you are hypocrites." I believe this assessment of us is highly incorrect. The accusation came from the fact that MSUSA supported the Dream Act but decided to not support legislation that would provide benefits to domestic partners of state employees. For the record, I spoke out against issues citing that MSUSA should not take stances on issues that can be viewed as explicitly partisan in nature rather than focused on education. Due to the voting record, it is my belief that neither I nor a majority of Mankato's delegation are hypocrites because of this, but, rather we are consistent in our positions. Any person that would argue differently needed to go back and read the minutes of the Mankato Conference.

#### MSSA Work

- I have been doing lots of committee work lately.
  - The Textbook Price Containment Committee's work has been going well. After being "called" out by Senator Norton several meetings ago, I feel that I have become much more vocal within the committee. The committee is putting together ideas for faculty and students on ways to save money. Something that I have been pushing for and will continue to push for is making financial aid available for students to buy books somewhere else besides the bookstores.
  - I am also getting ready to have a meeting with the Bookstore Advisory Committee. Apparently, I am the chair, which I found out about just last week. Stay tuned about what happens with this.
  - Academic Affairs has been going well. We've been reviewing policies in regards to the Administrative Drop Policy and Access for Students with Disability Policy. Hopefully we will also get a chance to talk about bookstores presenting at the freshman orientation and see if we can do something about that. On a personal note, I do want to say that I have been highly impressed with the work that has been done by this committee. All of the members are very intelligent and bring great points to the table. It has been an honor working with every single one of you.
- I also had the opportunity to do some constituent work. One of my constituents had a problem with the music library in regards to some very high fines. Unfortunately, before I had the chance to do much work, my constituent had actually e-mailed President Davenport and gotten it taken care of.
- On an editorial note, I do want to congratulate everybody on their work this year in senate. As compared to other years, I believe this senate has gone above and beyond any work than has been done before. I also want to officially thank Gabe for all of his work this year. He is truly a leader and one to be respected. I know I officially subscribe to the Gabe Afolayan School of Leadership, and I would hope that all would consider doing the same.

Senator Trosvik-How did you feel about the presenter referring to the group as white, male Christians?

Senator Carmody-I guess I fall into that category, most of the time, actually all the time. It was her point of view.

Senator Sands-Would you say the students at MSUSA that voted yes to the Dream Act and no to domestic benefits are hypocritical?

Senator Carmody-Yes, they are hypocritical. I don't feel Mankato was. I think they had valid points. The bill we were aiming to support had benefits to domestic partners of state employees. Therefore, that would fall to professors and people working at universities. It does have a direct relation to education if you want to make the same points for the Dream Act. I may have different opinions but I feel the Mankato delegation feels we should focus on direct education and issues. We are consistent in our stances and I will stand by that.

Senator Norton-I subscribe to Gabe Afolayan School of Leadership as well. Is he a great president or the greatest?

Senator Carmody-Yes, compared to US Presidents, Gabe is my top five. I would say he is the greatest MSSA has ever seen. Presidents in general-FDR, John F. Kennedy, Abraham Lincoln, Gabe at a solid four, and William J. Clinton

Senator Trosvik-Would you say your ranking is slightly biased since you have been working with him and you have not worked with past MSSA presidents?

Senator Carmody-My history is a little faulty but by looking at the pictures, President Afolayan is the best looking.

### **Announcements**

Senator Ross-MSUSA April 27-29.

Senator Sands-Relay for Life-Myers Fieldhouse Saturday.

Senator Schilling-I am happy with the results of the Campus Rec. referendum. I would like to thank those that voted in opposition.

Senator Ischkin-I want to thank you all that came to the American Forensics No MSU participant broke to finals. The AFA Mankato is being deemed the best ever.

Senator Trosvik-Friday-noon, Cigar Aficionados

Senator Kallio-Tonight, Blue Bricks, money given goes to Relay for Life.

Senator Jennings-Latino Night this weekend.

President Afolayan-April 29, 4:30, Heritage Room.

President Afolayan-There is a person that attended a MSUSA conference and was active in the \$70,000 budget cuts. He stepped up significantly in Student Affairs by taking on a greater role of leadership. He joined Election Committee, Price Containment Sub Committee that was responsible for getting ISSN numbers on the web site. He sits on Planning Sub Meet & Confer. He has received wonderful accolades from the administration on his wonderful viewpoints on the student perspective. Michael Norton-March Senator of the Month.

Senator Fleck-DC summit. I had a great trip. I would not recommend the trip in the future. I did my best to represent you all.

### **Roll Call**

#### Senators Present

Jessica Kallio, Casey Carmody, Brett Fleck, Brandon Ross, Jenna Ault, Katie Ischkin, Oliver Okoye, Kenneth Willaert, Ryan Anderson, Peter Jennings, Brad Kraus, Sanju Nepal, Evan Trosvik, Jon Sands, Cole Fink, Abbie Hill, Michael Norton, Jason Schilling,

Caroline Kornowicz

#### Senators Absent

Nikki Hanna, Kristeen Giese, Murtaza Rajabali, Jennifer Hansen, Allan Gould, Jon Hurm

#### Executive Staff Present

President Afolayan, Vice President Frederick

**Adjournment** Meeting adjourned at 5:58 PM