

74th MSSA Senate October 25, 2006

74th Senate called to order by Speaker Jered Jackson

Roll Call (present-absent-proxy-excused)

Jessica Kallio 11-0-0, Taitum Thompson 5-5-0-1, Casey Carmody 10-0-0-1, , Brett Fleck 11-0-0, Nikki Hanna 7-0-0, Brandon Ross 9-2-0, Jenna Ault 10-1-0, Katie Ischkin 6-0-0-1, Kristeen Giese 10-0-0-1, Jessica Nelson 10-1-0, Oliver Okoye 8-3-0, Kenneth Willaert 7-0-0, Nolan Chenevert 11-0-0, Peter Jennings 11-0-0, Marianne Reilly 9-2-0, Ryan Anderson 11-0-0, Amanda Bertelsen 4-3-0, Kathryn Pase 11-0-0, Evan Trosvik 11-0-0, Jennifer Hansen 6-0-0, Ryan Christensen 10-1-0, Allan Gould 10-1-0, Jon Hurm 11-0-0, Jason Schilling 11-0-0, Caroline Kornowicz 9-2-0, Aaron Lorenzen 7-0-0
President Gabe Afolayan 11-0-0, Vice President Chris Frederick 11-0-0

Approval of Agenda Agenda approved following change of IV. Elections to follow V.
Presentations

Presentations: Christine Connolly, Director of Student Health Services

I met with Gabe a couple of months ago and one of the issues we discussed was insurance and the opportunity of having required insurance at MSU. I know there are mixed feelings about this.

This was an issue that was discussed a few years ago by the senate. They looked at all aspects of it and actually voted to approve it at that point. When this went to the administration it was decided at that time it was the right time to implement that. The issue has resurfaced and we were asked to take a look at it. When I talked to Gabe he asked if we would conduct a survey of students to see what students views are about the issue of required insurance. I want to start by saying if it is required every one thinks of mandatory insurance. This does not mean that every student has to buy insurance through the school health plan. I don't work for the insurance companies. I don't want to work for the insurance companies. What we are trying to do is make sure that every single student on campus has some form of insurance. If you are covered by your parents, that is fine, you are covered. What this would do is look at the population not covered by insurance and see if we can get a basic accident and illness policy for that population. Schools that have gone to this policy have not gone back. Clearly, they see the advantages over the disadvantages. One of the things that we want to take a look at is the student view of mandatory insurance. This was approved several years ago by the senate but it was not implemented at that time and now it has resurfaced at our school. I know Moorhead and St. Cloud are looking at this. Many of the state institutions have already gone mandatory or required insurance. The reality is that the costs of services at a college institution get driven up when insurance is not in place. The costs of services in a clinic get driven up when insurance is not in place. For example, if we have students not insured, that drives how much we charge for office visits because when insurance is in place the charge goes to the insurance company. You are only responsible for your co-pay. When insurance is not in place health care becomes unaffordable so what we do is make sure costs are low to make sure all students can get care. That is fine except when the costs are lower then the costs of the service, the difference comes out of student fees. When student fees are paying for this, fees escalate at a higher rate then if we had insurance. The importance of mandatory insurance is that once we know everyone is insured we are not driven by making sure it is affordable for patients and it can drive us by the cost of the service. One of the other things that is happening on our campus is, and I think Athletics can attest to the fact that since we have not had insurance for every single student, policies like our athletic insurance policy require that it be used as a secondary insurance. For many students here, this is their primary insurance. What happened in Athletics a couple years ago, the insurance company said because you are using this so much for your primary and you are not supposed to do that, we are jacking up the cost of your primary. So the premium in the policy went up and you pay for that in your fees. Health care costs are going up at a higher rate than we can cover with fees. We try to use grants but it gets harder and harder to do that. We

want to make sure that every single student on campus has insurance. We collected demographic information on who is and isn't insured on campus. We had a conversation with financial aid about the financial aid packet. If you were required to have insurance this is something that you could put down as an expense on your financial aid and you would be able to get aid toward it. I know that is always a concern and we don't want to do anything that would create financial hardship.

The cost of this year's student health insurance plan is \$1075. This is not a very good plan. With the voluntary plan we can not get a good plan. The only people buying a plan are people that definitely need insurance on a regular basis because they are ill. So the insurance company says you are going to give me a lot of claims and it is going to cost us high rates so I am going to give you high rates. With mandatory insurance we asked what the benefit would look like. If you are in an accident currently the basic benefit is \$25,000, required insurance would raise that to \$100,000. Right now day surgery is \$1200 maximum, there is no way \$1200 would cover that. With the new plan there would be no maximum. There is a \$500.00 maximum on prescription drug currently. They are willing to go up to \$1,000.00. I think that is something we would want to negotiate as I think that should be higher. Miscellaneous supplies, lab costs, they would double the max. Inpatient hospitalization is now covered at 80% this would go to 100%. What they are telling us is that if we had required insurance they could give us a much better bang for our buck and the insurance would be less money. That is what we want to do. We want to find out from the students if this is something they are interested in and if they are interested in this to do a pilot. We don't want to impose something on students ever if we haven't tested to see if is a benefit. We are in a place where we are really prime to do a survey and say can we move forward with this and will this be beneficial, will this drive fees down, will this help with liability insurance, malpractice? While you don't see those fees, you pay those fees. You pay them to athletics, you pay them to the Counseling Center, Health Service. You pay for EMT's on campus. All those people have liability policies so they are all built in to the fees you pay. We need to take a look at, with insurance in place would we be able to get better revenue from the insurance companies and that would help drive fees down? The highest population of uninsured in the nation is the 18-24 year olds and in Minnesota it is also the 18-24 year olds. So we know that is what is driving costs up. That affects everything, it affects your premiums, and it affects your deductibles. I just wanted to share with you the survey. I would love to have the student senate put the survey out. I believe a survey for students done by the students would get a better response rate, if that is something the senate does not want to do we are willing to do it. Senator Anderson-Personally, I have been on my parents insurance, I don't know a lot about it, what have we done to educate students about insurance?

Director Connolly-If you are under your parents plan this will not affect you at all. I think we will find with about 80-85% of this campus that is the case. For the rest that is what is driving costs up and that is what we need to take a look at. We did open forums in the past where students could ask questions. We did a mailing four years ago and sent that to every student explaining what mandatory insurance is, who is required to do it, what would the plan be. We sent that to every single student. I have that information and I would be happy to do that again. We don't want to do anything to impose on students that they do not have input into or say into. We also did mailings and forums for evening students. We wanted them to know how it would affect them and their families. We talked with financial aid about ways to get them involved because of the financial implications for students. I would like to introduce Kathy Grant and Jodi Egeland. They both work in our clinic. We have a team of people working on this issue right now so they would be available to answer questions.

Senator Giese-I have not been in favor of this and am scared about this. I have a hard time getting insurance. How will you deal with people that don't fit into the normal place, I don't think people are aware of financial aid. How are you going to deal with the populations that do not fit into the normal?

Director Connolly-One of the things we did last time was a special workshop for non-traditional students because they have legitimate concerns, they may have children, there may not be enough coverage for pre existing illnesses. It is very hard to say this is what we

would do but I would be very happy to sit down individually with anyone that has those concerns. I am happy to say you looked at the current policy and evaluated and it was not for you. That is what we are finding. The international policy is much more comprehensive because it is mandatory. The domestic policy on campus is not. Students pay a lot of money and they get a not so good investment. That is what we are trying to fix. We want a policy to help students that really want one.

Senator Sands-MRI's are not covered, are they covered in this policy?

Kathy Grant-MRI's are covered at \$750.00 on both policies.

Senator Sands-What is the coverage for long term stays in say ICU?

Kathy Grant-I don't know, I don't think that has changed, I think it is up to 80% for now and then to 100%.

Senator Sands-If this is not put into place is there anyway we can get this new policy?

Director Connolly-We could, but they are not going to do this for \$900.00 unless it is required.

When it is required, you have the people that are sick and the people that are well. So they make money on some and they lose money on some. But when you have it not required you only have people that are sick and this costs the insurance company a fortune so they jack the price up.

We could get a better policy but it would cost \$2 or 3 thousand dollars so it got voted down.

The only way we can do this economically is if it were required because then it would balance.

Senator Nelson-If you are employed as a student worker could you get insurance?

Director Connolly-Not as a student employee but you would be eligible to buy it through the school or on your own.

Senator Nelson-So you wouldn't get a deal or anything?

Director Connolly-Not that I am aware of but I could bring that to the committee to look at.

Senator Gould-What percentage of students would qualify or are interested in this?

Director Connolly-In 2002, about 15% of our students were not insured. Costs were driven up for 85% by 15%. I would guess it is similar.

Senator Ischkin-Was it ever mandatory?

Director Connolly-No, most public schools are moving in that direction. Privates are almost all mandatory. In the last two years more and more have transitioned.

Senator Giese-Has there been research done to see if mandatory insurance would hinder students from coming to our university?

Director Connolly-If we piloted it that is one of the things we would look at. There are two ways of doing a pilot. It could be done for the whole school or you can lead it in freshman year, then sophomore etc. I think what you will see is that all the campuses are talking about it and if we pilot it, Moorhead and St. Cloud would jump on board. All the campuses are interested in doing this. I am not sure about their student senates.

Senator Okoye-Do you know how much the insurance would be if everyone had insurance?

Director Connolly-About \$975.00 for those that do not have insurance. Right now it is about \$1075.00. It goes up about 8% every year. Next year it would be around \$1200.00. It would knock \$300 off next year's policy and it would be a better benefit.

President Afolayan-Do you have a ball park number as to how much in student fees would be needed to cover that?

Director Connolly-No, I do not. I know Dean Trauger quantified that last year when they looked at the premiums that went up in athletics. When you look at that it went up because there were so many uninsured. There were so many athletes using what should have been a secondary plan as a primary plan because they did not have insurance. We know liability insurance goes up every year. We would try to keep costs low until we could see what we could recoup from the insurance companies. We won't know that until we can pilot this. I am certainly going to look at that data. If it is not working for this institution it would not make sense to do. Two years ago when we implemented office visits there was a lot of reluctance to do that but the end result was that we generated \$100,000 so there was a way to quantify and that is what we need to be able to do.

Senator Hanna-Have you noticed athletes have driven up the costs?

Director Connolly-Not just athletes, but uninsured students and I don't want to blame them because they are uninsured because of the costs. We want to make sure services are affordable. It is not just athletes. I am sure dance and drama deal with injuries, rec sports, we deal with that with students that have illnesses and get into accidents. It is certainly not just athletes. Senator Trosvik-How many years would you pilot this for?

Director Connolly-I think we could do it for just one year. If we were able to start this next September we could probably determine if it was beneficial, if there was a cost savings, did it drive any premiums down, was there the ability to generate any revenue other than what we can do now so that we could ask for less in fees. We would need a year to implement it.

Bryan Schneider, Interim Director Information and Technology Services

What does Information Technology do for students? The Technology Fee Advisory Subcommittee is made up of student senators and faculty with the Student Technology Roundtable. What we do in February is go through a six week process of learning about technology all over campus. After that the Technology Advisory Subcommittee puts together priorities and things they would like to see around campus in the next year. I would like to go over some of these priorities or the things we have done.

The first one is in the Academic Computer Center. We are looking at doing some changes on the computer center on how it is laid out. We would like to make it a more collaborative environment, a more friendly environment. Continue funding of the ACC and Specialized Satellite Labs, look at additional features that would enhance the student experience within the general lab environment.

Network Infrastructure (ongoing commitment) We keep on providing support in these areas. We are doing increased security. We are putting in a Mars system that watches over the network for abnormalities such as faulty computers on campus or viruses. This is something that is really needed in the residence halls for outages or things that slow down. During Christmas break we are going to be technically taking the brains out of the wireless network and what that will allow us to do is do better analysis, if there are problems on campus. We have a lot of access in classrooms and we just put in more today in dense areas.

Core Technology-We are currently unveiling a new spam filter. MavDISK-we increased your quota's from 150 mg up to 300 mg. Last summer we increased them from 300 to 600. Printing continues to be successful. Last year we saw a 20% increase in printing. So far this year we have seen an additional 20% increase.

Classroom Technology-Expanded support and service of CSU presentation systems.

Instructional Management Software-This is Desire 2Learn. We would like to tie in the log in the same thing they use for MAVMail and the computers used on campus.

Student Study Areas-This is something we are really trying to focus in on. You need places you can go to study on campus. We are even coming back and redoing areas like the basement of the Student Union. We were able to make it more open and add 10 more computers down there. We continue to redesign and equip heavily used areas.

MSU Portal-We are getting ready to do some testing and do some things with portal. We would like to get some of you to help us with this and give us an evaluation. We are working to integrate a collaboration application that supports extensive functionality.

New Technology-We would like to establish a Technology Fee grant process to innovate new ideas.

Support for Distance Learner-We are going to have a new product called Meeting Place.

Continued support-We have added 44 new computers in the library over the summer. This is taking people from the academic computer center, They are in the library instead. We also updated laptop check-outs. We added about 25 new laptops for any student to use.

We employ about 90 students in Information and Technology.

Senator Schilling-There has been concern of students not being able to print from the College Of Business laptops to the printers. Has IT done anything about this problem?

Vice President Schneider-I was not aware of that but I will follow up on it.

Senator Giese-I think there will be more Distance Learning, will this new program help with that?

Vice President Schneider- Distance Learning primary uses D2L for that. This Meeting Place will make synchronized learning that much more possible. That means you get everyone together at one time for a class. That is what we did.

Senator Giese-Will this be better than what we have in our group sessions for D2L?

Vice President Schneider-Yes, this means that everyone calls in at the same time. They can bring the power points up and break out into groups and then the whole session can be recorded so you can package this up and go back and review it later on.

Senator Fleck-With the new wireless coming out, when is the next wireless update?

Vice President Schneider-The new ones coming out are still in the new standard phase. When those come out with the new laptops having the technology built into them we will do an upgrade.

Senator Fleck-Is that a one time cost for this huge transition?

Vice President Schneider-Out of the technology fee budget that we get and we take some matching funds from the university. We have a priority list, most of the money goes to networking that we implement around campus.

Elections-Off-Campus (2)

Cole Fink, Danielle Thompson, Joshua Fahey, Kelly Biers, Michael Norton

Cole Fink-My major is secondary Health and this is my fourth year.

Danielle Thompson-I am a Social & Behavioral Science Major-Political Science and I am in my fourth year as well.

Joshua Fahey-I am a sophomore and I am a law enforcement major.

Kelly Biers-I am in the College of Arts & Humanities and this is my second year.

Michael Norton-I am in the College of Social & Behavioral Science as an Economics major. I am a senior.

Cole Fink-I am here because I have been here for four years. I came here from Montana. When I got here I did not have anyone to depend on. I was basically confused about everything.

Obviously, when you get to college you think about paying for everything, you think about money. Money is an issue. Students don't know what you charge them and what is going on.

They don't think they do anything about it. They don't know what to do about it. I want to help freshmen and sophomores with the school atmosphere.

Danielle Thompson-I was a senator two years ago. I was involved with many MSUSA

Conferences. I was an intern on the tuition freeze with the other MnSCU campuses. I worked with the capitol. I have a good background with MSUSA. Last year I studied abroad in Spain.

Joshua Fahey-I have always been interested in government at all levels. I think it is important to be involved in the democratic process especially at the grassroots level as MSSA. I am a law enforcement major. I believe with my experience and relationships all over campus I would represent students the best I could.

Kelly Biers-I have only been on campus two years and I am highly involved with the LGBT and I am secretary of SAGE this year. I am currently Pres of Writers in the Dark.

I am hoping my leadership will help develop and bring experience to the MSSA. I have asked around and heard there are concerns with parking and transportation. So I would like to work on this like that.

Michael North-I transferred here from Arizona State which is a big school. This is actually a very big school and there are problems with transferring credits and getting things set up for classes. I think it is better to work on it then just complain. I feel I could add a lot as I attended a very big university and I actually owned my own company. I am an economics major so I am very concerned tuition and fees and about where are student fees go and how money is spent.

President Afolayan-What do you consider to be the primary issue facing students?

Danielle Thompson-Tuition. Students all say tuition is the problem. In the *Reporter* study done, it was said that tuition and fees is the biggest concern of students. I think concerns should be to try to address the issues students feel is their greatest concern. Students are working two and

three jobs. Actually, both candidates for state senate now are referring to a tuition freeze which makes it easier for our position come Feb., no matter who wins we can say hey "you have to do something about this."

Joshua Fahey-I would also agree that tuition is the biggest issue on campus today. The most important thing we can do is the lobbying that will be done next semester; the more students involved the faster we can see results in lowering tuition or the tuition freeze. Student fees and textbooks are concerns. We need to work with professors, the bookstores, and other people involved so that we can figure out a better system so that our students will be better be able to afford it.

Kelly Biers-Tuition of course and the textbook situation here and at other schools; something needs to be done.

Michael Norton-Over all expenses, not just tuition but textbooks as well. I don't think students will complain if they see that every dollar they spend is actually going toward something that they think is valuable to them.

Cole Fink-Tuition, textbooks because money is always an issue if you don't have it. Rent is another issue because rent close to campus is so expensive. I live 10 miles away because it is cheaper housing and I have to save money in order to pay my tuition and pay for my books. In past years I did not buy some books because I could not afford them. Students should be able to buy books. Students are here to learn and use their textbooks.

Senator Ross-What is a project you would like to work on and what skills and attributes do you have to get that done?

Joshua Fahey-I am friendly and approachable. I like to look at all sides of an issue and I like to think I have a creative imagination to think outside the box, not to just get things done.

Kelly Biers-MSSA has made an attempt this year to reach out to the student body, and I think we need to do more of that wherever we can. We need more feedback from as many students as we can on as many programs as we can. My biggest issue would be to reach out to students. utilizing what ever means we can.

Michael Norton-Approaching all the concerns with efficiency. I work well with groups and I think I could add a lot to problems.

Cole Fink-Basically, people skills. I have always had leadership skills, I was captain etc. in high school. I have always been able to take on initiatives. I love to speak to people. I love to build relationships. I am not approachable because I approach people before they approach me.

Danielle Thompson-I would highlight a tuition freeze again because rarely the first time you bring something to the table it passes. I would hopefully go through the committees established already. I would say we should use our personal skills to further MSSA.

Senator Giese-Being on senate requires time, do you have that available?

Kelly Biers-I have the time available. I can work around other commitments.

Michael Norton-Fortunately for you, I am not from Mankato so I don't have a lot of friends so I have a lot of free time.

Cole Fink-I have more than enough time, I am not in other organizations. I only am taking 3 courses as I am close to finishing my major. If you need somebody, I have time.

Danielle Thompson-I am President of an RSO, involved in campaigns, but I have time. If you have something to be done ask an efficient person to do it because they can manage their time.

Joshua Fahey-I work but I do have time, MSSA would be a priority.

Vice President Frederick-Campus involvement is always an issue, what ideas as an off-campus senator would you have?

Michael Norton-Student involvement is very important, there have actually been studies down that correlate your involvement with your GPA. I think that athletic programs like hockey and football are important, I think if we pushed for more involvement this would be a good way for people to interact with the school environment. I think there is a lot of things that could be done in different departments with guest lectures or presentations on student papers.

Cole Fink-Basically, advertising, you have done an awesome job, this is the first time I have noticed signs. They stopped you. I don't understand the athletic advertising, it seems it is only in the athletic buildings. Plays-I don't see a lot of advertising for those. There should

be more students supporting students that are showing school pride for their school. They should be rewarded by other students showing up.

Danielle Thompson-It is hard to get off-campus senators involved in issues. Because the *Reporter* is so widely read, there should be more columns promoting things in senate or letters to the Editor, but using the *Reporter* to maximize the work of the senate.

Joshua Fahey-Advertising is an issue but also time, people don't have time to go to events because they are working. If tuition were lower it would mean less time students would need to work so they would have more time to go to events.

Kelly Biers-I would like to see more diverse groups of people having events. I love to see LGBT having more events, I love to see the culturally diverse students doing events, I love the idea of an events calendar.

Caucus for 10 minutes

Cole Fink-Basically you know who you are going to vote for, the rest is up to you. I hope you do vote for me, if not I hope you keep working hard for our students.

Danielle Thompson-I hope you vote for me, I have the background and I want to make MSU a better place

Joshua Fahey-Thank you and I want to say I am approachable and would represent students well.

Kelly Biers-I would like to be involved in MSSA, I encourage you to all help campus life.

Michael Norton-I think that I could be a benefit to MSSA.

Elected Off-Campus Senator- Cole Fink, Michael Norton

Approval of Minutes 10-18-06 Minutes stand approved

Officer Reports

President Gabe Afolayan

We had Meet & Confer with Dr. Davenport last week. We talked about the Master Plan and the second phase of the Res. Hall. This will be another \$35-40 Million. This will come from the student revenue fund which we all pay into with our tuition and fees so there won't be an additional increase to fund that.

In looking at the plan for the underpass or overpass by Stadium & Warren, a million dollars has been approved by the County and they are looking at addressing that within the year. They are also looking at Stadium and Ellis.

Vice President Scott Olson is in Ghana this week. He is meeting with officials over there on international study relations.

We had an update from Brenda Flannery promoting more international studies and incorporating more international study with learning communities. This would promote the International Studies program.

Dr. Davenport, since he came here, has developed a Strategic Initiative, this is improving the university in terms of physical layout, academics, infrastructure. I suggested that students find out more about this plan. We will be working on that so you can find out where your tuition and fees go. You can find out what is working and what isn't so we can have open communication. The MSSA information ads we have been running in the paper are not cost effective; so we are looking at doing a different medium to promote awareness of MSSA. We are working on an on-line newsletter for all students.

Regarding the MSU Budget, Vice President Straka announced that MSU has had a clean audit. For those of you that know finance, you know that is a good thing and apparently does not happen often in MnSCU.

October Senator of the Month-This month's senator always has a positive attitude, shows up for senate hours, attends MSUSA conferences, did fantastic work with Student Union survey, reporting that to the senate and getting it out to the school newspaper which helped us decide that Stack is more beneficial than Quizno's. Jason Schilling.

Senator Schilling-Who makes the decision on the money for the Master Plan?

President Afolayan-I would guess Facilities Management.

Vice President Frederick-Was anything mentioned on the projection for tuition at Meet & Confer?

President Afolayan-Tuition is still up in the air, we won't know until about February. The tuition allocation model is, we are supposed to get 2/3rd for every 1/3 we pay. They are looking at revisiting that. We will be lobbying more before they even come out with this. Senator Giese-Would it be possible to have an Academic Affairs and Legislative Affairs section in the Newsletter?

Appointments: SAC-Irina Kansakar, Judicial Board-Jason Casey, Tiffany Kroeze, Robyn Helget, Katelyn Romsce, Policy Consultation Committee-Evan Trosvik

Vice President Chris Frederick

Student Affairs will be meeting with the Homecoming Task Force on Friday at 11:00.

This weekend is the MSUSA Conference-check your email for times we are leaving.

Shirts have been ordered.

Game room grand opening was today, go down there and have a good time.

Speaker

Recognized Student Organization Initial Recognition: Entrepreneurship Club, Global Health & Peace Club, Men's Club Volleyball, MSU Step Team, Ski and Snowboard Club, Sport Management Club, Vietnamese-American students Assn.

Over view of Rules of Debate...

Senator Reports

Maverick Hall-Aaron Lorenzen

During my first few weeks here at MNSU I have overall been extremely busy. I have been getting used to the college transition along with trying to fulfill all my responsibilities, whether that be academic, senate related or what not. Not a week goes by that someone does not ask me if I could look at doing this or that for the campus. I am currently working with the RHA leader from my floor on trying to get money from RHA for floor sweatshirts. I also am working with RHA along with the other dorm senators on the budget overlook for next year. The process is long and tedious but it will be beneficial for me to experience. I attended the MSUSA conference in Bemidji, and plan to attend the upcoming Metro conference this weekend in the cities.

Off-Campus-Jon Hurm

There continue to be problems for off-campus students and landlords. The attorney is busy and does a good job of answering questions. He is there Tuesday and Thursday.

College of Business-Brett Fleck

I met with Dean Johnson for about an hour. The COB Building will be all private funding. They are looking at 2010 for an opening. The G.P.A. for students entering the COB was recently raised from 2.5 to 2.7. About 15% of the COB students were affected. Dean Johnson is neutral on the +- policy. He supports the repeat policy because raising our standards will make our program more competitive. His goal is to make the COB more nationally known. We talked about the laptops and they are looking to help ease the access for laptop loaners and possibly lowering the fee for summer students. That fee is used for software license, online data base access, Wallstreet Journal online; unlimited printing; laptop loaners, tech support and classroom tech in the College of Business rooms.

In Academic Affairs we talked about a survey on the +- system we will be doing soon. We will be meeting with IFO President next week and will get more information at that time on grading and textbooks.

SAC met for the first time Monday, I look forward to it.

Senator Schilling-Will the 2.7 GPA change be retroactive?

Senator Fleck-I believe it will be for new students applying to the College of Business.

Vice President Frederick-Did you ask the Dean if the laptop fee could be per credit?

Senator Fleck-He kind of dodged the question a little, as far as that goes, he said he would bring that up with faculty.

Vice President Frederick-Currently, if you take 1 or 18 credits you pay the same?

Senator Trosvik-Did you see the line item on the budget for the lap top fee?

Senator Fleck-I will have that soon, I am getting a pie chart.

New Business

Committee M#10.25.06A Academic Affairs Coordinator Giese/Senator Fleck

Whereas:	According to a study completed by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the college textbooks prices have risen at twice the rate on annual inflation over the last two decades.
Whereas:	A survey completed Fall 2006 by MSSA showed that cost of textbooks was the largest concern to the students on the Minnesota State University, Mankato Campus.
Whereas:	There has been a Textbook Price Containment Committee in the past that consisted of faculty, administration, bookstore personnel and students. That has dealt with the issue of textbooks cost.
Whereas:	The Textbook Price Containment Committee is a positive way for students, faculty and administration and staff to work together on a problem of rapidly rising textbook prices.
Be it Resolved:	To grant full support to re-start and continue the Text Book Containment Committee. Further move that this support is shown by the appointment of two senators each year by the President of MSSA.

Coordinator Giese-I think the motion speaks for itself. Textbooks are a huge issue as pointed out in the survey we did as well as nationally. It makes sense to be proactive.

Senator Fleck-The IFO pointed out that last year the Textbook Price Containment Committee had came up with very good ideas that seemed interesting and I would like to see those ideas come back and maybe we can further it along with this motion.

Senator Anderson-I think this is a good idea but would the two senators be the only students on the Text Book Containment Committee or would there be students at large?

Senator Trosvik-Who would be on this committee?

Senator Giese-In the past there were 3-4 faculty, administrators, representatives from both bookstores and four students.

Senator Schilling-It does not point out who should be on the committee.

President Afolayan-The committee dissolved last year. Now that this is in the forefront they are looking at reviving it. This motion technically is not necessary as this is not a MSSA committee. This would reaffirm that we would like it brought back.

Senator Jennings-I am trying to figure out how this would be effective, can you get the same faculty and administrators that were on this last year?

Senator Carmody-I think this motion is important to bring back the Textbook Price Containment Committee. Academic Affairs is bogged down and we can delegate to those that have more knowledge and interest.

Senator Giese-I think that this, even though it is not necessary, reaffirms our commitment to that issue.

President Afolayan-Interested students might not be within the senators. Move strike senators and replace with students.

President Afolayan-We want student representation.

Senator Fleck-We wanted two senators as the original committee had about 4 students. We just wanted to make sure there were senators involved in the committee.

Amendment fails

Motion Passes

M#10.25.06B SAF Presentations Vice President Frederick/President Afolayan

Whereas:	The Minnesota State Student Association is responsible for the allocation of Student Activity Fees.
Whereas:	The MSSA needs to be more accountable for how and where Student Activity Fees are being utilized.

Whereas:	The lines of accountability for Student Activity Funded line items should be directed to the Minnesota State Student Association.
Whereas:	MSSA senators, by virtue of their constituency representation, need to be knowledgeable of the various activity fee funded line items' programming throughout the academic calendar.
Whereas:	The MSSA is not adequately informed of Student Activity Fee line items programming and budgets.
Whereas:	Presentations before the MSSA provide the opportunity for questions and answers for each line item.
Be it Resolved:	That all Student Activity Fee Funded line items including technology and facilities are to give a presentation to MSSA, giving a summary of their purpose, objectives, goals, and programming plans for the current fiscal year by January 24, 2007. This presentation must also address the amount in which they are funded and also where the funding is spent to better student life on and off campus. The presentation shall be given by the director of the line item or appropriate designee. Furthermore, the MSSA Speaker shall be charged with notifying each line item and scheduling them to come before the MSSA senate prior to the January 24 th , 2007 deadline.

Vice President Frederick-This motion will allow senators to be informed about where student fees are going. This motion is requesting line items to present to senate and be held accountable.

President Afolayan-A lot of us are not knowledgeable about line items and funding. We can ask the directors what the programs do and we can analyze the budgets before the budget hearing.

Senator Anderson-This motion is a good idea. The budget book is confusing, and this is a way of holding groups accountable.

Senator Giese-I like this because last year I did have to do research on budgets before I could vote. It will take more time in our meetings but it will make us more informed for the hearings.

Motion Passes

Announcements

Senator Ischkin-Cultural Diversity will meet Monday at 4:00

Senator Schilling-Game room is open \$1.00 pizza and wings tonight.

Senator Giese-Academic Affairs will meet at 2:00 next week

Vice President Frederick-Wear your name tags on Wednesday.

Senator Giese-Nontrads event tomorrow night in game room

Roll Call

Senators Present

Jessica Kallio, Casey Carmody, Brett Fleck, Nikki Hanna, Brandon Ross, Jenna Ault, Katie Ischkin, Kristeen Giese, Jessica Nelson, Nolan Chenevert, Peter Jennings, Ryan Anderson, Kathryn Pase, Evan Trosvik, Jennifer Hansen, Jon Sands, Cole Fink, Ryan Christensen, Mike Michael Norton, Allan Gould, Jon Hurm, Jason Schilling, Caroline Kornowicz, Aaron Lorenzen

Senators Absent

Taitum Danielle Thompson, Jessica Nelson, Kenneth Willaert, Marianne Reilly, Amanda Bertelsen,

Executive Staff Present

President Afolayan, Vice President Frederick

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 6:14 PM

