

80th MSSA Senate March 20th, 2013

Senate called to order by 80th Speaker Collins

Roll Call

Courtney Toft 23-1-0; Nick Jirik 21-1-1; Briana Williamson 15-6-2; Blake Grotewold 22-0-1; Nilsu Demirci 16-5-1; Paige Sparkman 21-2-0; Lance Selvig 19-3-1; Ben Shakespear 22-1-0; Cody Nickel 21-2-0; Trevor Granberg 22-0-0; Jonathan Marquardt; 16-5-0; Sam Turner 15-4-0; Beth Madsen 16-0-2; Michael Hanson 15-2-1; Elizabeth Jacobson 18-0-0; Daphne Drossart 18-1-0; Stacy Klinkhamer 18-2-0; Lado Jobava 10-3-0; Myra Colakovic 11-0-0; Saqid Cheema 5-1-0; Josh Erhardt 6-0-0; Hadier Jassim 3-2-0

Open Forum

- **Dylan – Comm. Engagement: event update. Encourage all to participate in Big Event.**

Presentation

- Paul Wilson – New York Times Acct. Mgr.
 - o Handout on Digital Readership Program

Hanson: How has St. Cloud's program worked out?

Wilson: We're looking at a pilot program next fall. Program is now available at discount for education. No contract or commitment required to try. We feel that NYT is valuable to students. Students are innovative and felt that this program should be brought to them. Some faculty agree that it should be available to students.

Erhardt: Students would have access to NYT thru the website?

Wilson: Yes, it would be available to anyone who has a digital pass.

Jirik: Would there be any availability of print as well?

Wilson: Yes, our print programs are available as well. We have one currently at Gustavus. They have 100 papers daily. Matching digital comes with it. M-F delivery/print=\$3.00. Digital=\$1.88/wk + Sunday times.

Hanson: \$7,000/academic year? 100 accounts available every day, however, we've got over 15,000 students.

Wilson: We need to identify those discreet users. Once you register, it's not same students using it every day.

Others occupy it when you're not on. Yes, 100 seats are conservative for size of campus. Usually look at 3% of student population but thought this was a good place to start.

Sparkman: What is the difference of going on your website versus signing in?

Wilson: There is limited access on website.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Appointments: University Advancement Search Committee (David Schieler)

Commission on Ethics and Standards:

Student Allocations Committee: Recommends to fund the Muslim Student Association a total of \$350.00 for their Islamic Awareness Week event. \$300 dollars for speaker and \$50 for miscellaneous expenses.

Recognized Student Organizations:

Approval of Minutes: 3-6-13

Approved.

Vacancies

Stadium Heights (1)

Allied Health and Nursing (1)

Education (1)

Julia Sears (1)

Graduate Studies (1)

Officer reports

VP Schieler:

- Walk update: Will be the weekend of graduation. Working with the Administration on a start time (8, 11 or 2 pm); it will be a 4-day walk; group of nine students total. Asking the Administration to help us keep costs down. Need a group of 4 people to commit to walk who are physically fit. Lobbying will be our main objective. (*Schieler, Hanson, Granberg, Wolf*) See me after meeting if interested.
- Hertz meeting next week.

Speaker Collins: We have a fair amount of people who have missed more than three meetings. We won't have quorum if people don't start showing up. I'd encourage you all to talk to other senators about this. There are some really important decisions coming up soon that will require quorum.

Senator reports

Senator Thompson

- In the process of scheduling meetings with hall coordinators to see what's going on.
- Dining Hall – students would like Premium Wednesday more frequently.
- Laundry room has had some issues of people stealing.
- RHA meeting – There is \$1800 leftover for funding. Encourage you to come ask if interested in purchase of things.
- We need to make more students aware of Off-campus housing website.

Shakespeare: The wireless issue has been around a long time. We're paying a lot of money for this so should address this again.

Senator Hanson

- The Environmental Committee is receiving proposals for a carbon print analysis.
- Parking Adv. Bd. Public Hearing today – handouts;
 - 7-yr budget plan; 3% annual increase; proposal of free lot going to \$62 fee.
 - MSSA hasn't taken a stance on this.

Turner: So if we do \$62, they'll reduce all other rates?

Hanson: No, there will be a 3% increase for every permit + the \$62.

Turner: Has our Bubble Taskforce been created?

Hanson: No, it has been postponed for a while.

New Business

M#3.20.13A Parking Advisory Board Recommendations – Hanson/Turner

Whereas: MSSA was given the proposal recommendations of the Parking Advisory Board and would like to hold a discussion of recommendations;

Be it further resolved: That the Senate will vote in support, against, or a modification of the Parking Advisory Board's recommendations.

Hanson: Senate needs to collectively take a stance on whether to support or reject this.

Bulcock: The Parking Advisory still hasn't met and will be meeting on Mon. or Tues. next week.

Shakespeare: They haven't made their own recommendation so I think we're jumping the gun.

Schieler: They haven't made an official recommendation but have made outlines of what they would like to see. So, if we wait it will be late. This motion should at least give them our two cents of what we believe. I am supportive of taking the free lot away. Although it becomes an accessibility problem to those who can't afford a permit, you can look at the printout and see that they'll run a \$1M deficit in 5 yrs. They've missed their permit goals last year because they were raised too high and demand went down. Therefore, as demand went down free lot use went up. Currently, each permit holder pays roughly \$12 to keep the free lot free. If permit costs go up again, it will further drive down demand of permits. What if instead of \$62 it were \$74 to maintain costs and generate revenue needed? At the same time, the negative of this is people in the free lot now refuse to pay to park. Now there will be parking in all surrounding neighborhoods. This should be a joint issue of University and the community. Possibly, we raise pressure on the community to establish a parking assisted system. The Cherry Street parking ramp is a transit hub. Every 12 minutes there is a bus that goes from there to campus. Maybe the community makes this free. This was an extremely hard decision for me to come to however, the free lot is not a charity or ethical duty of the University. It is my responsibility as a student to build into my education cost.

Hanson: Mr. Cowan suggested that we have a formal stance on this. Personally, I like idea of free lot as it is also tradition and a burden on students. Parking will be a growing problem as the Master Plan is carried out and we're making this campus more green-friendly. I believe we have an ethical obligation to our constituency. After speaking to several students, they are against taking it away. I think it also important to faculty, staff, and visitors for us to maintain it.

Shakespeare: Personally and ethically, I support the free lot but it is not up to me to make this decision. Residence Hall students have no choice but to pay for parking as they don't have access to a free lot. Given that, I agree with David 100% that it should not only go to \$62 but to \$74. I don't think they think they should be paying when they don't have the same opportunity to access it. Seventy-four dollars for an academic year? Come on. That's like \$3/week for parking. That amounts to a cup of coffee.

Turner: I keep hearing it is a burden for us but not hearing that it is going to be less of a burden for everybody else. I hear from many students that buses are too full so they don't use. If we take 400+ stalls it means more demand on buses and more funding. I agree with Shakespeare on his Residence Hall point, but free lot users don't live on campus and aren't getting financial aid to help pay for parking lots. I don't think it is fair to make assessments like that.

Jirik: Part of owning a car is knowing that you have to park it somewhere and pay for it. This is a luxury and we are operating at a deficit. Technically, according to MnSCU policy, we have to maintain a cash reserve in revenues and we aren't coming close to doing that. So it is a big deal. The situation isn't sustainable and I can't ethically let it happen. While some of my constituency may have other views, I can't side with them on this. Short term distress isn't worth long term failure.

Hanson: I think the current system is doomed to fail in this day and age. An increase in rates in permits won't be successful as others will be looking elsewhere to park. This creates further stress with students and permit holders. They are in some cases, double-selling the stalls and still falling short of meeting revenue. It will also cause chaos for residents in neighborhoods and other rental properties. It hurts our community image.

Schieler: A parking lot is a parking lot, no matter where located. The ideal system is that every dollar of profit in gold lots should pay for the more distant lots. We're keeping the increase in Gold lots down, Free lots account for 1% of on-campus parking which means that 3% increase has to be made up with larger increase in upper end parking.

Turner: A constituent told me that free lot is one sign that the school cares about students. If taken away, they will think we're only in it for the money.

Jirik: These people are parking for free so of course they'll take it. It's a simple demand or sliding scale. We're trying to see how far we can push it without pushing people off and losing revenue. We're trying to find out how much we can push it and then see what happens.

Madsen: I identify with both sides. However, things go up in price and we can't keep it free forever. I think people will still want to park there anyway. I'm for it.

Drossart: Any thought of making it a pay/hr lot?

Schieler: There is a pay box in Lot 22, however, Mr. Cowan says it fails because cars have to line up and pay before they park and causes congestion.

Jirik: If I were CVS I'd start charging people parking in those spots right away. And, if they'd come back to us with that, we could then work out a deal with them. We shouldn't let this weigh too heavily on our soul as they elected us to delve deeper into these issues and make these decisions for them.

Vote –passes.

(unofficial-no quorum)

Motion (survey) to evaluate support for establishing a \$76/fee for Lot 23 permit while maintaining so following costs of \$2.

11-yay-3-nay-1 abstention

Postponed until 3.27.13.

Collins: Next week's senate meeting will take place in the Hearth Lounge so it may be a good time to evaluate this in that setting.

**M#3.20.13B Bring referendum to cease SAF funding to Reporter on Spring election ballot.
Grotewold/Sparkman**

Whereas: Elections are quickly approaching;

Whereas: Elections also serve as one of the best opportunities to measure student opinion through referendum;

Be it Resolved: MSSA supports the placement of the motion to cease SAF funding to the Reporter on the spring election ballot.

Grotewold: With majority of funding coming from ad sales, I think we should let the students decide whether they want their student fees to pay for the Reporter or not.

Shakespeare: So, this means we can either have a referendum or vote as a senate?

Collins: It's 250 individuals, 60% of senate vote, or brought forth by President Davenport.

Shakespeare: I think a petition is a better way to let students speak to this. We are here to represent our constituents.

Erhardt: Having it on a ballot would indicate whether students really want this. Whereas, I think having a petition is rather redundant.

Shakespeare: Getting to the stage of the ballot signifies that the University has taken some sort of stance.

Hanson: I believe I saw a University policy that says that student government cannot reduce funding or fees as an act of censorship.

Turner: I think it is a good idea to have on referendum. I don't think they need it but think the senate limiting constituents' voice.

Motion to postpone to 3.27.13

Passes

M#3.20.13C Establishment of a Marching Band – Grotewold/Sparkman

Whereas: Elections are quickly approaching;

Whereas: Elections also serve as one of the best opportunities to measure student opinion through referendum;

Be it Resolved: The MSSA support the placement of the motion to recommend the establishment of a University marching band on the spring election ballot.

Postponed until 3.27.13.

Announcements:

- Happy Birthday Michael Hanson!
- MSU Hockey team going to WCHA for qtr finals tomorrow!

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned @ 5:40 pm

