

80th MSSA Senate March 27th, 2013

Senate called to order by 80th Speaker Collins

Roll Call

Courtney Toft 25-1-0; Nick Jirik 24-1-1; Briana Williamson 14-8-2; Blake Grotewold 23-2-1; Nilsu Demirci 18-4-1; Paige Sparkman 22-3-0; Lance Selvig 18-3-1; Ben Shakespeare 22-1-0; Cody Nickel 22-1-0; Trevor Granberg 21-1-0; Jonathan Marquardt; 16-5-0; Sam Turner 15-4-0; Beth Madsen 16-0-3; Michael Hanson 16-2-1; Elizabeth Jacobson 20-0-0; Daphne Drossart 17-1-0; Stacy Klinkhamer 18-1-0; Lado Jobava 10-2-0; Myra Colakovic 12-0-0; Saqid Cheema 5-1-0; Josh Erhardt 7-0-0; Hadier Jassim 5-2-0

Open Forum

- Dillon-Community Engagement – The Big Event update
- Tausef M. – ISA President- invitation to MSSA to attend ISA events coming up, and elections.
- RHA President – Goodbye Week invite; elections for President & VP.
- Meghan – EIC Reporter present to answer questions on Reporter referendum.
- David Cowan – PAC Recommendations overview (*handout of Report*)
 - Public Hearing held on March 20th.
 - 5100 total parking spaces on campus.
 - Free lot – Proposing to change to \$62 permit (471 stalls). If this isn't approved, proposing \$26,000 out of the general fund.
 - 7-yr budget forecast on lot maintenance – all permits would go up 3% next year (*& following years.*)
 - Proposing .10 cent increase on green fee to offset costs on Parking Fund.
 - Lot 17, Wiecking Center – (75 stalls) currently purple & gold. Proposing to turn all Gold
 - Lot 20, Taylor Center – Proposing to turn all into Gold

Shrestha: Are there any other free lots on other MnSCU campuses?

Cowan: No, we have been unique for some time.

Shakespeare: If we didn't go with recommendations of the PAC, would it be likely we'd absolve the free lot?

Cowan: No, our recommendation is to keep free lot free but I want to someone to write us the check. I don't know who is going to write the \$25,000. This parking fund is self-sustaining and we don't get state aid. We can get state aid but we don't, for a variety of reasons. St Cloud has a parking ramp where they use \$4.5M of state dollars, or general fund dollars, to pay for a \$9M ramp. Therefore, we're hoping that the MSU general fund can give us \$25,000.

Schieler: You mention briefly, but where it seems to escape most, that a general fund is equated to two-thirds student dollars. Therefore, when you ask for \$25,000 you are roughly asking for \$18,000 in student dollars to keep the free lot free. You also ask for a sustainable system, but it hardly sounds sustainable. Do you have other suggestions for us?

Cowan: I only speak from the committee report and acknowledge that this math is correct.

Turner: If we were to make it into a permit lot, what would you suggest to those one-time visitors who come to campus on an irregular basis?

Cowan: We do have the visitor's pay lot or metered parking in Lot 21. However, there would be no free alternative.

Erhardt: Do you foresee any reason for not getting these dollars from the general fund?

Cowan: We are not gathering anything at this point to submit, but only presenting this to Senate to gather feedback.

Hanson: In the event the free lot is no longer free or general fund does not get approved, what is a speculated outcome for the neighborhood areas and all of this excess parking?

Cowan: The likelihood when moving 400+ stalls from free to \$62, is that we will not sell all of them. There will be slippage where people will be going to neighborhoods or taking the bus to find alternate places to park their vehicle.

Presentation

Rick Straka - V.P. of Finance and Administration (5pm)

- MnSCU Budget – \$97M request; Governor supports \$80M; 3% tuition increase; think we're going to be in good shape this year.

Shrestha: If we are not supporting the \$62/permit, is there a way we can get money from the general fund?

Straka: Generally, no. Parking is meant to be self-supporting.

Election committee update

Approval of Consent Agenda

Appointments:

Commission on Ethics and Standards:

Student Allocations Committee:

- A recommendation was made to allocate up to \$600 (for up to 20 students @ \$30 each) to MSU ASCE for registration at the Midwest Regional Concrete Canoe Competition at Bray Park, Madison Lake, MN on April 20, 2013.
- A recommendation was made to allocate up to \$4,800 for travel and lodging expense to the Mankato Women's Rugby Club to compete in the USA Rugby National Tournament contingent as follows:
- Round 32, Southern Illinois University, April 6-7, 2013 – recommended allocation \$1,336
- Upon notification to the SAC Chairman, Nick Jirik of advancement to Round 16, at Grand Valley State University, Michigan, April 12-14, 2013 – recommended allocation \$3,464
- A recommendation was made to allocate up to \$113.32 for lodging to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers competing in the Student Design competition at SDSU, Brookings, SD March 22, 2013.
- A recommendation was made to allocate up to \$410 for non-food related or no team t-shirt expense to MSU ASCE for the Midwest Regional Concrete Canoe presentation at Ostrander Auditorium, April 20, 2013.
- A recommendation was made to allocate up to \$700 to Econ Club, ODE Kappa Chapter and College Republicans for non-food related expenses related to bringing Dr. Richard Vedder to speak on campus April 9, 2013.

Recognized Student Organizations:

Approval of Minutes:

Approved.

Vacancies

Stadium Heights (1)
Allied Health and Nursing (1)
Education (1)
Julia Sears (1)
Graduate Studies (1)
Undeclared (1)

Old Business

To add a referendum for the 2013 spring general election ballot to cease Student Activity Fee funding to the Reporter. (postponed until 3/27/13)

Hanson: I think to do so at this point would bring about an end to an era and eliminating student awareness. This would effectively kill them and they would no longer be able to operate under the current model that they do. I strongly feel opposed to any referendum to cease funding to the Reporter. I am on the Constitution Commission where we have been working to restructure their advisory committee, or Newspaper Board, to better help promote the Reporter. So, to have a referendum to cease funding to them would undermine everything we've done to make them better for everybody.

Amendment to Reporter Referendum – Turner/Grotewold

Amend the motion regarding the financial aspect of the Reporter by striking the word, “cease: and replace with “determine whether or not students want it.”

Turner: Personally, I don't feel we should fund them. However, on another level I don't believe we should squash a students' rights to freedom of speech. Thus, if we should cut funding to the Reporter, it should be the students who decide this and not just us here at the table.

Grotewold: We aren't deciding to end funding, we want to know whether students want their fees to go towards that. This isn't something that should happen at the drop of a hat but should be looked into. Action can then be taken by the 81st. This way the Newspaper Board and Student Allocations Committee can analyze all of it.

Shrestha: I'd like to hear the Reporters' opening on this motion and the interest level of the students.

Meghan: Technically, \$61,000 funds our (2) state employee salaries and work that students couldn't possibly do. I don't see how students could manage a \$300,000+ budget next year and not be an actual state employee. We, as the Reporter, find this absolutely basis and want to know where this is coming from.

Schieler: I don't feel that you should feel singled out at all but should be asked about all student fees. That is our responsibility as representatives of the student body at a time when student fees are at the highest they've ever been. We asked the same question of David Cowan and parking. He has received quite the grilling from the Student Association. A couple of years ago, we looked at the same from Athletics. It is not about the Reporter, it is about equal representation on each line.

Meghan: That fails to make any sense to me. I'm sorry, I still don't understand.

Amendment Passes.

Shakespear: Censorship is the first thing that comes to mind. Historically, student newspapers have faced similar things in the past. Historically, attempts of censorship by administrations have done this. We've seen this throughout the Vietnam and civil rights movements. There were constant moves by administrations to censor for speaking out against them. What is ridiculous about this motion is that this is the student body trying to censor. It is the elected, democratic representatives of the entire student body attempting to censor their own paper. I understand that the Reporter makes their own money and possibly one day can manage through the revenue they generate from advertising. But there is still going to be some level of disruption. If we, as a democracy, interfere with the dissemination of information to the student body in any way there would be the destruction to the dissemination of information to our student body. And if we are involved in this we are not democratic, we are not student government and we do not deserve to sit at this table and do not deserve to wear these badges that say we represent the students. That is fascism. We are a democratic body. Our by-laws say that we can call referendums or we can get 250 people to sign a petition. It there is such an outcry to take some action in regard to the Reporter, we can get 250 signatures. If the students want this we should not be taking this position but should be making a petition. I oppose this motion 100%.

Jirik: I disagree with Senator Shakespear, at least in regard to fascism, but do agree that if we want the students' voice in this we should get their position on this.

Grotewold: This isn't censorship at all but only a questionnaire. We are not voting on anything to be done. We are polling the students. This is bigger than asking 250 students to sign a petition this is asking everyone to vote on it right away.

Turner: When I came up with this idea, I wasn't thinking of a fascist dictatorship. I was thinking of the viability of an independent Reporter who doesn't have to answer to anyone about their own funding. This isn't to take any action. Two hundred and fifty agitated people should not be able to dictate our policy.

Hanson: I strongly oppose the amendment. If we are going to poll our constituents we should do so in another format and not an amendment. We should do this in a more appropriate fashion. We are trying to revitalize the Newspaper Board. I think it is vital to work with the Reporter and Newspaper Board to address some of these issues. It is imperative that we give the Reporter an opportunity to work with what we're restructuring so some issues can get addressed.

Shrestha: I don't support this motion because there hasn't been enough consultation with the Reporter staff or anyone. With something of this size and nature, there hasn't been enough preparation done. I like the idea of polling of students and then moving forward.

Jirik: I think we need to take a look at their operations budget before we pass this motion.

Turner: I think that we need to do a feasibility study or something and also do more investigating.

Shakespear: I think the whole concept of referendum has already sent a message of condemnation. If we hold this referendum, opposed to 250 students signing a petition, it looks like we already have condemned them. Given the public forum that we're in and the publicity this issue has already been given, we've basically biased the opinion of the student body. Two hundred fifty signatures out of 15,000 students are all we need. This isn't our decision to make.

Turner: This is not about *not* funding the Reporter. It is about finding out if students want this. We haven't condemned this.

Erhardt: The think the point that Meghan made we haven't thought of. And I wonder if this is an effective way of asking them about people keeping their jobs and pay and we haven't asked students about that.

Sparkman: Where is funding come to pay your employees?

Meghan: Our budget clearly outlines that this money funds these state employees and their state insurance. Honestly, I don't know how they would survive without this money. Generally, all of the revenue stream we produce is through ad sales.

Motion fails

4 for/9 against/6 abstain

Motion failed to reach 60% required to be placed on ballot for referendum.

To add a referendum for the 2013 spring general elections ballot to establish a University marching band.
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Shakespear: How much to start up and cost/year?

Schieler: Conversations with Dr. Royce and music dept. estimate is \$.77/credit hour for one year, after that .40 cent; \$250,000 start-up costs and proceeding costs after that supports a drum line and a graduate assistant.

Jirik: I think this would be the wrong time for this. We can't have this w/o a bubble. We haven't got the feasibility study back yet and with all the requests we have coming through the Student Allocations Committee, it is a 3.5% increase and we're asking that people please keep it below 3%.

Shrestha: Do we approve language in the ballot and costs?

John B. Elections Committee would take a look at that and decide what is on ballot

Hanson: Don't think that this is the time we should be looking at \$.77. This would not benefit enough students. I think that they should pursue other funding options.

Schieler: I believe that during a feasibility study we could research and find other locations and solutions for this band. Instead, the 80th student senate has found inaction to be a lot easier than questions. These are simple questions. We need the initiative to at least try. The 80th student senate, I'm not proud to say, has accomplished any task other than take neutral stances on issues.

Motion fails.

New Business

M#3.27.13A – Academic Affairs Allocation (\$150) from Senate Budget - Turner/Grotewold

Allocate \$150 from the Student Senate budget to the Academic Affairs committee for the purpose of being used to promote the “bookshelf” project.

Turner: We need promotional materials for this project in order to get it off the ground.

Motion passes.

M#3.27.13B - Move to support recommendations of Parking Advisory Committee – Shakespear/Erhardt

**Whereas: The recommendation of the Parking Advisory Committee is to keep the free lot free;
Whereas: The public and student outcry at the proposal to remove the free lot was significant;
Whereas: We are elected to represent the student interest;
Be it Resolved: The MSSA supports the recommendation of the Parking Advisory Committee.**

Shakespear: This is the way we keep the free lot free. Students want a free lot. We represent what the students want.

Hanson: I concur with Shakespear. We are the only University to have a free lot and it makes us stand out.

Schieler: The free lot is not free. It costs each permit-holder dollars. The latest suggestion was to split costs between all permit holders and all students. If you walk to school, you are paying for someone to park for free. It is part of the cost of an education you must accept. Others are accepting it. Many permit spots are sitting vacant because people can't afford them. It is a non-sustainable system.

Shakespear: This is all campaigning.

Schieler: No, it isn't.

Collins: Let's leave campaigning out of this.

Jirik: We do not have the money in SAF so it has to come somewhere.

Shakespear: I don't have a car, and I don't use many of the other services on campus. But I pay for things I don't use. We all are asked to support others. It happens every day. Let's keep it free and keep our student body happy as we are here for them.

Hanson: I think it imperative to do what we can to keep it free. I spoke with a student while riding the bus and asked him what he'd think about paying for it. He told me he already works 3 jobs and couldn't afford to pay for this.

Cowan: I'm hearing that there is no issue about the 3%, however, the devil is in the details.

Schieler: Let's take a look into the future. We've been asked by the Administration to take a look at long term planning. Will students be able to afford this ten years from now? If they can't afford \$62 now, can they afford it later with 3% be added each year? Each year the free lot will become fuller. That is not a sustainable system. Look at the deficit in 7 years with keeping the free lot free.

Cowan: I would just ask that you remember that our committee only deals one year at a time. There are too many unknowns in a 10 year plan to be certain.

Motion fails.

5 for/12 against/1 abstain

M#3.27.13C Parking Permit Fee Structure – Schieler/Turner

Motion to recommend the following parking permit fee structure: Create a new \$76 permit for lot 23, currently known as the “free lot.” Assess \$126 for orange permits, \$176 for purple and dark green permits, \$226 for green permits, and \$276 for gold permits.

Motion passes

(10 for/7 against/1 abstain)

Schieler: This should also generate the revenue desired for the \$25,000 asked for out of general fund. This would accomplish our goal. Unfortunately, does eliminate the free lot.

Shakespear: They are the experts, not us. They say they can do this and keep the free lot free. It is history here at MSU and something the students want. Students overwhelming support the free lot.

Jirik: They are an advisory committee and take it as that. They are here to advise us. The students do not want a free lot. Some do, more do not.

Schieler: we often speak to students who don't have the means to support a permit. Students of middle means who are receiving financial aid or other means, wouldn't support the permit now. We can't continue to provide a charity service. It doesn't fit into the long-term plan. Last year I worked on the committee and we worked on this...

Turner: we're responsible to the students and have to deal with problems that will affect them in the future and not just now.

Hanson: I spoke with all my constituents in all my classes and they all said they can't support the free lot. A lot of speculative costs are being talked about in this motion. Mr. Cowan does a great job with this and reminds us to just look at this year.

Jirik: I've also talked to students and the majority walk to campus or have a permit. Those who park in free lots are largely a minority and don't think that it was right that they paid for the free lot.

Hanson: In the case they can't get it from the general fund, what's the point of having a PAC to advise us? A lot of the report is based on predictions.

Schieler: The point was to keep costs low to middle-means students.

Bunker (*Madsen Proxy*): The cost of permit increases to keep the free lot free is not fair to the entire student body.

Motion passes.

Officer reports

President Shrestha:

- This meeting venue has brought many students so we may do it again.
- GMG – lobbying for civic center expansion and other projects (*detailed in document in office*)
- MSUSA trip to D.C. – lobbying for Pell grants and Stafford loans
- President Davenport in our office next Tuesday, April 2nd. Invite students to make an appt. All-student email going out tomorrow.
- Fairmont trip on April 10th – Internship Fair supported by Strategic Partnerships. Looking for about 40 students. Anyone interested, talk to us.
- Election update: A good number of people are running. Deadline for senators running is next week, the 26th. Encourage interested students to apply. Remind people to vote April 9th.
- Working on the consultation letter for CSU budget.

VP Schieler:

- Walk update: Granberg, Wolf, Schieler, Hanson have signed up so far. Plan to leave on Friday rather than Sat.
- Working on Integrated Marketing and making plans for media coverage during walk.
- Bubble update: Feasibility study continues until end of the month. Local meeting was held to find out what interest is. There is a \$300,000 budget gap so seeking solutions for that. Funds being sought from sponsorships, donors, etc.
- Seeking support from All Seasons arena for full ice time.
- Master Plan – A meeting April 3rd. We invite you to attend and give your feedback.
- Star ID: presented at M & C by Ed Clark, IT. Would allow same login/pw for all of your services. It would be randomly assigned and more difficult to remember. PW would have to be reset more often.
- Necessary for MSSA to work more in the long term planning, or Master Plan. Decisions are being made out 7 years or more.
- IFO – accolades from Faculty....
- Reporter: Our meeting with Dr. Jones and President Davenport encouraged us to work for solution to the perceived problem. Includes help of Newspaper Board and Constitution Commission.

Collins: VP Schieler claims that I've been extremely biased and has asked that I only set the agenda and not attend the meetings.

Shakespeare: And how have you been biased? I suggest then that VP Schieler remove himself from these meetings as this has been blatant campaigning.

Selvig: Can all of you guys get rid of this campaign stuff because that is all you've done at this meeting.

Collins: If you guys find that I'm being biased, then you need to make me aware of that.

Announcements:

Senators Present:

Courtney Toft, Beth Madsen;(proxy), Elizabeth Jacobson, Joe Wolf, Josh Erhardt, Hadier Jassim, Sam Turner, Michael Hanson, Saqid Cheema; Ben Shakespeare, Cody Nickel, Jerica Thompson, Lance Selvig,

Senators Absent:

Hadier Jassim; Lado Jabavo; Beth Madsen, StacyKlinkhamer; Trevor Granberg

Executive Staff Present:

President Soyal Shrestha; VP David Schieler; Speaker Chris Collins

Adjournment

Adjourned 6:12 pm