

80th MSSA Senate

November 14th, 2012

Senate called to order by 80th Speaker Collins

I. Roll Call

Courtney Toft 12-1-0; Nick Jirik 12-0-1; Briana Williamson 8-3-2; Blake Grotewold 12-0-1; Teto Korha 13-0-0; Nilsu Demirci 11-2-1; Paige Sparkman 12-1-0; Lance Selvig 11-1-1; Ben Shakespear 13-0-0; Cody Nickel 12-2-0; Trevor Granberg 13-0-0; Alison Lemke 11-1-0; Jonathan Marquardt; 10-2-0; Kara Aliperto 12-0-0; Ganisher Davlyatov 8-0-1; Sam Turner 8-2-0; Lazarus Jackson 7-1-1; Gabriel Ignacio 9-0-0; Skeeter Rogers 9-0-0; Beth Madsen 8-0-2; Michael Hanson 8-0-1; Elizabeth Jacobson 9-0-0; Daphne Drossart 10-0-0; David Rosencrance 10-1-0; Stacy Klinkhamer 10-0-0; Lado Jobava 2-0-0; Myra Colakovic 1-0-0; Butaka Lerdwutirong 2-0-0

II. Open Forum

- Greg Wilkins– Thanks for Remember November week efforts; invitation to Strategic Plan, Nov 26th, 5-7 pm; want MSSA involvement, CSU 284; free food; 6 questions relating to students vision; data will be provided to VP Student Affairs
- IMPACT concert chair – handout; allocation of funds to my pay in order to bring in large spring concerts; attempting to bring in Phil Phillips. We want MSSA opinion on a larger scale concert; also using my position at Verizon Wireless Civic Center;

Rosencrance: What is approximate value/ student;

Impact: shooting for \$5/student; realistically it is more 10-15.

Ben: What does one big concert mean?

Imp: Fun, Kid Cuddy, etc...slightly urban-type as this is what seems to go over well.

Jirik: IMP budget divided by students = \$30....

- Prof. Paul Finnachio – I'm here today to talk to you about Chick-Fil-A. They are about hate.
- It doesn't make sense that we see it every day in our CSU. You have the power to see that we get a new food vendor. Understand that they give a lot of money to the University, however, it is one of the most expensive. Another vendor will give you more as they'll be more popular.
- Urge you to talk to President Davenport about having their contract run out.
- They violate the MSU code of ethics.
- They pray the gay away like other organizations do.
- MSU has the 2nd oldest LGBT in the country. We don't want to see it in our CSU anymore.
- Please use your voice in this.

III. Presentations

- Housing Rates Consultation – Cindy Janney /Paige Sparkman -PPT & Handouts
- -Overview of 2012-13 expenses
- -Phase 2B planning for dining and health bldg.. – 2013 design, 2015 construction, 2017 opening. This is long-range look. Replace Carkoski before tearing down. The new building would use best-practice design. We won't borrow money to design. Timeline: Carkoski demolition - 2022; Phase 2C in 10 years.
- Proposed room & board rates (*handout*).

Schieler: Is there also an extra % increase in SH?

Janney: Yes, also staff increases at SH, cable and internet.

Shakespeare: So, you don't take loans?

Janney: We don't to design a project. However, would to build it.

Shakespeare: Do part of the current rates go towards planning in 2017?

Janney: Yes, this money is already set aside.

Rosencrance: 9% health insurance cost? Is this due to the legislation passing thru?

Janney: I don't know the background as we consult with Finance & Administration.

Jirik: Most corporations are seeing those increases.

Jirik: How do your reserve funds work?

Janney: Similar to student union budget structure and operate as though spent but not spent. We're working on unrestricted reserve.

Turner: Once done, will you be lowering rates again?

Janney: Whenever the University builds it receives an appropriation from legislature. When we build, we borrow so we need a financial plan. We have to make assumptions over the next several years. We assume that to be at 4%. (Assume revenue will be 1% over expenses + expenses going up 3% = 4%)

- Improvement options: promotional item; desk check-out supplies; water bottle filter; paper towels in restrooms; TVs in floor lounges; shelves and outlets above window; later dining hall hours; other items for discussion. (garbage cans, hand sanitizers, etc)
- RHA voting on 26th. Then presented to MSSA on 28th

Klinkhamer: What are the traffic counts for later dining hours?

Janney: Don't know but we can get that.

Lemke: Is that having everything or just limited things?

Janney: The biggest thing is staffing. If we do that, we want all food options.

Ramirez: Is the design ready to go?

Janney: Yes.

Ramirez: Weren't we just re-doing Chet's place, and now tearing down?

Janney: A lot of students have passed thru since then. It cost \$2M and has been a number of years (5). Some of the cost was equipment which will be relocated.

Turner: I noticed most students own personal devices. What is the benefit of having TVs in the lounges?

Janney: It was not my idea. It's up to students to pass.

Shakespeare: Will we be seeing improvements or just meeting rising expenses?

Janney: Primarily, to meet expenses. If maintenance is lower, we will be able to replace items or take care of some small projects.

IV. Approval of Consent Agenda

V. Appointments:

Commission on Ethics and Standards:

Student Allocations Committee:

- To provide \$300.00 in funding to the Sports Management Club to support a speaker for an event on 12/3
- To fund CRU in the amount of \$500.00 to support travel for 30 students to a regional leadership training event.
- To provide \$35.00 to Alpha Lambda Delta to support a finals week program
- To provide \$300 to On Par Connections to help support costs for a networking dinner on 11/29
- To provide \$250.00 to the Collective Action for non-Violence Education for an educational workshop

Recognized Student Organizations: Enlighten Pharaohs, Fellowship of Christian Athletes FCA, Liberian Student Association, Maverick Jazz Student Organization, Men's Club Hockey, Social Work Student Organization, Table Tennis Club
Approval of Minutes: 11-14-12

Approved.

VI. Officer Reports

A. President Shrestha

- Met w/Megan @ Reporter. Informal meeting. We talked about the Communication Board. According to her, it was removed 10 years ago. She said that now there is only a Newspaper Bd. However, that isn't reflected in our by-laws. She's very willing to work with us. Both boards are doing the same work. MSSA Constitution Commission would recommend changes. Budget: She said that 80% is supported by their own revenue and 20% by students.
- Meet & Confer tomorrow – need 3 more students. Thanksgiving meal being offered.
- Erica Johnson meeting on the development of an online graduation application. They want student input.

Collins: When can we expect ties/scarves?

Shrestha: We haven't had any update on those.

Rosencrance: Did Megan give any idea on what they plan on for budget?

Shrestha: No, nothing set yet.

Cody: Did she give you any idea of how revenue increased?

Shrestha: No.

Ramirez: The Communication and Newspaper Board issue concerns me as the Newspaper Board didn't do anything last year.

Shrestha: She didn't know how the process works. I told her that there were changes in 2009 and it still would need to go thru senate.

Collins: I can vouch that this wasn't communicated last year so it isn't her fault.

B. Vice President Schieler

- Senators are up in Edina collecting feedback and bringing back concerns to us.
- The Rav 4 is coming back in exactly 2 mos.
- Budget Meet & Confer yesterday – It's exciting to learn how we can collaborate, collect info., etc.
- Meet & Confer tomorrow – Please let us know if you have anything you'd like us to add to agenda.
- Rm & Bd rate consultation – glad to see the precise questions that were asked today.

C. Speaker Collins

- Proxy procedure – By-laws state that proxies can't vote in elections.
- Discussion items – Should be based on your constituency and framed as such.
- Try to avoid redundancy
- Motions – I want these before meeting. I can also help you word them and this is helpful in framing the significance.
- My job is to help you with these things. It helps in efficiency and power of meetings.

Rosencrance: Does the Constitution or By-laws say anything as to whether proxies should not vote?

Madsen (proxy) – As I'm very familiar on this constituency and am part of, can I vote?

Collins: I'd say no, as proxies may be uninformed.

VII. Senator Reports

1. Stacy Klinkhamer – Off Campus

- Women's Center – skit on Civility Campaign; update on spring events.

2. Myra Colakovic – Allied Health and Nursing

- Met w/Dean yesterday – looking for more funding for equipment. A new building is being planned next to Trafton. It is currently in the design phase. They are looking for student input.

Schieler: Have you and other senators collectively met w/Dean?

Myra: No, but that is a good idea.

Ramirez: Is it just labs or offices too?

Myra: It will be primarily labs and not offices.

3. Paige Sparkman – Housing Rates Follow up

- Have a list of improvements since R & B last year: A/C; card access; mobile stations and desks; shuttle services improved; email stations; removal of hazardous materials;
- Improvements asked for this year: water bottle filter; desk supplies; hand dryer use vs paper towels; later dining hall hrs.; TVs in lounges

Schieler: Is the RHA Executive Board addressing these repetitive requests?

Paige: Yes, they are.

Klinkhamer: Has the depreciation rate being looked at as far as Chet's Place?

Paige: I can bring it to Cindy.

Ram: Do you know cost of the facility?

Paige: \$2M for design and \$34.8M for the building. This doesn't include tearing down costs.

Grotewold: Do you work or deal with parking lots?

Ramirez: MSU is looking to make this a pedestrian campus.

Paige: I'm not sure what the plan is as of now.

Jirik: Cowan did talk about the possibility of making lot 16 a two-layer lot.

Shakespeare: Is this just a series of increases we're going to see?

Paige: Yes, it has steadily increased 4% over the past several years.

4. Sam Turner – College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

- SBS considering policy change for students to go overseas; affordability is concern; scheduling meetings with entire Int'l faculty to be able to do this. Meetings will begin first week in January.

Paige: Is this required by other universities?

Turner: No, ours is the only one.

Rosencrance: You say that this is required by Int'l faculty – any other faculty?

Turner: No, the Int'l faculty.

Lemke: Do you know how many already study abroad?

Turner: There's a large percentage but we want to know how to help those that don't choose to do it.

5. Mike Ramirez – Delegates – (Madsen proxy)

- Friday, 14 of us. Semi-formal attire; thanks to those who donated; and to Davenport for four of us to go. We are leaving at 1 pm. Registration competition – MSU won with 2020 registrations.

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

M#11.14.12A - Motion to move Chick fil A to Student Affairs Committee - Shakespear/Toft

Whereas: the role of an Academic Affairs senator is to advocate on behalf of their constituency's academic needs;

Whereas: the presence of a Chik-fil-a does not affect a student's academic needs;

Whereas: move to refer the motion regarding Chik-fil-a to Student Affairs.

Nickel: I think MSSA as a whole has to take a stance on this. I don't think this is practical. This is just taking a step backwards from progress already made.

Lemke: I think this should stay here as not all Student Affairs senators are here at one meeting.

Vote.

Motion fails.

M#11.14.12B Chik-fil-a - Schieler/Nickels

Whereas, Minnesota State University Mankato has a mission of promoting and supporting diversity and the rights of all people;

Whereas, questions have arisen regarding this mission and Chik-Fil-a;

Whereas, Dan Cathy, Chief Operating officer and President of Chik-Fil-a, made two statements opposing same-sex marriage in June and July of this summer;

Whereas, Chik-fil-a is a private company;

Whereas, the first amendment of the United States constitution allows freedom of speech, insofar as it does not infringe on the rights of others;

Whereas, Chik-fil-a has not violated the rights of any individual at Minnesota State University, Mankato;

Whereas, Chik-fil-a has reported to have re-evaluated their donations to politically active organizations, such as those opposing LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgendered) rights;

Whereas, sales in the CSU Chik-Fil-a franchise have followed trends in other CSU Sodexo brands;

Whereas, this uniform trend suggests students have not 'disowned' Chik-fil-a;

Be it resolved, the 80th Minnesota State Student Association supports the inclusion of Chik-fil-a in the Centennial Student Union in adherence with the plans of the University administration.

Rosencrance: I advise you to represent your constituency on this issue. If you didn't talk to them about this, keep your mouth shut. This is a statement by the MSSA for the general public. The broader that it is, the easier it is to defend. The language is very important. I trust you guys on this.

Schieler: We had a conversation with Jim G., IFO, about the faculty wanting them removed. He made it clear that it is our decision. I think it is time that MSSA take a stance on this. We asked all of you weeks ago to talk to your constituency about this. I hope you have done so. Chicago has since repealed their decision after the apology from Chik-fil-a's CEO and has allowed them forgiveness. I bring this up as an example of keeping forgiveness as an option in this.

Nickel: In my conversations around campus I haven't heard people say they were offended by them or of their negative opinion.

Collins: Remember, that when speaking, we speak on behalf of constituents and not ourselves.

Shakespear: We're not here to support the administration. If it goes against our constitution, we shouldn't be supporting it.

My constituency was extremely involved with Vote No and on that basis, I can say w/o reservation that they'd be happy to see it go and another replace it. It may have been put on the back burner but they don't want it there. The CSU in general is seeing more money.

Jirik: I've talked to a lot of constituents and would say that they would love to see it stay. It is the most convenient, and generally there aren't lines. I think we can re-word it better. Early on, some wanted them out, but now we don't hear too much.

Rogers: I've talked to my constituents in Sears and most didn't know anything about it and said that it didn't matter to them if they went or stayed.

Ramirez: The LGBT community is very against this. Other off-campus residents don't care. Their vote will be different as there is a very large population of LGBT.

Hanson (*proxy*): As an active member of LGBT the conversation about the removal of Chik-fil-a happens daily in the LGBT community. MSU has been known to students seeking shelter from hateful environments and this can send out a very hurtful message to others hoping to come here. There have been conversations that MSSA is overlooking this and doesn't care and that the gay community is being under-represented. This would make amends with LGBT.

Klinkhamer: The Women's Center is very against them being on this campus and they see it as a discriminatory body to people who aren't open to gays.

Turner: The biggest question is how do we say one group can express their opinion and others can't? It's freedom of speech and how can we limit? On our campus we respect everyone on campus. There are multiple places on campus to get food.

Lemke: My constituents said that if there was a similar dining place, they wouldn't be sad to see it go.

Nickel: There are always going to be dissenting opinions. We are an inclusive campus and have a variety of opinions.

Schieler: We are in the top 100 schools for LGBT rights. It's a chicken sandwich. If I'm a member of one of those organizations with a differing opinion, will I too get kicked off campus? It seems unreasonable for a 3rd party to get kicked off campus because they don't see where it is relevant to the mission and value of MSU. Diversity is also opposing opinion. Vote Yes and Vote No are both valid. We shouldn't be persecuted for our beliefs.

Move to amend to ... *Whereas, sales in the CSU Chik-Fil-a franchise have followed trends in other CSU Sodexo brands;*

Whereas, this uniform trend suggests students have not 'disowned' Chik-fil-a;

Shakespear: We can change the wording a hundred times, however, we need to vote. Opinion and money are two different things. We need to uphold the mission of MSSA.

Amendment passes.

Rogers: I've talked to students who have said Chik-fil-a is efficient but would not be sad to see it go.

Paige: Although forgiveness is a consideration in this, this language has nothing in it saying that we don't support the hurtfulness in this.

Hansen (*proxy*): This isn't just about the chicken sandwiches. Even though he apologized publicly, he still continues to support anti-gay organizations.

Jackson: The Chik -fil-a President and CEO have their own opinion and don't feel like we can kick them out because of it.

Turner: We have religious organizations on campus who don't agree with LGBT, however, we let them here. Does LGBT have more say than others on campus? We have to look at the big picture and not just one organization's viewpoint.

Nickel: This is an inclusive university and calling someone's opinion unhealthy is not what we are here for.

We had the Vote Yes and Vote No views. We didn't expel them for their beliefs. That's not being inclusive. Any one of the food venues could be replaced.

Motion passed: 9-For, 4-opposed, 5-abstain

M# 11.14.12C - Open discussion on size/cost of spring concert - Schieler/Selvig

Eliseo, from Impact asked for feedback on spring concert.

Klinkhamer: Past numbers show that bigger names bring in more students.

Turner: If we go with one, we would save \$700.

Grotewold: The danger with this is that it would have to be more specifically chosen and I think it would be risking a larger base of overall support.

Lemke: In the past, have there been different types of music?

Wilkins: It depends on what you call different. This year there would be a clear different in genre.

Nickels: I think we should leave the decision to Impact. That's why they are here.

Jirik: I recommend letting Impact make the decision.

Ramirez: Take it out to the student body and see what they want done. Impact should handle this.

Schieler: Impact reached out to us and it isn't productive to give this back to them.

Ramirez: I like that he's reaching out to us. I think we can give our opinion.

Lemke: I have heard that students would prefer one bigger one.

(Discussion was conclusive that there are pros and cons to both a large concert or two smaller concerts.)

M#11.14.12D - IMPACT budget review effectiveness - Jirik/Schieler

Open discussion on having the Student Allocations Committee review the allocations to IMPACT

Jirik: Want to have SAC to look closer at Impact's budget and whether to take action.

Schieler: I feel that it would help us now versus later.

M#11.14.12E - Pep Band location - Jirik/Rogers

Open discussion on moving the pep band during hockey games to their historic position in the student section.

Schieler: The reason why is because of tickets.

Jirik: It doesn't sound like it should as it is really subdued.

VP Jones: The information that VP Schieler gave is accurate.

Turner: Would this take away seating for paying students?

Schieler: If they did, where would they go?

Jirik: Right in front of the MSU box where they used to be.

Announcements

Collins: Thanks for putting in the time tonight.

Shrestha: President Davenport's day in the senate office is coming in Tues., 9 - 3 pm.

X. Roll Call

Senators Present:

Merissa Daley, Courtney Toft, Lance Selvig, Beth Madsen; Trevor Granberg, Cody Nickel; Stacy Klinkhamer, Daphne Drossart, Beth Madsen, Ganisher Davlyatov, Myra Colakovic; David Rosencrance; Sam Turner, Paige Sparkman, Skeeter Rogers, Elizabeth Jacobson, Lazarus Jackson

Senators Absent:

Briana Williamson, Teto Korha, Nilsu Demirci, Jonathan Marquardt, Alison Lemke, Jerica Thompson, Michael Hanson

Executive Staff Present:

President Soyal Shrestha; VP David Schieler; Speaker Chris Collins

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned @ 6:54 PM