

Senate called to order by 80th Speaker Chris Collins

I. Roll Call

Merissa Daley 3-0-0; Courtney Toft 3-0-0; Nick Jirik 3-0-0; Hassan Fall 3-0-0; Briana Williamson 2-0-1; Blake Grotewold 3-0-0; Teto Korha 3-0-0; Nilsu Demirci 3-0-0; Ashish Mainali 2-0-1; Paige Sparkman 2-1-0; Lance Selvig 3-0-0; Ben Shakespear 3-0-0; Cody Nickel 2-1-0; Trevor Granberg 3-0-0; Alison Lemke 3-0-0; Jonathan Marquardt; 2-1-0;

II. Open Forum

Greg Wilkins – Student Activities events update.

John B. – Greek update

III. Presentations

1. Mike Ramirez – Elections Committee Report

- Election Committee Members: Mike, Ben Shakespear, David Bassey
- Next Tues, Sept 11th
- By-law changes should make fall election bigger.
- Document created solely for fall elections. (doc cam) – proposing two separate documents. One for spring and one for fall elections.
- Changes include: Rules reading requirement, Campaign materials (\$175/\$600) limit, one voting booth location in CSU, otherwise all online; tied candidates decided by majority vote.

2. Moriah Miles - MSUSA State Chair

- MSUSA represents 7 state schools under MnSCU
- MSUSA is a 501 3 c Non-profit that represents you at local/state levels.
- Students pay .43 cent/credit for this representation.
- Currently conducting grassroots campaign and costs of textbooks. A committee is now being created. If interested, let me know.
- Tuition keeps going up because state appropriations keep going down.
- Lobby Core – If interested in joining, let me know as Feb. 13th is Lobby Day at the Capitol. Let me emphasize that it is where you speak on behalf of our state, and not your own school. Issues to be addressed will be determined at a later date.
- Delegates' conference, Nov 16, 17, 18th. Penney Reception. Soyal & David will be selecting attendees.
- Conferences will look different this year.
- MSU did a terrible job last year in terms of MSUSA.

IV. Approval of Consent Agenda

1. **Appointments: Academic Affairs** Jeff Purdy, Yasotha Veerayah, Monish Mukhiya **Student Affairs** Dillon Yeomans, Serey Arsentyev, Brandon Plombon, David Nielson, Courtney Toft **Student Allocations Committee** Alison Lemke, Amanda Blomgren, Beth Madsen, John Mandebvu, Kevin Whalen, Matthew Lindquist, Nick Jirik, Tess Bunker, Yasotha Veerayah **Student Union Board** Anish Dangol, Kara Aliperto, Kristine Jegede, Nick Wellman, Trevor Granberg, Zeba Janjua **Learning Technology Roundtable** Blake Grotewold, Dylan Fenger **Student Technology Advisory Board** Jose Barriga, Dylan Fenger, Blake Grotewold, Teto Korha **Parking Appeals** Paige Sparkman, Jonathan Marquardt **Parking Advisory Board** Jose Barriga, Paige Sparkman **Budget Committee** Hassan Fall, Matt Lindquist **Athletic Advisory Board** Alyssa Kuffel, Laura Milligan, Sydney Temple **Student Health Services Advisory Committee** Alison Lemke, Nilsu Demirci, Marissa Daley **Legislative Affairs Committee** Cody Nickel, Anthony Jones **Public Relations Committee** Shane Maki, Lance Selvig

Shrestha – Move to add Crawford to vacancies.

Ashish Mainali – Why is there a vacancy in SBS?

Collins – You weren't registered for classes nor did you respond to our email asking if you were coming back to senate.

Ashish – It is now taken care of and I will be registered for classes.

Collins – I'll have to look into and we can talk outside of senate.

2. **Recognized Student Organizations:** Accounting Club, African Student Association, Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Lambda Delta, Alpha Phi Sigma, American Society of Civil Engineers, Athletic Training Student Association, Campus Atheists and Agnostics, Circle K International, College Republicans, College of Riverwood Tower, Corrections Club, Eurasian-European Student Association, Gender Blur, German Club, Gerontology Club, Honors Student Council, Mankato Disc Golf Club, MSU Biotechnology Club, Creative Writing Society, Management Club, Mens Rugby Football Club, NAACP, Phi Sigma Pi, Psi Chi/Psychology Club, Public Relations Student Society of America, Secondary Education Club, Sigma Nu, Sigma Sigma Sigma, Somali Student Association, Sport Management Club, Swing Dance Club, The Attic, The Navigators, Women in Aviation (Northern Lights Chapter).
3. **Approval of Minutes 8-29-12**

V. Vacancies

1. College of Allied health & Nursing [2]
2. College of Behavioral Science [1]
3. Undeclared Majors [1]
4. Graduate Studies [1]
5. Julia Sears [1]
6. Preska [1]
7. Stadium Heights [1]
8. Off Campus [4]
9. Centennial Student Union Board [1]

VI. Officer Reports

A. President Shrestha

- If you're not on two committees, please see me.
- Rock the Vote – looking for people so if interested, please let me know.
- **President Davenport** – met with yesterday. Search Committee being set up for Provost. I'll be serving on this committee.
 - Green Fee – Davenport still concerned and wants to wrap one more bus.
 - Pep Band –
 - Dining Services overcrowding – looking at adding something else.
 - Fall elections next Tuesday.
 - Haunted House – Oct 24th, 9-12 . Passing sign-up sheet around
 - Sigma Nu fundraising event – looking for senators.

B. Vice President Schieler

- Please stop by anytime and visit me in the office.
- MSSA Marketing plan is coming out end of this week (still looking for Off-Campus and CSET senator photos)
- Need Hertz membership numbers up. Again, please sign yourself up and ask two friends. We need 25% utilization this month in order to get the Rav 4 back.
- MTRP-going well. Lots of students using it.

C. Speaker Collins

- First senator reports are today. An email will be sent by me when you're on the agenda.
- Request that they be kept fairly short until we get more involved in things this year. Length should be kept to around 6.5 minutes for less. Please email me four or less bullet points of topics
- Talk about what you've done, how to address issues and not just what you hope to do.

VII. Senator Reports

1. College of Business - Nick Jirik

1. Apple computers are now recommended by COB laptop program; used to be just PCs. Excited to see this happen.
2. Tech Fee over-lap worries to be assessed by accreditation committee – Dean has reassured us about reassessment so students aren't overpaying.
3. COB alumni gathering at Canterbury was a nice social event.
4. Reconvening COSBO.

2. Undeclared – Lance Selvig

1. FYE Undeclared class - Name change coming soon.
2. 1X funding rec'd for...
3. Major fair coming up.
4. MavEars – Student concern program; just being introduced to segment of students for testing.
5. Undeclared events
6. -Junk Email

Schieler: Are there any concerns with the tattling concept with the MavEars?

Selvig: They feel this may be more effective than phone calls/emails.

Grotewold: I do believe the MavEars is to be used more by faculty/staff??

Selvig: Yes, primarily for faculty/staff but also students.

John B: The purpose is to assist with retention and to act as an early intervention system.

Jirik: I think it is more experimental right now so we should wait and see how things go.

3. CSET – Blake Grotewold

1. CSET Chairs – getting to know my constituency. Have met with 4 of the 9 different chairs
2. Topics up for analysis
3. Science and Engineering research funding – Lack of funding availability.
4. Ratio of students/faculty
5. Adjunct and fixed-term faculty

Jirik: Is lack of funding in part, due to quality of research?

Grotewold: I think it is tough to find a balance of research costs and also getting published.

Jirik: How do we compare to other campuses on funding?

Grotewold: I'm not sure, but will do some research.

Lemke: As a student, I would be concerned with so much use of adjunct?

Grotewold: Use of full time faculty allows for better use of our money and also a better advising system.

4. McElroy -Ben Shakespear

- Thank you to Student Activities for all of the amazing events this last week.
- Over the Summer the remaining basic accommodation in McElroy; E, F and G hall had some minor renovations including new furniture, carpet, Kitchens, bathroom fittings and doors. To put it mildly, I think cheap was favored over quality and to say the least they are not up to standard. Some of the main problems that residents have experienced so far include;
 - A recurring sewage smell in the bathrooms.
 - The water is almost undrinkable as a result of the strong metallic after taste; many residents are resorting to using bottled water to brush their teeth and will not drink the water at all.
 - Doors have been replaced, but the keys have not. In the first week alone close to 10 residents of just my floor had to call security to unlock their doors, as their keys simply would not work.
 - The furniture has been replaced, which is quite decent of residential life, however, a love seat, 2 small tables and a couple of swivel chairs don't exactly cut it for 50 odd people. The lounge rooms in the un renovated halls, which are 3 out of the 4 McElroy halls are used constantly as they are the only rooms air conditioned on basic floors and they have simply not been outfitted to an acceptable standard. As well as this I have received numerous complaints about the lack of furniture in the Kitchens. These areas are vital to residents as the rooms themselves are close to 90 degrees without air conditioning. I had resident approach me yesterday to point out that he is on financial aid and working just to get through college and that he simply cannot afford luxuries like a fan. This student has been here 2 weeks and is already struggling.
 - The wifi services I assume have been changed or something over the Summer, as it stands, it is common to get booted of the network 3,4 even 5 times in an hour, this problem is easily rectified with an Ethernet cable, I'm sure residential life would happily supply them. But alas, some of the rooms are missing an Ethernet port.
 - Other issues that have arisen from the renovations of much of McElroy is the removal of the laundry from the basement of G Hall, residents are now expected to walk with their laundry to the basement of Preska to do their washing. E and F hall still have their laundry's, however, in their infinite wisdom Residential Life has decided that it would be a security issue to give G hall residents MavCard access to E and F hall to use the Laundry's, but access to Preska is absolutely fine.
 - I have had a preliminary meeting with G and H hall director to discuss this issue, which amounted to nothing. However, one benefit of the meeting was his office is air-conditioned as opposed to my residence which reminds me of summer at home in Australia. I am in the process of organizing a meeting with McElroy area director to discuss this further.
 - One of the main issues that residents have brought to me this year and at the end of last year when I was first elected revolves around the power of the Community Advisor's, or perhaps more correctly the lack of ability the residents have to challenge any allegations made by CA's. I will not intend to be as well informed as I could be on these issues, but what I have noticed is that when a CA makes an allegation the residents have very little they can do to challenge this. The residents understand this is a dry campus and there are rules they agree to follow when they sign their contract. However, having said that CA's are fallible, they are just as likely as you or me to misinterpret or make mistakes. We currently have a grade appeals process in place, I will take this opportunity to announce that this semester I will be working on establishing a process for reviewing decisions by Community Advisor's..... They are there to help the residents of MSU, not to rule over them, I welcome the input of Student Affairs Senators in this process.
 - The last main issue I want to address is the dramatic shortcomings of the Carkoski Commons Dining hall, with the closure of the Gage Dining Common and the opening of Preska, Carkoski is failing to cope with the greater demand by students. The disgusting food is the least of the issues at this stage, although that is a recurring complaint. At the moment my main concern for my constituency is the inability of Dining to cope with the extra student. Over the last 2 weeks I have heard of Students waiting upwards of half an hour for a sandwich. Dishes have been stacked 3 feet high next to the conveyer belt as the dishwashers cannot cope with the demand. Students simply do not have time to wait for new product to be prepared or for service. What appears to be happening is students are getting the only food they don't have to wait hours for, usually pizza, pasta, cereal or burgers. It seems pointless to mention the obvious repercussions on student health of such a diet. I have had email correspondence with Nathan Manthe, the operations manager with Dining Services. At this stage he has not agreed to a face to face discussion. I am very interested in the contingency plans that Dining has for coping and projections of student numbers in the Dining facilities and their plans to deal with it. It is my opinion at this stage Dining services is favoring cost cutting, over not just food quality, but the health of MSU students. This is simply unacceptable.
 - This semester I intend to focus my efforts on trying to find solutions to the problems students are having with Carkoski dining and again any input by my fellow senators would be greatly appreciated. This issue and the lack of review for Community Advisors will be my main focus. It is my duty to ensure regardless of what McElroy residents pay in board they are receiving equal services and facilities befitting their status as students and residents of Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Daley: They are using McElroy basement for Preska's electrical room.

Shakespeare: You just proved and supported everything I've said to this point.

Shrestha: Davenport did touch at this issue and options. One option was to have students eat in different shifts.

Shakespeare: Why not do more bbqs, or something similar, to take load off the dining hall?

Paige: Please give me a list of things. But I would encourage you to go to Res hall directly.

Schieler: I'm sorry you have to be the only res hall senator right now. Hopefully, this changes after elections. This is a great issue for us as senate to be working on. However, I think it is important that we come off less aggressive and be more solution-based in our approach. President Davenport and senior administration are currently working on state bonding for a new dining hall 3-4 years from now. Therefore, President Davenport needs this type of information to help support the request. However, we need to keep it positive and also be realistic. I admire your firepower Senator Shakespeare.

Jirik: I don't feel it is fair to say cheap halls and expensive halls. Don't compare and then gun after others.

Shakespeare: Others simply have more facilities than we do. There just seems to be disparity there.

5. Off Campus -Cody Nickel

1. Highland Neighborhood Association – 2nd Tues. each month;
2. Edina – Planning a trip to go up again. Want to keep relationship going.
3. Department of Public Safety – Due to cuts in parking budget, they looking for volunteers to give tickets to illegal parking.

Schieler: This also happened two years ago and was a great opportunity for students who are applying to Security.

Shakespeare: Are the tickets issued by Highland or City?

Nickel: Through the City of Mankato and volunteers have to go thru a training process.

Collins: Remember that the Senators are just reporting their findings so we should not be voicing our concerns or looking for solutions from them. Save your questions/opinions for after meeting.

6. Art and Humanities - Courtney Toft

1. SRC Meetings – Trying to talking to Dean; numerous A & H events going on.

VIII. New Business

M#9.5.12A - Fall Election Rules/Elections Committee

Whereas: With the By-law revisions making Fall Elections a larger election this year and in the future.

Be it Resolved: The Elections Committee has authored the Fall Vacancy Election Rules specifically tailored to the fall elections.

Be it Further Resolved: The MSSA adopt the Fall Vacancy Election Rules as the governing document for the 2012 Fall Elections.

Schieler: I move to table for one week. It is important that we cover all of the details and nuances before approving.

Jirik: Seconded.

Collins: If tabled, it will die. As it reads, it can't work as worded.

Ramirez: It would be easier to do it today.

Schieler: There is nothing in this motion that says it is for fall election.

Shakespeare: Can't we just pass it. There isn't much time and there's been a lot of work put into it.

Ramirez: These changes were made just for fall but are the bones of spring elections.

Schieler: I'd like to see us take our time. If not done by this election, it is fine.

Shrestha: I move to amend motion to say 2012. Since elections are this Tues, I think this document would be clearer to candidates running this fall. We can amend in the by-laws later on.

Schieler: I can state that this document will die after this fall.

Nickel: I disagree as I feel that it is unnecessary work to do one every year.

Shakespeare: I think we should accept it for 2012 and then re-do it.

Hand Vote – 16 I – 2 Nay

Amended motion passes.

IX. Announcements

- Homecoming parade participation for MSSA. See me directly after meeting. Sept 29th, 10 – 1.
- Nickel: If Legislative Affair Committee interest let me know.
- Shrestha: If interested in Sigma Nu fundraiser, contact me.
- Joe, Student Affairs Coord. – Email me with the dept./area you're interested in.
- Briana – I have free purple flame t-shirts for everyone. I'm limited to large sizes.
- AA senators – respond right away after meeting. We need to meet asap.

X. Roll Call

Senators Present:

Merissa Daley, Courtney Toft, Nick Jirik, Hassan Fall, Blake Grotewold, Teto Korha, Nilsu Demirci, Lance Selvig, Ben Shakespeare, Trevor Granberg, Alison Lemke, Briana Williamson; Cody Nickel; Jonathan Marquardt

Senators Absent:

Kara Aliperto

Executive Staff Present:

President Soyol Shrestha; VP David Schieler; Speaker Chris Collins

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned @ 5:50 p.m.