

81th MSSA Senate November 20th, 2013

- **Photos taken by Lenny Koupal**
- **Call to Order by Madam Speaker**
- **Roll Call**

Christian Harris 4-5-3; Jessica Gumbert 11-0-1; Sonja Holmberg 11-1-0; AJ Pitts 9-1-1; Joe Wolf 10-1-1; Katie Bobich 12-0-0; Zak Silker 11-0-1; Brooklyn Vetter 12-0-0; Josh Erhardt 11-0-1; Mariah Haffield 12-0-0; Matt Eberline 11-0-1; Elizabeth Jacobson 10-0-2; Jackson Zemke 4-1-0; Karson Krueger-Grant 7-0-0; Josh Hoekstra 4-1-0; Kenneth Kovac 7-0-0; Tyler Conlon 5-0-0; Evan Nagel 5-2-0; Becky Wegscheid 5-0-0; Emily Peterson 4-1-0; Brett Spartz 7-0-0; PJ Piotrowski 4-0-0, Margaret Neeck 3-0-0, Emma Deppa 1-1-0

- **Open Forum**
- ***Scott Boyd, StarID and Web Redesign Current Student Page (handout)***
 - a. New page layout
 - i. Working on making it more functional for students;
 - ii. Left & right-hand side links, social media feeds, feedback section,
 - iii. Will include current events and news;
 - iv. Asking for feedback from you and your constituents- be it critical or positive.

Pitts: When is the launch date?

Boyd: It is still in the development stage but expecting to launch next semester.

Zak: Is there a link to load MavCard dollars?

Scott: I will make a note of it.

- Star ID – Mike McLaughlin – Star ID’s purpose is to enhance security and functionality. It will offer classes at other campuses and will be the main driver of collaboration of MnSCU institutions. We’re planning for the launch on Dec. 19. Your ID is meant to be unique and random. We have engaged MSSA leadership in the pilot and haven’t seen any issues. Hoping for a seamless transition. There are 4400 students who have already activated theirs. ([www.mnsu.edu/Star ID to activate](http://www.mnsu.edu/StarID)).
- MnSCU also has site available for you too. There is good info as to why it is changing.
- Boyd: We are looking for MSSA’s help to do some tabling and answering questions, etc. We think it would be very beneficial to students.
- Bryan S. – We will also have people walking around campus to answer questions and help people.
- ***Katelyn Anderson, Student Health Services*** – First time event called, Not This Weekend, Thurs – Mon, Feb 6th. Participants will sign a pledge to abstain from alcohol for that weekend. The goal is to eliminate binge drinking. We would love it if MSSA could sign a pledge. We are also partnering with local bars and restaurants who will be offering non-alcoholic beverages. We hope to collect data to determine effectiveness.
- ***Becky Wegscheid – Room & Board Rates:***
 - b. Timeline of presentations reviewed;
 - c. Discussion on how tuition freeze would affect room & board rates;
 - d. Outcomes of Nov 18th voting;
 - e. Review of steps taken to inform students;

- f. Forty-seven RHA representatives voted (out of 67 possible) which was the best in years. We also discussed what process should look like.

Holmberg: What was the actual increase of expenses?

Janney: The percent of increase is 3.65%.

Holmberg: I think you're misunderstanding my actual question. The question is the same one I asked you the last time. What is the projected increase in expenses from last school year to this school year? How much more is it going to cost the system this year versus last year?

Janney: I wish I could tell you that it is 2.65% as we are shooting for 1% but I can't.

Spartz: What is the total resident population of the residence halls?

Janney: Just under 2750.

Haffield: What amount was voted on then for the base rate?

Janney: What they voted on was \$4. They voted on things that applied to everybody and then voted on flex dollars. This differed based upon what flex plan they chose.

Eberline: Is this info available online?

Janney: Yes, on our website (*mankatorha.com*). We'll put everything up there.

- **Approval of Consent Agenda**

*Commission on Ethics & Standards: **Attendance:** CJ Harris, Jackson Zemke;*

Failure to complete senator reports: CJ Harris, Janell Chrobak, Josh Hoekstra, Brett Spartz, Karson Krueger-Grant, Joseph Wolf, AJ Pitts, Evan Nagel, Tyler Conlon, Emily Peterson.

Student Allocations Committee:

--SAC recommends to allocate up to \$655 for travel of the Mankato Women's Rugby Club to Round 32 of the Division II National Championship in Steven, Point, WI on November 9, 2013.

--SAC recommend to allocate up to \$500 to On Par Connection to host a networking dinner November 22, 2013 in the Centennial Student Union, funding may be used to purchase student dinners.

(Approved after further discussion):

--SAC recommends to allocate up to \$3,276.14 to IMPACT for no less than 5 students and 2 staff members to attend the Regional NACA Conference April 3-5, 2014 in St. Paul, MN. The allocated dollars may not be used to purchase food except for meals included in the registration fee.

Business)

Recognized Student Organizations: National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Young Black Entrepreneurs, Minnesota State University Mankato Men's Lacrosse Team, Pre-Law Society, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, South Sudanese Student Association, Sigma Tau Delta Honors Society, Alpine Ski Team

Approval of Minutes: 11/13/13

- **Vacancies**

Allied Health & Nursing (1)

Undeclared (1)

Julia Sears (1)

McElroy (1)

Graduate Studies (1) - Mychael Ihnat: I'm interested in senate because I was heavily involved in my undergrad and want to stay involved. I had a lot going on and wanted to move into Graduate Studies. I can help inform students. I'm a GA on CSET advising. I'm also an intern for an RSO. I want to keep learning about this campus and how I can become more involved.

Pitts: What kind of things in your undergrad?

Mychael: I've been heavily involved in RHA and also served as the secretary to Greek life.

Haffield: What is your biggest strength?

Mychael: Adaptability. I'm able to adapt very quickly and can bring that here.

Bobich: Are you free every Wednesday at 4:00 pm?

Mychael: Yes, for the most part. (*Closing statement*): I never had a chance during my undergrad to become involved and do big things. I want to be involved now in a different way.

Bobich: I think it is great to have another graduate student involved.

Mychael Ihnat elected. (Hand vote)

- **Officer Reports**

- **President Collins**

- MSSA polo shirts – *Sign-up sheet sent around.*
- MnSCU discussion on general ed requirements. For instance, why is it that a theatre's major has to take a public speaking class? This will be an ongoing discussion and recommendations will be sent to MnSCU.
- Charting the Future – encourages you to not only think of current students but future students
- Delegates: We elected officers, approved a parliamentary position and sparked a discussion on Charting the Future, specifically, on general eds. Why does a theatre major have to take public speaking? As heard at Delegates, other schools are hurting right now. Enrollment is down and some institutions are looking at cuts. Fortunately, we're steady but not where we want to be.
- A lot of debate at Delegates on "preferred name" policy. This specifically applied to those who may be transgender, etc.
 - We do plan on having a proposal to send to MnSCU.
 - Policy technology review; policy of officers;
 - If interested in all changes, we can go over the minutes together. No major changes.

- **Vice President Shakespear**

- Global Citizens award ceremony – There were a number of people on campus awarded, including Greg Wilkins, and David Cowan.
 - Discussion with Scott Fee and a program in the Netherlands. It is largely focused on IT and web development and gave students practical experience. It is called HAN University and is located in the Netherlands. This is a program where students essentially created a school within a school. We've been offered the franchise here and would give us the ability to offer something similar here. Scott Fee will be presenting to MSSA sometime next semester.
- Ethic & Standards – Please note those on the consent agenda who haven't given senator reports and have attendance issues.
- Dead Week – The senate meeting that week will be in our conference room and is mandatory. If you are a committee chair, you need to report. We will be setting the MSSA agenda for next semester. Either Chris or I will be acting as Speaker.
- Delegates: Other universities are suffering from declining enrollment and budget problems. St. Cloud as much as \$8M. With the tuition freeze and faculty demanding pay increases, as they haven't had any in several years, there was a lot of rhetoric about increasing staff pay and possibly losing some student services. This has created a divide in other institutions. Let's keep our discussions here positive in that regard.
- Room & board rates proposal – MSSA will be putting forth a motion to oppose this.
- Meet & Confer tomorrow at 11:30. (*Wegscheid, Pitts, Spartz, Hanson, Shakespear, Collins*)

- **Speaker Madsen**

- StarID – *Please* talk to your constituents as many aren't reading their emails and don't know about this. Talk to everyone you know about it.
- Next semester we could schedule you for reports. Think about what you'd like.
- I may be leaving as speaker next semester if there is only one timeslot available in my clinicals.
- **Senator Reports**
 - Rebecca Wegscheid, Crawford
 - Working on room & board; website redesign; talking to Janney about getting internet problems solved; There is a Student Health Advisory Board meeting tomorrow; also Parking Advisory and I am now an appointed voting member. MSUSA Delegates was a blast. I will be informing my constituents about StarID.

Shakespear: There is a lot of opposition on the Parking Advisory Board about making the free lot a pay lot.

- Tyler Conlon, Preska
 - This has been a big year for Preska and we've seen a lot of changes. We're currently checking into the temperature differences between J & K halls. Looking at the feasibility of a recreation area downstairs and looking at cost. I'm also on the special events committee. Looking at different events. I attended the budget committee for RHA and found it interesting.
- Matt Eberline, Off-Campus
 - The University's Policy Consultation and Approval Committee is in the Informal Review Period
 - The Informal Review Period began November 8th and ends on December 9th.
 - President Collins has tasked the Student Affairs Committee to look over some of the revised and newly drafted policies and developing commentary on them to be brought back to the Policy Consultation and Approval Committee.
 - The Formal Review Period will begin on February 10th.
 - I've been in contact with David Cowan and will be meeting with him soon to discuss the feasibility of adding bike lanes to Stadium Road.
- Emma Deppa, Off-Campus
 - MavGuard – I'll be in charge of donations. I'm looking to get involved with other things so please keep me in mind.
 - Looking forward to senate potluck on Friday as I love to cook.
- Kenneth Kovac, COE
 - Working with the dept. chair on the submission of a strategic funding grant to redesign a room over in Wiecking Center for a simulator. Our partner, Northstar Aviation, is taking over Bowling Greens' program. Hopefully, this alliance will make for a better overall program. We're working on an accreditation program to bring it to a higher level. We're also working on a training syllabus and will be traveling with 2 professors to other campuses who've just rec'd theirs. FFA came out with new rule requiring pilots from 250-1000 flight hours. However, if you have accreditation it will only require 250. Two-hundred fifty hours generally costs a student \$60,000. Working hard to get this exception to the rule. Working to become a global pilot.
 - Resigning Dec. 6th from MSSA due to a job offer out in California.
 - E & S Committee – will be looking to meet with those of you on it in next 2 weeks.
- **Old Business**
- **New Business**

M#11.20.13A Student Health Services R&R Cap Increase/President Collins/Vice President Shakespear.

Move to approve SAC's proposed increase in the R & R cap for Student Health Services from \$70,000 to \$85,000 and then by 2% each of the next three (3) years. This new information should be reflected in the SAC Guidelines in Section I, item 26. (*This does not give them additional money.*)

Motion passes. 17-0-2.

Madsen: SAC needs majority senate approval on this per their policy guidelines:

-SAC recommends to allocate up to \$3,276.14 to IMPACT for no less than 5 students and 2 staff members to attend the Regional NACA Conference April 3-5, 2014 in St. Paul, MN. The allocated dollars may not be used to purchase food except for meals included in the registration fee.

Shakespear: Cost of conf. in St. Paul, MN?

Silker: There are a total of 7 people and registration is very expensive. They are looking for acts to bring to MSU. They basically have the opportunity to collaborate with artists and get a better deal. Originally, they wanted to send 13 students. We didn't want to pay for food. SAC funds look really sound, less than 1/5 for the entire year. This was a big decision for us.

Shakespear: I hope it is more for university benefit and not just for professional development.

Collins: Does this follow SAC guidelines?

Silker: Yes, as they are going on behalf of 15,000 MSU students.

Erhardt: Is this something they do each year?

Silker: Yes, every year and they usually send about 13 members. I'm not sure what has been given in the past but we can table this discussion and I can look into it.

Madsen: I want to remind you that we are not here to nit-pick SAC decisions as they are very capable and we've appointed them to make these decisions.

Bobich: I think it is a waste of time to table this as SAC was given this responsibility.

Collins: I hate to table to Dec. 4th as we had something special planned and would not have business to bring to that meeting.

Conlon: Is it going to change the vote?

Shakespear: This isn't a way to attack SAC members but is just a way of saying that MSSA represents more students than SAC.

Haffield: What would this accomplish?

Shakespear: As a student, I'd be interested in listening to someone explain spending this amount of our money.

Motion passes.

M#11.20.13B Move to establish a "preferred name policy" for D2L.- Shakespear/Collins

Whereas Minnesota State University, Mankato has long been a pioneer of LGBT rights,
Whereas Minnesota State University, Mankato has an expanding International Student Population,

Be it resolved the Minnesota State Student Association support the implementation of a "preferred name option" for D2L.

Shakespear: There was a motion at our Delegates conference and many who were there had a problem with this as it should be a legal name on transcript. When this motion failed, St. Cloud was extremely unhappy with this and contacted LGBT about this and so divided on this issue. Basically, if it would be a transgender and not identified as it spiritually or personally, it can be potentially very uncomfortable. We specified D2L as it is basically for class lists. Int'l students would also

prefer that as many names are hard to pronounce. I think it would be important for us to set this precedence. We are known throughout the system for being forward-looking.

Wegscheid: I've always prided myself on forward-thinking and think this is a good idea.

Holmberg: I think people should be allowed to put their preferred names on documents and tell people what name they want to be identified by. I don't think it fair for us to tell people what name they should go by.

Bobich: For clerical reasons, I'd suggest that the legal name also be put on.

Erhardt: What stops people from putting in just nonsense?

Collins: I think for D2L this almost fixes itself. I also feel most people wouldn't be that self-limiting so I don't think it would be a problem.

Motion passes (*unanimously*)

M#11.20.13C Approval of all board actions taken by President Collins at the November Delegates Conference. - Shakespear/Wegscheid

Whereas President Collins is the elected official designated responsibility for representing the student body in an official capacity,

Whereas we believe his actions are representative of the needs and wishes of Minnesota State University, Mankato students,

Be it resolved that the Minnesota State Student Association accept the actions of President Collins whilst representing the Minnesota State University, Mankato and the Minnesota State Student Association at the November MSUSA delegate's conference.

Motion passes.

M#11.20.13D December 4, 2013, Strategic Planning Meeting Collins/Holmberg.

Move to have President Collins as the non-voting chairperson for the December 4th Strategic Planning Meeting. *Be it resolved:* President Collins is the chair of the December 4th meeting.

Holmberg: I suggest that Chris be the chair as he has had experience and is able to remain unbiased.

Motion passes. 17-0-2.

M#11.20.13E MSSA Constitution Preamble – Gender Distinction Neeck/Conlon.

Whereas: The MSSA Constitution's Preamble states "The MSSA accepts its responsibility to ensure equal opportunity in all aspects of its program for all qualified persons regardless of race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, physical disability, reliance on public assistance, sex marital status, sexual orientation/affectional preference, or any other class or group distinction as set forth by state or federal anti-discrimination laws."

Whereas: The MSSA Bylaws are designed for our internal operation, and cannot supersede the MSSA Constitution.

Be it resolved: The MSSA Bylaws, Article 5 Section 2, be modified to change the following text: "The President of his designee shall be the official spokesperson for MSSA at all MSUSA functions" to "The President of the President's designee shall be the official spokesperson for MSSA at all MSUSA functions."

Conlon: This changes it to gender neutral.

Bulcock: If this is a by-law change, it needs to be tabled until next week.

Motion tabled until next senate meeting.

M#11.20.13F - RHA Consultation Rates for 2014-2015

Whereas the Minnesota State Student Association is the chief advocacy organization for students at MSU,

Whereas college is becoming less affordable,

Whereas affordability of college is a primary concern of the MSSA,

Be it resolved: The MSSA opposes an increase to Room and Board rates.

Motion passes. 13-5-2

Shakespear: I've been talking about this for three months now. What do you value as students? It is an affordable education for all students. Can we be true to our commitment and not some standard price increase that we see each year? This motion does nothing. This rate increase is going into effect. However, it will say, "listen, regardless of rhetoric, in principal we oppose any room & board increase. The state has recognized that college is no longer recognized. However, as RHA operates externally and as a business, it operates to make money. As it is not a mandatory fee, it cannot be capped. I think it powerful statement for us to say that we do not support this. Only thing we need to do is provide is a letter to the MnSCU Board of Trustees stating that student consultation has taken place. This will set precedence for future student government.

Bobich: I think this explains it well and feel that the 81st should set precedence and stand up for students. It is clear that students don't want to pay more to be here. They don't really know that this is separate as they think it goes to the school. I don't think it fair for anyone to get the same dingy room in Crawford every year and pay more.

Collins: A roll call vote makes the letter-writing process easier. I'll be tasked with writing a letter and saying what our opinion is on this matter.

Conlon: There were open meetings for the budget for all students and the only senators that were there were Becky and myself. It is not a business but more like a non-profit. RHA did approve this and they are representatives of the residence halls.

- **Announcements**

Collins: Dec. 4th strategy session in the senate office.

Haffield: MavGuard tonight.

Vetter: Pizza Ranch tip night next Weds.

Wolf: Impact event hosting an improv group.

- **Roll Call**

Senators Present:

Katie Bobich, Zak Silker, Brooklyn Vetter, Josh Erhardt, Mariah Haffield, Matthew Eberline, Elizabeth Jacobson, AJ Pitts, Taylor Conlon, Josh Hoekstra, Brett Spartz, Jessica Gumbert, Kenneth Kovac, Rebecca Wegscheid, PJ Piotrowski, Emily Peterson, Karson Krueger-Grant, Joe Wolf, Margaret Neeck; Emma Deppa; Mychael Ihnat

Senators Absent:

CJ Harris, Janelle Chrobak, Jackson Zemke, Josh Erhardt, Kenneth Kovac

Executive Leadership Present:

Chris Collins, President; Ben Shakespear, Vice President; Beth Madsen, Speaker

- **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned @ 6:22 pm