

81th MSSA Senate

December 4, 2013

I. Call to Order by President Collins

II. Roll Call

Jessica Gumbert 12-0-1; Sonja Holmberg 11-2-0; AJ Pitts 9-2-1; Joe Wolf 10-1-1; Katie Bobich 12-0-0; Zak Silker 11-0-1; Brooklyn Vetter 13-0-0; Josh Erhardt 11-0-1; Mariah Haffield 13-0-0; Matt Eberline 12-0-1; Elizabeth Jacobson 11-0-2; Karson Krueger-Grant 8-0-0; Josh Hoekstra 4-2-0; Kenneth Kovac 7-1-0; Tyler Conlon 6-0-0; Evan Nagel 6-2-0; Becky Wegscheid 6-0-0; Emily Peterson 4-2-0; Brett Spartz 8-0-0; PJ Piotrowski 5-0-0, Margaret Neeck 4-0-0, Emma Deppa 1-2-0; Mychael Ihnat 2-0-0

III. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. SAC recommends to allocate up to \$3,098.08 to Greek Life for non-food related travel expenses of 16 governing council officers (@ \$193.63 each) to attend the Regional AFVL Conference, February 6-9, 2014 in Indianapolis, IN.
- b. SAC recommends to allocate up to \$920 for non-food related travel expenses for the Mankato Women's Rugby Club to Round 16 of the Division II National Championship in Wayne, NE on November 16, 2013.
- c. SAC recommend to allocate up to \$4,000 to Repertory Dance for non-food related travel expenses of 20 students (@ \$200 each) to participate in the NC American College Dance Festival, March 14-19, 2014 in Milwaukee, WI.

Approval of Minutes: 10/30/13

IV. Vacancies

Allied Health & Nursing (2)

Graduate Studies (1)

Undeclared (1)

Off Campus (1)

Julia Sears (1)

McElroy (1)

V. Committee Reports

- *Bobich, PR/Marketing Chair; Elections Committee Chair:*
 - Senator pictures will be hung in the CSU; new projects for next semester; we will be tabling next semester in the various residence halls to remind students that this is their campus.
 - Already thinking about spring elections and will begin meeting soon to plan and discuss any changes for spring.
- *Gumbert, Academic Affairs Update:*
 - Each senator is currently working on a project to better their College or the University, two of these are:
 - Senator Holmberg worked to establish a Graduate Studies Student Advisory (you know the better name for it) group because grad studies are spread among all departments and their issues are not always seen in college-level student groups. She is also working to promote this group.
 - Senator Gumbert is working on marketing the College of Business scholarships and organizations to provide better visibility to these resources.
 - We reviewed a policy to possibly be sent to the review board about Graduate Students not being able to use printers while not enrolled in credits.
 - Reviewed policies up for review to ensure they're up-to-date.
 - Worked with students of grade appeal and grievance processes.

- *Jacobson, CSU Board:*
 - Einstein Bagel construction is currently underway;
 - Sodexo pizza is also getting a makeover;
 - B & N will be undergoing an update incorporating Maverick colors, new carpet, etc.
 - Working on the CSU budget for next fiscal year;
 - Next Tuesday afternoon hosting a thank you for Todd Pflingsten. Invitation for all senators to attend and also stop in to sign a card.
- *Hanson, Student Affairs Coordinator; Environmental Committee; Constitution Commission*
 - Student Affairs will be going over goals for the new semester.
 - Also looking to hosting more events in spring (i.e. Cocoa with your Senators) to enhance MSSA awareness around MSU.
 - Policy review process – Biggest conversation was about the non-smoking policy. Many feel it should also include electronic cigarettes. These have already been banned in many institutions. The City of Mankato has also begun discussing this issue.
 - Environmental Committee will be doing an 8-week recycling event again this year.
 - Constitution Commission has begun conversation about potential constitutional changes such as eliminating fall elections; looking for ideas to streamline elections and potentially tie into RHA elections.
- *Zak Silker, Parking Advisory, SAC, Library Advisory, Bookstore Advisory, Student Conduct Board.*
 - Discussion had about the new parking lot where Gage was, who will get first choice on (450) stalls and cost.
 - It is the goal of the Administration to make the free lot a paid lot.
 - Busing is going well and the numbers are significantly up.
 - Cowan shared the 7-year plan for lot maintenance.
 - SAC is going well. Haven't started on next year's budget so will be looking at next semester. Impact is looking for more support for their big spring concert. We've requested more information from them.
 - Library Advisory Committee – will begin getting discussions started on a coffee shop within the library.
 - MTRP is going very well.
 - Student Conduct Board meeting this Friday.

Shakespear: Discussion on the coffee shop was started last semester while Laurie was here. Ideas were discussed but nothing determined as far as funding. That would be left up to Dining Services and Finance. Every time contracts get renewed they give "X" amount of \$s to go towards renovation and new facilities. Last year Sodexo was renewed and they gave \$400,000. It was allocated towards Einstein Bagels, Sodexo pizza, and Carkoski renovations.

- *Joe Wolf – Adhoc Crosswalk Committee*
 - Talked about added crosswalks in front of Chipotle, one by Highland, and two on Monks.
 - We obtained costs for all options such as crosswalks, signs, lights, etc.
- *VP Shakespear – Ethics & Standards*
 - Chairperson is leaving so we will be looking for a new one next semester
- *Matt Eberline – Policy Consultation Committee*
 - Timeline of review.
- *Katie Bobich & Mariah Haffield – MavGuard*
 - We have entire timetable organized and ready for implementation next semester.
 - Funding: Mark Constantine has agreed to fund our table tents.

- Campus Security will give us \$100, which is one third of our poster budget. In addition, they will be giving us some of their Led lights and whistles.
- Entire month of February is ready to go.
- Working with Integrated Marketing on marketing plan. Already have a template for our website.
- Two big players are Campus Security and Mankato Dept. of Public Safety.
- We've also met with all heads of Student Affairs departments.

Collins: Strategic Planning Initiative: This has included working with the southern sweep initiative, partnerships with Minnesota businesses, and Iron Range partnership. I would encourage you to think research in a service sense when thinking about how to get students involved.

PJ Piotrowski: *Bookstore Advisory Committee*

- Reviewed copy of the renewed, 3-yr B & N contract and budget overview;
- List of books to go onto MTRP;
- Please encourage your professors to get in their book orders early otherwise it makes it difficult for students to know what they need.

Shakespeare: MTRP is one of the most successful programs here. The process of deciding what books appear on the list is coming up soon. If you have suggestions, please let one of us know. (*Joan Roca, Carrie Uecker*).

VI. Constructive dialogue

- *Achievements to date:*
 - Big Ideas Real World Thinking model
 - COB Internship Program for all students.
 - MavGuard
 - Successful elections resulting in a nearly full senate.
 - Library Connection involvement
 - MTRP growth (10-20% this year)– Request to IFO for their involvement in sending out email to all faculty.
 - Implementation of MavSync
 - Star ID pilot
 - RHA Consultation Process – MSSA opposition to rates increase.
 - Website redesign.
 - Preferred Name Policy on D2L – LGBT has been pushing this idea for ten years and MSSA has now moved this forward. Should be fully implemented next semester.
 - Senator pictures in the CSU.
 - New CSU Director and being involved in that search process.
 - COB Resource Fair and doubling of organizations.
 - Free lot remains free.
 - Review & commentary on policy revisions.
 - Green Fee/Buses.
 - Smoking ban. U of M called us seeking feedback on how we managed it..
 - MSSA representation at summer orientations.
 - Strategic planning, enrollment management, budget meet & confer representation, etc.
 - Planner Project and the renewal of another 3-year agreement.. MSSA receives \$600/year for this project.
 - Homecoming involvement.
 - By-law revisions.
 - Hertz and the ability to provide students a car to drive.
 - Student attorney service.

- The Herd – is now officially recognized with help & support from MSSA.
- **Needs improvement:**
 - Town Hall meetings for next semester. This is a way to inform students on campus informed about things on campus. Hope to have these happen by March.
 - Lawyer review process. This program accounts for a substantial amount of money out of the MSSA budget. We need to be taking a more active role in the evaluation and performance of the student attorney. Possible survey of students on this service.
 - Attendance at senate meetings.
 - Structure at committee meetings.
 - Hertz program. Improve marketing and customer serviced received from them.
 - Ethics & Standards: Overall accountability of senators and executive leadership.
 - Bus route improvements.
 - Better communication among committees.
 - Free lot – maintaining it for the coming year. Administration’s push to make it a pay lot.
 - City/University meetings.
 - Cabinet Meetings.
 - Increase student involvement (i.e. elections, homecoming, etc).
 - Do a better job of marketing MSSA.
 - Metro students and payment of student activity fees

VII. Strategic planning

- Revision of the FYE classes. (*Retention*)
- For students play more of a role in Strategic Partnerships. Including partnerships between departments.
- Global institutions (making it easier to transfer within colleges)
- Create a more environmentally friendly campus.
- More student involvement in academics. (i.e. more involvement in general ed process/requirements).
- Community transportation system. Working with the city to better meet transportation needs of all.
- An affordable education.
- Accountability of professors and the faculty evaluation process.
- Be more critical of student fees.

Lofty Goals:

- Reshape general education requirements (Charting the Future)
- Get 50% of undergraduate students to vote
- Increase enrollment by 3%.
- Cap student fees at 1%.
- Decrease drop-out rate from 25% to 15%.

Collins: What can we do as your executive leadership to make this a better experience to you?

Wolf: Glad we did this.

Conlon: New senator orientation would be helpful.

Haffield: Think we need to hold people accountable to make sure they get their job done and achieve something.

Collins: Yes, I think it is up to us to create that positive culture in senate.

Bobich: I thought the camping trip was a good time, but think it should be closer to the beginning of school as over summer many people are gone.

Collins: I’d like to argue that a lot of those who attended it are the rock stars this year. However, I do think better timing is a good idea.

Haffield: Possibly even more bonding-type events.

Collins: How would you feel about a campus rec event? Sam would be willing to bring his team and would help facilitate an event.

Shakespear: As we don't have an Ethics & Standards Committee Chair and wouldn't until next semester, I'd like to appoint Becky Wegscheid.

Vote - Becky appointed.

VIII. Old Business

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/affectational 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."

Motion passes.

IX. New Business

X. Announcements

XI. Roll Call

XII. 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

Executive Leadership Present:

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

XIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned @ 6:10 pm.