

## MSSA elects speaker

**ELENA SHUFELT**  
assistant news editor

Minnesota State Student Association (MSSA) elected Matthew Schmidt as its speaker for next year. Schmidt is a senior who has used parliamentary procedure with his fraternity Phi Delta Theta. He believes that his experiences will benefit him in his role as speaker.

In his first report as speaker, Schmidt said, "Thank you very much for electing me. I won't let you down."

Schmidt ran against current Minnesota State off-campus senator Michael Do and former senator Dave Meyers.

President Tom Williams and Vice President Brett Anderson proposed a walk to the capitol to bring attention to MSU and higher education issues. Williams said the walk would take place in mid-May and participants would walk from Mankato to St. Paul over the course of three days. Interested students should contact Williams or Anderson for more information.

Rick Straka, vice president of finance and administration, shared the budget that was presented to the board of trustees April 20. The estimated state budget gap for fiscal year 2011 is \$5.8 to \$7 billion or more, which is a

significant problem. To make up for that, tuition would have to increase 13 percent, but because of the tuition cap it is estimated to continue to increase by only five percent each year.

"That's really consistent with what all the state colleges did this year," Straka said. "We're not planning any scenarios that would raise tuition more than five percent."

Straka said that compared to other universities in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system, MSU is doing well.

"We believe we're out ahead of the game," he said.

MSSA passed a motion for an Advising Task Force to continue in fall. The task force was created by MSSA representatives and the Faculty Association to improve advising techniques because they are aware that advising is an important issue to the students.

Williams and Anderson will be attending many of the freshmen orientations over the summer to get new students acquainted with student government. If the president or vice president cannot attend an orientation a senator will take their place.

Anderson said freshmen and other College of Business students should know that the previously required laptop will only be recommended in the fall semester. 