Minnesota State University Moorhead
Student Senate Agenda October 17th 2013

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call (Pham, Hjelseth, Lavelle, Soderholm, and Davis Absent)

III. Approval of the Agenda (Kelly, Clay, 1 nay, passes)

IV. Approval of the Minutes (Cunha, Kelly, passes)

V. Public Hearing
   a. Meet and Confer
      i. Policy Review
         One of the policies under review is the Housing policy.
         Informal review process by Nov 17, all policies will be online
         for people to read and give feedback. We will then go into a
         formal review and bring it back to senate. Some of them are
         very important to students.
      ii. Faculty training
         Monday faculty went through lead advisor training. Tuesday all
         faculty went through advising training and we brought in a
         speaker.
         Struxness: Speaker video in?
         Yes, he couldn’t be here in person.
      iii. Budget Update
         (Handout on IFO Meet and Confer) This important to cover
         with you because it explains early retirement incentives and
         possibly retrenchment, though that is a last result. We want to
         make sure you have the data and accurate information to give
         out to others. Third page, enrollment numbers compared from
         2010-2013 and these are the 30 day numbers which are our
         official numbers. We experienced a 3.5% decline in enrollment.
         We’ve declined by 11% since 2010. Every 1% decline
         represents $405,301 in lost revenue. We would have 4.6
         million dollars more in our budget right now if that wouldn’t
have happened. We address the reasons for the enrollment decline later. Next page we compare the student to faculty ratio from 2001-2013. In 2001, we had 412 faculty and now we have 405. Our faculty has stayed consistent even though we have lost students. Our ratio is 15/1 currently, we are still very low compared to our peers. We need to reduce faculty to reflect the enrollment decline. We would still have a 16/1 ratio and it would still keep us the lowest, minus Metro State.

Struxness: What happened 2002-2003?
First round of layoffs
Mahoney: We were over-drafting our bank so we reduced the faculty along with many other areas.
Schwartzwalter: Also a large election year which may have played a factor
Provost: Didn’t have money to pay our bills. We needed to balance the budget. Next chart is the Budget, FY13-16. We do have reserves which will help and we are planning out so that we have ways to deal with situations like this in the future. Next year deficit of $5 million and if we don’t take reductions our deficit will grow to $8 million. Our budget is unsustainable at this point and we need to rectify it.
Struxness: Compensation increases?
Mahoney: They were not receiving increases for many years and now they have re-negotiated increases.
Blackhurst: They are just estimates.
Powell: Worst case scenario assumed, what if it stays the same and we get surplus?
President: I don’t think that will happen. We are making reserves to prevent and working on base funding for student success.
Provost: some faculty argued to plan for full 8 million deficit so that we may have a surplus in the future to invest. Next chart shows declining share of allocation from MnScu and how much we are spending 2006-2014.

Struxness: MnScu money on a biennium?
Yes, we’re on a lag. We get allocation for 2 years in a row.

Struxness: If St. Cloud declines on 3.2% enrollment and we decline at 2.5%, would we receive more money?
Provost: Yes if they started to decline they would receive less.

Next chart, Dollar Value of Extra Duty Days and Reassigned time. Faculty interested in how much we pay adjuncts, etc.
Next chart shows our fixed term faculty. We paid 2.8 million in 2013 and 2.6 in current year. Next pages are all the adjuncts we hire.

Struxness: Fixed term, would you just not hire adjuncts to cut down instead?
We have to get rid of fixed term before faculty is cut, so it will depend on early retirement. Some faculty would like to get rid of all adjunct and fixed terms before faculty. Others hope we are more strategic.

Danielson: How many are you hoping take the early retirement?
Next handout, shows how many eligible, we can’t afford to give them all that. We show how many we can afford and how long it will take to get the return. We want these retirements to be voluntary and it’s strongly preferable over layoffs. We are offering it to 4 staff members.

Clay: State funding and appropriations constant?
Yes it is imbedded in the budget.
Schwartzwalter: With these 38, because they are employees of a state institution will it become public knowledge about who it is offered to?
No those are private.
Danielson: So hoping 35 take it?
Yes, hoping in a range from 34-40.
Struxness: Sending it to all 97?
Yes, just only able to pay 38 of them.
Powell: Projections on how it will affect budget in future?
Provost: Reduce base budget by 4.2 million so it doesn't solve the problem but it gets us close.
Schwartzwalter: With any faculty leaving there is work they did that won't be done anymore, any programs or minors or majors that would be adversely affected or be phased out?
No list in my head right now. We do have programs that are not viable that would help us by closing but it would hurt students and we don't want to do it. I think if we did do it we could get through it and it would be tough but in the end it would help us be more effective with the same low student to faculty ratio.
Struxness: Formula to assess how programs would be cut?
Success cost, and enrollment assessment, then we would observe overall programs to see what would be cut.
Struxness: If you cut program, what happens to those LASC requirements?
Lots of majors with very little LASC courses and the opposite with very little majors with lots of LASC classes. Multiple ways departments contribute to the role of the university. Last chart compares us to peers in system in expenses. Instruction is the faculty salary portion (FTE). Administrators are in Academic support section. Far right column where we rank relative to
our peers, number 7 means we have lowest FTE student to faculty ratio. 1 we have highest in support. Which means we are inefficient.

Struxness: Faculty would say what can we cut on student services?

Those are funded through fees and does not fund our general fund.

Struxness: Do you have to have a certain amount in general reserve?

MnScu says we need to have 5-7% in our general reserve. Then we have to have 5-7% in board reserve to help pay salaries. Our revenue dropped so we are at around 6.5%. Enrollment management reserve and we always try to keep 3%. We need system office approval if we go below 5% to spend general/board reserve.

Struxness: Enrollment strategy?

Next time we come. Tomorrow is an open forum to talk to students based on facebook and Struxness will be there.

Struxness: What can we do to get that information out?

Information gets absorbed when it becomes relevant, hard to get people to see it before hand.

Struxness: Parking last year and low turnout, how can we market it better?

Don’t want students to overly worry about these things, this is important but other things we don’t want them to overly concern themselves if it’s not urgent.

Clay: Way to market it without it being “urgent” per se but also as a way of being transparent so they can see that information.

Danielson: Communication problem on campus

Ask students tomorrow as well.
Struxness: Sucks being used a lot by faculty and open angst in classrooms, may not even be a student on this page.

iv. MatBus Update
Not a huge update. We want to form teams about MAT Bus and Tuition team. We want to start meeting.

Struxness: Limit it at all
No, we will accommodate them.

Struxness: Cost increases came out of general fund or will we look at a fee increase?
Discuss that in committees.

Powell: What will you do if a whole bunch in one department took it?
Put a cap on how many we will take from each department

VI. Advisor Fox’s Report
1. Hope you had a good fall breather and had some time to relax!
2. There is a student forum related to the budget cuts tomorrow from 11am-11:50am in CB 111
3. Admissions Preview Days are going on right now. If Senate has any promotional materials (i.e. brochure or handout about senate), I’d be happy to include it with info from the OSA at our table.
4. Peter Bielagus, a financial literacy speaker will be speaking on Tuesday from 5-6pm in CB 109. Brought to you by the Dragon Entertainment Group.
5. Senate should think about ways of promoting themselves and encouraging student involvement in Senate (see Facebook post last night). Struxness: We have posted Chair positions, looking for more suggestions though.

Fox: Fine balance on what’s important and what’s not until it becomes relevant.

Schwartzwalter: Would you consider marketing campaign with new PR Chair.

VII. Officer Reports
a. Secretary Danielson
Candy is gone in the office, it lasted a week so I will try to get more and different kinds for next week. Still working on Pictures. Need
chair reports sent to me. Let me know what you want on the chalkboard.

Pham: Thinking about how to get more students involved with Senate, they don’t feel like they will fit in this kind of meeting. Event with a panel or some kind of informational session. Offer them information that we have, it will be more appetizing than this meeting.

Powell: Perhaps Roberts rules is even intimidating. Maybe it’s possible to have a meeting without strict rules. Get to know the rules.

(Struxness add PR in New Business)

b. Treasurer Neupane

Pretty intense meet and confer discussion tonight. Met with Provost Blackhurst about talking about MAT Bus and if it’s the right time, she said yes. I asked her about graduation dates affected by how classes are provided. I want to survey the graduating class to see how much they were affected. Look into it in the next 30 days. Also I updated the website a little bit today.

c. Vice President McFarren

Our senate retreat falls on a meet and confer date. November 7th is what I’m changing it to. Becky might not be available. Today I worked on my transition manual for 3.5 hours so I can have a how-to for everyone else who has to do it.

Danielson: Ask to change?

I will ask.

Struxness: Talk to anyone in the Career Development about strengths?

I can go investigate.

d. President Struxness

Would like you to show up at the forum tomorrow between 11-11:50 in CB 111 if you are not busy. Policies, Clay and I sit on the committee. Senate will have to review the revisions to the policy and give our
input and approval. FYE Dragon Success task force, creating a rubric for all classrooms to follow and senate giving input to what they would want their FYE class to be filled. Need comments on what you want in your next president. Clay: Committee open for public sit in? No.

VIII. Committee Reports

a. Campus Affairs Chair Kelly
Facilities and Ground met last Friday. Individuals doing parking lots put big proposal together. Cost ½ million dollars we don’t have. Library still working on it. Bike workshop got approved. Developing a policy on a free speech area to deal with incident last week. Need information on how to post a survey. Clay: 500, 000 for? Final plans for parking lots near Owens and King.

b. Diversity Chair Cunha
Still working on survey with ODI, first step to prayer station on campus. Got money for movie, trying to reserve a room for it. ROTC task force, I’m sending sign up sheet around for it.

c. Leg and Internal Affairs Chair Schwartzwalter
Elections November 5th, October 15th was the last day to pre-register to vote. There is same day registration though. Tell students on campus that they can vote in here. I want to table for it too, I don’t want to overwhelm you either. Class raps and developing script for that and people can do that. Did not make council meeting this week, there was a forum last weekend. All serious candidates were there. Mayor and 2nd ward, look up info on them to give to students. The last candidate form will be on campus the day before elections. Permanent Proxy to SOAC right now, need one. We have liaisons for certain policies, I’m the one for FYE and Kevin is the one for Tobacco. Good consensus on policy.
d. MSUSA Coordinator Danielson
Still need more people for Fall Delegates, it’s a good time. Think about joining Lobby Corp, get to advocate to legislators at a state level. MSUSA update sent out, hope you all got it. Working with ROTC task force. On the 30th Staff is coming and leadership training. Neupane: When Lobby Corp meets?
Need membership first. Schwartzwalte: Number aiming for lobby corp?
5 but as many as possible.

e. Student Affairs Oversight Chair Pham
I am continuing to try to get students to join committees. Did a review on how I am doing at this job, asked how students get involved. I want to invite some of them to my meeting, and show how a committee will be run. I met with some students interested in Senate. (Motion 10 minute break, Cunha, Danielson, fails)

IX. Old Business
X. New Business

a. Committee Appointments
b. PR Discussion
Struxness: Saturate student news for a couple weeks. We will be tabling again once we hire a PR Chair.
Danielson: Town hall meeting
Schwartzwalte: Turned down last year
Danielson: Facebook updates weekly
Schwartzwalte: Facebook following is kind of large, big question is what would be the most effective communication?
Kelly: Class raps, something to wear
Danielson: T-shirts
McFarren: Pictures of each student in all of the colleges
Davis: Shirts and buttons and we also did posters in the dorms. The main point is that the responsibility lies with us to say we are senate.
Cunha: Using the advocate for weekly column.
(Move to suspend rules, Powell, Neupane, fails)
Kelly: Maybe we should make a poster for each of ourselves to post it in buildings.
Neupane: They didn’t want to lower morale of the students, and we need to know what kind of information we can share. What topic to share with the students on facebook every week.
Struxness: Admin not hiding the early retirement so we shouldn’t. We do need to be unified as a body.
Fox: Can help with publications to edit.
Powell: Shirts, accustomed to advertising. Buttons may be ignored and not register. Student senator in big letters across it. Jacket may be better since winter is coming up. Ran into student earlier about the iguana, and it looks like not much will happen because what can we do about it?
Struxness: A lot actually, we can do it a lot.
Danielson: Off campus students have no one building
Kelly: Weekly student accomplishments/tasks for senate in the advocate.
Schwartzwalte: Separate general student senate advertising with how to contact us and it should be unified color scheme and everything that stands out in every building, separate individual issues. We need to have something constant for general purposes.
Neupane: Friday Nights, Problem Thursdays, senate weekly event, some avenue for them to tell us their problems.
Kelly: Hour before each meeting with sign about questions for Senate.
(Motion to limit discussion Danielson, Cunha, passes)
Gbleah: Meet and greet and ask for students and tell them about our work and meetings.
Schwartzwalter: Class raps and train to do them
Holm: Buckshot every single way as long as it’s cheap and easy to do.
Facebook because everyone looks at that. Senate needs a brand.
People like to complain and that’s it, if we solve that issue we will be on top.

XI. Announcements
Danielson: World War MUN next Saturday and delegates
Struxness: Forum tomorrow
Clay: College Dems next Tuesday
(Move to adjourn Cunha, Kelly, passes)

XII. Adjournment

“There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind.” C.S. Lewis