Minnesota State University Moorhead  
Student Senate Agenda  
February the 16th, 2012

I. Call to Order (5:05)

II. Roll Call  
(Absent: Trefethren, Fog, Butze, Hestbeck, Taylor, Proxy for Singh and Kelly)

III. Approval of the Agenda (Beneke;Anderson)

IV. Approval of the Minutes (Hawley;Bernier)

V. Public Hearing  
a. City of Moorhead (Parking)  
Lisa Vatnsdale: On road tour, conducting a parking study around Concordia, MSUM, and Eventide. We are checking for problems and how to address them in a way to get feedback from all of the community. Currently gathering input from hired company. They want to listen to students as well.  
John: (FAICP) City planner in MN for 20 years. We did original downtown plan. Purpose of the meeting is to listen and inform the community about what we’re trying to do. We value the ongoing relationship with MSUM, Concordia, and Eventide. We counted cars within the study area during the day and at night. Part of the problem had to do with rental housing. No perfect answer but we have some tools to present. As communications improve we hope the community continues to communicate. We have a survey for everyone to fill out. This is a controversial issue on both sides, not just a technical exercise. It is a community values issue with how people view their community. We’re focusing on college and community issues around the city through planning services in multi-city study. If this is going to be successful everyone needs to have a leading role. Most of the past issues are no longer an issue now; parking was not a big issue in the past. Presentation about past key tools used in 2006 to solve the issue. Part of the problem is the rules are not being enforced or communicated properly. The working group evaluates every part of the process and gives feedback to the executive group in the past.  
Paul: We counted cars and took aerial photographs to see where open spaces were. We like to use 100% utilization which is when things start to fail (all spots that are not driveways full). Neighborhood impacted by other people being in spots around their house. At 75% it functions, some spots are open there is still no capacity for events still, etc. At 50% things calm down, spaces available in desirable locations. At 25% no problems, everyone is generally happy. Concordia lot is full, some spill over but not much. MSUM has fees for lots and not as full because of that. 3-4 block area at 75% utilization. During the evening Concordia is pretty empty, the only full area is around the freshman dorm that has little spot availability. MSUM in the evening it is obvious it is not the renters that is the problem. The impact of rental properties was looked at and there is no correlation between the rentals and the parking. We have listened to the community stakeholders everywhere and we want more input for finer details. Identify common goals and any points of conflict. Identify appropriate management techniques and manage the problem effectively. Look at both issues of supply and demand: transit, biking, walking, etc. Engage student leadership to identify and support solutions to see how students feel about the problems and what can be fixed. Make recommendations for change. Tools: Sight triangles which is a safety hazard, Zone permits for street
parking in certain zones (residents are anyone living in the neighborhood), on-street loading zones for deliveries, overnight parking restrictions, parking meters, parking time limitations (faculty members taking spots… not students), snow plowing restrictions (safety problem as well). Non-regulatory tools are adding more parking, parking is not being utilized at MSUM as much, ticket enforcement, towing more for snow plowing, hour cars (special cars for parking spots to use for those who live on campus and don’t use cars as often), enhanced wayfinding signage for people to find spots for visitors and electronic smart boards to alert about full lots and empty spots, security concerns in parking areas, promotion of alternatives to automobiles.

John: Cars not often used maybe put them in a more remote lot and put enhanced security on them. Better solutions for visitors. Our expectation that city partners will be active and we will coincide with them.

Public lobby faculty member: Heard rumors and wanted to make sure it wouldn’t affect our students with more cost. I live in study zone and have had no problems with students and parking. Some residents are aggressive towards students and shouldn't make a claim to public property, it’s not theirs to claim. Signs are hard to see in my neighborhood, stuff could be done with that. Enforcement needs to be handled as well, tickets need to be given.

Anderson: We have been looking into the transit cars, it is expensive to get started up. We thought about partnering with Concordia but it would be cool to do it with the city as well and make it a community effort to be cost effective. Also renting bike programs.

Ehrlich: We looked at zip-car

Hawley: By 10:30 in the morning there was no close parking to the school. The signage is all over the place and not consistent. Some of the free lots on campus have been ticketed. K lot is farther away than Concordia in some cases.

John: We agree that a lot of the parking is just too complicated. We are trying to find ways the whole system can be simplified.

Hawley: We have a free lot that has been ticketed.

John: We are very aware of the sensitivity to costs to students and thought about a permit for per credit.

Ferguson: Overnight parking violations that people who live on campus that do not have parking permits. Overnight restrictions not be around campus or hour cars would be the best solution for that.

Lisa: All lots are free after 4:30pm until 8am.

John: We are only giving potential solutions.

Ferguson: Tuesday and Wednesday I would move my car…. I think it would be better if the signage was evaluated as well.

Raza: What times were studied for evening?

Paul: Started at 6:30 until 9:30pm.

Raza: Students may be not coming back until midnight or later. Rental housing having more cars with rooms and tenants. Parking spots are utilized by what building is being occupied by the student or their major. I suggest that you publish things in the paper with ideas and such. How do you make recommendations on utilization?

Paul: A lot has to do with what we hear here. Issues weren’t volume based. The biggest problems come with violations. People parking in driveways and no parking areas.

John: The recommendations will not be separated by utilization, they are used as a data tool so we can make those recommendations at the big picture after all the data is collected. Some parking management strategies, we are still thinking that through. How can the city manage things effectively. We are encouraged by the civil exchange of information that we’ve had.
Lobby Girl: Bus system is difficult to use. Online applications through a mobile device or a map on campus. I am happy about the tone of this discussion.

Bernier: How many times did you do the survey and when?

Paul: Last year about this time during the flood. We started doing it right away before diversion took place, over 2-3 days on average days without finals or events going on. We did it at the end of March.

Bernier: I like snow plow routes, no parking at night in the Twin Cities at night so there is accessibility for snow plows. I think it is important to improve the transit system, especially the park and ride. The park and ride is not efficient and not well known about. It is usually late as well. A shuttle from the Marriott where we have a lot would work really well. The parking time limits as a managements, if it's done it should be at least 2-3 hours because students have longer classes than an hour.

Paul: About snow plow routes, coordinate message that they can come into university lots at that time. We talked with the transit people before you. The 14th will have a new shelter with heat and working on increasing the routes. There is a cost issue there as well, and would like to talk to students as well.

Bernier: Can find maps in compass, offices, owen, etc.

Hoeck: 4th year at MSUM, always had a parking permit, I have always been able to have a spot. We get used to having a lot less than a block away for our building and we don’t walk farther than that. Maybe better advertising for lots that have open spots. Faculty has better spots than students, maybe move some parking around. I support time limits on certain streets right by academic buildings. Mass Transit, to get from the college to destinations it takes a long time. Maybe more routes and streamline routes.

Anderson: Main issues is lots are not being as utilized as they could be. K lot could be more secure or a faculty lot possibly? Remote lots for car storage for dorm residents that don’t use their car as often.

Lobby: Student off-campus I have scheduled classes around times when prime parking is. It is hard to find on street parking close to campus during the day. Snow is getting moved to parking lots in winter and taking up extra spots. Carpooling would be a good option with incentives. I don't want to park far away at night, it feels unsafe in a lot of the lots here.

Lisa: Night watch:

Bernier: They have a program similar but it is not advertised anymore.

Lisa: They were very visible and it was utilized. Parking tickets?

Lobby: I’m usually very careful about where I park.

Hawley: Safety issue, I used to walk from Nelson to Ballard and the streets are very dimly lit.

Lobby: I live in Fargo, if I road my bike I could go straight across the river and I would take the bus but it takes an hour and a half.

Lisa: They are really trying to work on this issue.

Lobby: It seems to be a PR issue. Utilize undergrads time.

b. CMU Renovation Company

Juan and Bonnie: Architect with workshop architechts. Give a background about what we’re doing and get thoughts. This is the first step for a vision for the building. We’re looking at the mechanical systems in the building so it works for the MNScu system. We want to know how it works for the students and how well it is utilized. We will be back again in a few weeks to look at the relationships throughout the building. Tess and Chu Yi have been working with us. One of the first tasks is to get a sense of campus culture. We have been talking to the focus group of students and classrooms. Ask why students chose this school. Size of the campus is a big topic and the feeling of community. It is
very friendly here, which says there is an importance of the union. We’ve heard a lot about crafts. The focus on liberal arts and the pride of the art and film program here. We think that there is something in that unique quality that we want to capture in this building and not compete with other campuses. The students here are not followers, everyone is their own unique person which is very different here.

McNamara: I came here for English. We have a saying “If you don’t fit, we’re it” because we are so diverse.

Juan and Bonnie: We’re very excited about that. I think student unions are expressions of universities. It is the heart and soul of the universities. As designers that’s really fun. The perfect student org space and one said like a grown up kindergarten. We’ve been asking people about their favorite and least favorite place on campus.

Hoeck: Everyone loves the vines on Weld. Transplant the vines?

Juan and Bonnie: Someone did say bring the outdoors in. Someone else said an aquarium. Our goal is to create the favorite place on campus with the union. I think having those kind of places is great with retention and recruiting. This building needs identity, there is no feeling of what is going on inside or out.

Beneke: Commuter campus- nothing in this building that doesn’t bring the off-campus student into the union. A big portion of our population is not used.

Anderson: Bringing the outside in is a great idea. For 6 months out of the year things are covered with snow. Focus on structural over modern. The old historic buildings are a fun idea. Things that can stand the test of time. Lomen combines the modern and academia really well.

Lobby: I’ve been thinking about a few things, how will this affect my tuition? Will it be raised?

CMU Manager: It would affect the activity fee paid by students.

Lobby: Is this mainly for aesthetic purposes?

CMU: This would be more aesthetic, but everything will be looked at.

Juan: We are required to look at everything as a whole picture.

Lobby: I don’t mind the look of the CMU. I use the CMU all the time and I am an off-campus student.

Ehrlich: It wouldn’t come just from fees and there is money saved up already.

Lobby: Outside in is a great idea and saving energy.

Lobby: I do love this building as one of the gay students on campus, when I’m not in the rainbow center it does have a hotel feel throughout the building. I do agree that MSUM lacks identity.

Ferguson: I’m with the outside in crew. In the winter months I get low on energy and down. I think colors and energy building moods.

Juan and Bonnie: I think part of that will be bringing in sunlight and the light and views in here that would make everyone happier. The acoustics and better furniture as well.

Ferguson: Sunlight affecting heating in the summer?

Juan: Right now the technology in the glass and sustainable designs to use old-fashioned systems in modern designs.

Ferguson: Have you met with Jacobs? He built a 100% green home. He knows a lot about sustainable energy and has local knowledge.

Juan: We are focusing on the big things right now, when it gets down to the details we will be addressing those things. Past students have connected with us through sustainable committees and sustainable challenges from the students.

Hawley: I used to be a student in organizations with the Econ lounge and Student Senate office. I feel like unless you’re involved in an org you have no place in the CMU. The middle area and the pods which if they have people in it they don’t feel welcome to someone to sit there. More comfortable areas to sit.
Lobby: I found a home in an org, so it would be nice would be a general student area to hang out in without affiliation.

Juan: An idea we had was to create a center for student involvement. Rather than have things scattered have it together in one general area and attached would be a series of centers brought closer to the groups but still be separate. The middle would then be a social lounge and there would be some meeting rooms. The real challenge is keeping organization identity while still bringing everyone together. Accommodate more people with shared resources. We talked about doing the same with administrative options in the building. The edges of this area would be permeable for people who are not involved and want a place to go. Spread out computer spaces rather than labs. When this building was built it had circulation spine, everything is separated off a hallway. Buildings starting to mimic technology, rather than having separate items you can have everything together in one area. Less hallways, more lounges.

Beneke: St. Cloud state is that what they are using? (No) There union is very confusing.

Juan: It is quite terrible.

Beneke: I don't want a complex or confusing place.

Bonnie: We notice everything happens behind closed doors, this would offer more transparency to get more people involved.

Juan: This would be an easy to navigate.

Beneke: I like that I know where everything is here. I am hesitant that this may be hard to permeate into.

Hoeck: One thing that is frustrating is transparency. You have to look into these offices awkwardly to see what's going on. Along with that we have officials and representatives coming in and we would like to have official meeting room to meet with those people visiting. Our artwork is mixed throughout the building. Accessibility to all students. Private bathrooms, foot wash stations, etc. One thing that keeps me here is it is a student centered university, how will you bring that here?

Juan: To have students involved through the whole process. We are excited that they want students to be involved. We think that the building needs to be accommodating enough so that you could change it. Add expression to the building through art, music, etc.

Bonnie: Every step of this process we will be asking for input and decisions.

Lobby: I felt we came into an established place and I did feel that it was not welcoming and kind of confusing.

Bonnie: So many people blame themselves; it's not your fault. It is the building's design.

Lobby: We would love to be more integrated with the students.

Bernier: I like the integration idea. When I give a tour it feels like we don't get to bring the students everywhere. I think this will make it easier for everyone so they know where to go. I think it would decrease times for tours and something memorable.

Beneke: I think the one redeeming quality about St. Cloud was all the artwork was made by the students. Spaces where the artwork can vary. Bring all the centers on campus to one central area.

Bonnie: I went to the student gallery today and there is beautiful art there and not many people go there. It would be great to share art here.

Juan: Some colleges have a store that students sell their artwork. It's fun to see these works and buy them cheaply.

Hawley: We're putting a lot of focus on student groups. Friday nights in the underground and dragons after dark, what are you going to do about that?

Juan: We are looking at the ballroom. Is there other things we can make a better venue maybe 2 stories high with a balcony with maybe a resteraunt to eat in during the day. Volume and visibility are big problems for the underground. Priorities is something we're
looking at. The amount of space isn’t the problem as much as the quality, we could meet a lot of needs by using all of the space. The building is too small for this size of campus and we’re not hearing that. If we do it right then you should have not enough space, and that is a good problem to have. River Falls campus- 5000 people visit a week and now they have 7000 visitors a day. I think the response will be very significant.

Hawley: I think the ballroom is unfriendly now, but I think the events are a major thing on the campus.

Juan: We also heard about the SAC and that would be another thing we would think about accommodating.

Chu: Someone brought up a sun room, let more sunlight in. Thick space for many functions and thin space for only one function, we have so much walking space right now. Central hub is a good idea, open area and make it all thick space. Hang out spaces bring people in. Artwork and how old it is here, hang up good student artwork but people stole it. Display of art through a window area. After Dark, we are aware of the programming that utilizes this building. The 2nd visit will be an after dark event.

Anderson: Artwork auction off when it is gotten rid of.

Ehrlich: If we plan on building things, have it be more self sustaining. Reasons to have people come to this side of the campus.

Lobby: Spaces of groups not as much a problem involved with themselves only, work more together.

Bonnie: It’s very easy to build spaces for people that are alike but bridge different people together is the challenge.

Chu: We use the ballroom because it’s there right now, I think we could utilize that space better. If we can host weddings and get that revenue, it’s great, but if not it is a waste of space.

Bonnie: Chance of that?

CMU: We can only do 12 events a year. It would take quite a bit to change that law and then the drinking age is a factor.

Ehrlich: If you have more questions talk to Thom Beneke.

Juan: Thank you all for your time.

(motion to move into new business, so moved)

Beneke: Concerns about new email system. The issue is very difficult to learn to use. Losing emails and devices not supporting it.

Valdez Delgado: People have been losing things

Bernier: They retrieved things over the last year but some things were lost.

Danielson:

Beneke: People talking to faculty members to help with email, not sure if IT members.

Chu: Office of Diversity had that problem and people came in to help and the email was compromised. I cannot hit send, I have to save it and then hit send again.

Anderson: I request talk to Thom about it if you have an issue with the email.

VI. Advisor’s Report

a. Advisor Wiese: Jane Mahoney subbing for Warren Wiese tonight. Our new HR director began today Mark Duran. Executive director of marketing starting march 5th. Senior executive discussion we would like the body to set up a calendar for future presentations. We want to share our budget and the tuition increase with you. We will have a separate discussion for differential tuition. We will need 4-5 meetings to discuss these things with you. Make sure to mark us on your agenda.
Hoeck: Rough estimate of what increase is?
Mahoney: Less than 3 percent and we will need to discuss fees, we are the lowest campus for fees. Keep that in mind during those discussions.
Hoeck: Altogether 5.9%
Mahoney: No more than 5%
Hoeck: Is it going to be around 5%?
Mahoney: Yes, probably. I am encouraged by the Chancellor to show the increase but also what we have done to get students involved and be efficient.

Ehrlich: All chairs send an email to get all reports?

VII. Officer’s Reports
   a. Secretary Danielson
   b. Treasurer Raza
   c. Vice President Chu
   d. President Ehrlich

VIII. Committee Reports
   a. Academic Affairs Chair Anderson
   b. Campus Affairs Chair Bernier
   c. Diversity Chair McNamara
   d. Leg IA Chair Valdez-Degado
   e. MSUSA Coordinator Hoeck
   f. Public Relations Chair Ferguson
   g. Student Affairs Chair Beneke

IX. Old Business

X. New Business
   a. Committee Appointments
      (see Chair Beneke for detailed report)
   b. Senator Appointments
      Ritcha-This is my second semester, from Nepal. I want to be a senator so I can know what’s going on and bring that people outside.
      (Suspend rules Beneke;Hoeck)
      (enter executive)
      (Exit Beneke;Bernier)
      (Reinstate rules Danielson;Bernier)
      Ehrlich: Invited to the body.

   c. Marketing Reimbursement:
      McNamara: Huge favor of this bill because of the huge success of this decorating contest. It did look great though.
      Hoeck: How much
      Danielson: 123.68
      Anderson: Amend for no more than
      (call to question amendment pass)
      (call to question McNamara: Everyone, pass 3 abstain, passes)
XI. Points for the Good of the Order
Danielson: Talking while other people are talking
Anderson: Current roster of senators
Danielson: Will get that out
Valdez Delgado: Use time wisely

XII. Announcements
Danielson: SENGER meeting 10:30-11:20 2/29 LO 204
Bernier: After Dark event and laser tag next Saturday.

XIII. Adjournment