Minnesota State University Moorhead
Student Senate Agenda
March 22nd, 2012

I. Call to Order (5:10)

II. Roll Call

III. Approval of the Agenda
(Move to add election chair report, diversity bill, retreat bill, and picture frame bill to agenda, passed)
(Bernier; Trefethren)

IV. Approval of the Minutes
(Danielson; Anderson, passed)

V. Public Hearing
   a. President Edna and Cabinet (Tuition Increase, Reset and Student Fees):
      Gene: Changes to fee per credit hour. Budget adjustments because projected credits were 150,000 and actual were 142,000. The annual amount is based on 12 credits because the maximum is 12 credits. Environmental fee same for FY2013. Reserve went to 3.00 to regenerate the reserve from the shortage of credits. The hope is that it will only be 2.15. MSUSA fee does not have a credit limit. The technology fee is up to 1.00 per credit. The total annual fee has increased to 928.56.

      Ehrlich: Mat bus fee?
      Gene: Plan is to fund the MAT bus for one term and after that it will be assessed.

      Chu: Who is in charge of that?
      Gene: Jan Mahoney
      Chu: Is she conducting the survey or will that be someone else?
      Edna: The question is if we will continue it I have a hard time justifying charging students who don’t use the bus. We will consult students next year when the fee is reassessed.

      Ferguson: Is there data about who rides the bus to be assessed before throwing it out?
      Gene: The MAT bus system is providing the overall rider data of students which will be looked at while determining.

      Ehrlich: Campus news is hear taking shots.

      Bernier: What is the event fee increasing for?
      Gene: Previously .10 was what the group used before, now it includes drama and athletic tickets are included in that to give free or reduced gate entry.
      Bernier: All events free?
      Gene: Most free some reduced.

      Anderson: I would rather have the MAT bus instead of fee, maybe go through SAFR with that.
      Gene: That will be one thing we will consider. We will fund it one time and go through discussions again next year.
Thomas: I know fee has been paid for out of vending before where is it coming from now?
Gene: General Fund

Anderson: Are these fees explained?
Gene: On business office website has it.
Anderson: Links for those?
Gene: Not directly linked, it is under the business office website.
Anderson: Is there an explanation of where to find that?
Gene: On e-services?
Anderson: Yes we would like to see it there so it’s knowledgeable.

Chu: I think the MAT bus system should be kept because there are not a lot of housing options around campus, not resources nearby, I think this is an important part of the infrastructure.
Edna: We don’t have money for the infrastructure. State funding is not helping keep the infrastructure running. We’ll talk about that in a little bit.

Ferguson: How did we overestimate so much?
Gene: There was a drop in Spring 2012, Fall we were on track but the Spring 2012 enrollment dipped unexpectedly.
Edna: Challenges with the Corick center, its closure contributed to some of the dropping out.
Ferguson: Closure accelerated to drop out sooner?
Edna: For a moment, it should decrease now...
Ferguson: So we expect more dropouts?
Edna: No that is a one-time thing. It will increase now.
Ferguson: It’s a one-time event because we’re not admitting same students into the university?
Edna: We are now referring in hopes that they will transfer later and we need to do a better job with the students they have.

Trefethren: Athletics and Drama event are reduced with event fee, it’s already free, why is it going through this?
Gene: It was funded through the general side now it will be funded in fees again.

Bernier: General fund items going to fees, what is that money now being spent on
Gene: I believe they will get to that later.

Trivedi: General fund extra
Gene: Projected we have 1-2 million dollars left over, carry forward and invest in one time opportunities like the MAT bus or other things that benefit the university.
Edna: We use some for retention, landscaping, renovation, etc.

Chu: Is there still an account for non-discretionary?
Edna: There is a discretionary...
Chu: Special projects account?
Edna: I do have the ability to spend extra money on, like fireworks.

Trivedi: The MAT bus is inefficient for going certain places, I’d prefer a cab option.
Mahoney: MN is not able to get the liability insurance for that.
Ehrlich: We plan to put that on the ballot
Trivedi: Even a flat fee for partial...

Blackhurst: zip car?
Anderson: It didn’t work out so we are thinking of trying to get a partnership with the city and/or Concordia.
Edna: I think you are right.

Chu: Personal comment, I understand we are moving programs to general fund to student fees. I don't believe in this argument, I think small projects will keep getting pushed into student fees. I know it’s hard for you but I can see this as a start of a theme to continue doing this.
Edna: I hear you and students will be able to be on those committees. The state funding is taking everything we have out of it. We will be consulting students about it next year when the fee comes up again.
Anderson: I think MAT bus is exhausted.

Mahoney: University budget. We made an assumption that students will support a 5 percent tuition increase that is what the MnScu board is asking the cap to be at. Expenditures we are planning for a 3% increase, CGI 1.7% increase. If enrollment stays the same we will be ahead, if it decreases again we will be in a deficit. Right now we are most likely going to come out flat. Based on the economic forecast in 2014 we would recognize a decline in appropriation of 1.8 million dollars. We would be looking at a 2.2 million deficit. We are going to recognize the 3% enrollment decrease in 2013 but not in years after. We assume we will have 438,551 deficit in 2015. The deficit can be solved right now through cutting employees, which means cutting programs.
Edna: Money comes from state and tuition, state is decreasing next year and it is causing infrastructure to be under funded.
Mahoney: Banded tuition increase is increasing at 5%, we will still be lower than all of MnScu systems except Mankato which is twice our size.

Raza: How is recruitment going then?
Edna: Not bad, we always under project. Declines carry through a couple of years. It should work itself out. I won’t change admission requirements to enroll students, the pain of them being unable to graduate is too great. The numbers look good, we are up in applications and admissions. It looks like it is working. ND has made our life miserable, 33% used to come to MN, incentive... We have done great work to make up for that drop in the twin cities.
Raza: Decreasing range of banded tuition? 12-16 instead.
Edna: Reason it is where it is because we were in concession with the students at the time.
Raza: We think it would help.
Ehrlich: We think it would increase incentive to graduate as well.

Ferguson: Problem with banded tuition range students take 19 credits and drop them later. Then 12 credit students are getting screwed.
Edna: Students seem to be moving forward at a regular place. We will look at discussing this next year.
Ferguson: Discussion 1 credit phyed classes dropped because of banded tuition because they were not making any money on those classes.
Edna: Doesn’t work that way…
Blackhurst: The explanation I gave did not apply to TKD, fencing and scuba. Those classes were offered through continuing studies and with that cancelled those classes got cut. We will need to bring discussion forward on how to bring those forward. Ferguson: Quite an uproar about that.

Raza: I highly suggest this demonstration to a study on how students take credits. It would be simple that way.

Trivedi: Please don’t hesitate to contact alumni.
Ehrlich: Employee increase, faculty senate agreeing still?
Edna: They are working at a state level and they no longer agree with the increase.

Blackhurst: Differential tuition, only changes of what we’re currently charging to what we’re proposing, both increases and decreases.
Trefethren: Require state and federal background checks… have to take them every time?
Blackhurst: They require the background check in order to take the course.
Trefethren: Would you have to take it more than once if you take another class.
Blackhurst: I believe that would be very rare.

Bernier: I’m curious what the accreditation is for in the school of teaching and learning.
Blackhurst: Extraordinary cost of upkeep on keeping them accredited, we attached it to classes that are assessed to keep the accreditation.
Bernier: It’s an accreditation only for education students, some classes are taken by other majors? Do I still have to pay for it?
Blackhurst: You will have to pay for it yes.
Ehrlich: Was it funded by the department before?
Blackhurst: It was funded by the university before, new requirements for assessment and teaching boards.
Edna: Theoretically it will be a benefit.
Blackhurst: I will check into that.

Raza: Learning community jump?
Blackhurst: Funded in other ways before, it would now be funded by students.
Raza: It may not be easy for families to afford.
Blackhurst: Very common practice, only new students would be effected. It is an investment for those students. It is the sole purpose of the fee.
Raza: How is the number calculated?
Blackhurst: Maximum amount available to charge.

Bernier: 4/5 learning communities in Grantheim already get charged in the renovated space and same with Dahl. This will be an extra 500 dollars on top of them. I understand the fee because it can increase retention. I would suggest moving the communities to another hall so they are not being charged 500 dollars more on top of another fee.
Raza: Not against the fee, just wondering why it is starting now.
Edna: Wanted to try it out first, we should’ve started it with a fee a couple years ago.
Blackhurst: We need to do a better job with learning communities and have committees working on how to improve them. If we achieve what we envision it will be worth the benefit.

Anderson: CJ 390 ambulance equipment rental?
Blackhurst: That is the first responder course.
Blackhurst: Tuition re-set; talking about tuition increase of 5% the tuition re-set would be 2.78% increase. It will keep the university in the middle for tuition in the state. We talked about the challenges in recruitment a few weeks ago. Retention rate is working against us for recruiting and retention is the most important. It is not beneficial for us to recruit students that will not get through on time. The single thing we could do to benefit the university is to stabilize enrollment and how we do that through retention. State funding is based on retention as well. It’s a viscous cycle and we want an upwards cycle. We want to add more programs to support students, so the university is stable. First proposal is about academic support which will be a 2.78% increase in tuition. We heard you say you might be more comfortable with a fee increase to fund things for students who are high achieving, fee increase to support technology related things in tuition proposal and an academic engagement fee for things like internships, research, etc.

Anderson: What is the first year seminar?
Blackhurst: Neither proposal set in stone. That would implement a first year class to engage them into the campus experience, research, community, and help them navigate their first year.

Ehrlich: Is this up to 12 credits?
Blackhurst: Yes.

Singh: Difference between 1st year seminar and FYE?
Blackhurst: Not mandatory, this would be mandatory.
Singh: The FYE class taught all that when I took it in 2008 Fall. International students had to take it. Similar but it will be taken by all students.
Bernier: I took it as a one credit course, it was the same as described.
Blackhurst: Now it will be available to all students.

Danielson: Given any consideration to peer advisors/mentors, cheaper for the school and know a lot about the classes already?
Blackhurst: Peer mentors in resource office and learning communities. Sometimes students are led astray by not having faculty or professional advice.

Chu: Undergraduate student travel is that going to only for travel or will they be able to ask SABC still?
Blackhurst: Still talk about that, try to supplement SABC and be able to help them with stipends for research. Enrich and enhance the campus community. Room for conversation on that still.

Hoeck: Looking at the tuition reset, professional advisor only one year?
Blackhurst: Usually housed in the college and give really good advice about the major, usually students get a faculty advisor after their second year. They can still use them but commonly they move to a faculty advisor later. I’ve seen students that have been here 7-8 years that have messed up transcripts, taken classes they don’t need, etc.
Hoeck: Special advisors for transfer students and veterans, what extra support do transfers need that is not met by undeclared advisors?
Blackhurst: I think the history of transfer students can help negotiate what classes they have taken to count for ones here.
Hoeck: It seems too specialized on the advising, I don’t think it needs to be this specialized.
Blackhurst: Based on what we know about the highest problem area we have with students.

Raza: Tuition reset one time a fee, is the advisors going to be here just one year?
Blackhurst: 65,000 salary and fringe and it would be a yearly thing not one time. Reset came to help us get over hump, this is supposed to help us move forward, this will not cause an increase in later years.
Mahoney: 7.78% increase in 2013 only
Raza: Maintenance of the software proposed?
Blackhurst: Annual expenditures, it is included.

Anderson: Professional advisor for Business and Industry, don’t we already have one?
Blackhurst: Adding new programs which will need more support.
Anderson: So 2 advisors?
Blackhurst: Yes. S&N sciences may need more than one as well.

Bernier: How percentage reached?
Edna: If you don’t support the reset, the fee will get us on the path. We would ask for a student advisory board to work with us so we can find a way to stem the tide. We want to get you involved to get you to agree to the reset.
Blackhurst: Put fee proposal to 6.00 instead of a percentage and based fee proposal around that.

Chu: If either of the 2 requests are approved, when would the positions be hired?
Blackhurst: As soon as possible, it would take time to recruit and such but we are eager to start right away.

Anderson: Would it start Fall 2013 or 2014?
Blackhurst: Fall 2012
Anderson: Would SAFR have to go through a new proposal.
Blackhurst: Yes.

Trivedi: What is the retention software?
Blackhurst: It allows us to create a network on campus to help faculty, advisors, and coaches communicate with students having trouble so they can help them before we lose them. Early alert system and a way to schedule advising times.
Trivedi: Last week with members from Faculty Exec, concerns about not being able to use it.
Blackhurst: There is a position that will specialize in training the faculty to use it.

Anderson: If either one of these approved would there be a committee?
Blackhurst: Yes, we could even start one now with senators to go over these things and make things work. This could be huge for all students on campus.

Raza: What is an academic case manager?
Blackhurst: When a student pops up that is having difficulty that person would take their case and help to get them out of trouble.
Raza: fine line drawn between advisors and case managers.

Chu: It would not support the first proposal by numbers.
Mahoney: Fee limits to 12 credits, reset would be for every credit.
Edna: Fee route doesn’t solve the problem and we would need further conversation.

Trefethren: I appreciate changing to increase. I’m a big fan of the engagement fee and the undergraduate research thing needs to get started. I’m skeptical throwing money at this problem, I now think it is good for 1st and 2nd year students. I think we need to look at population of schools in case they need extras. Also don’t like specialized positions. Thank you for proposal.

Butze: I disagree on the transfer student not needed, I needed it. I was lucky to have Kramer. I don’t think we can assume all faculty can do that. I think having someone would help with that.

Ehrlich: Director of developmental education?
Blackhurst: Students that need to take a course before they take intro math or English classes. Coordinate classes and help those students to be successful.
Ehrlich: How will that help in labs?
Blackhurst: This is more a hands on approach.
Ehrlich: Dean of Academic Support services, other campuses have this?
Blackhurst: All fall in academic support category, a dean is an expenditure that fits in this realm. We feel this is necessary to help coordinate. Our administration is very lean and I think we could use it.

Raza: Keep in mind every organization is skeptic to change, that is why we are asking so many questions.
Blackhurst: We love questions.
Edna: We do have a timeline.
Mahoney: In order for our packets to be ready, the deadline is April 12th and supplemental information by April 19th.
Edna: We are available to come back any Thursday you want.

(move to ten minute recess, Chu; Bunker, 8 yes, 4 no, 4 abstain)

VI. Advisor’s Report
a. Advisor Wiese: Technology fee committee has proposals submitted. We need to come up with a plan on how to review those. Call together faculty and staff and then they will bring it to this committee.
   Ehrlich: I believe we need only 2 spots for the committee
   Blackhurst: Whatever you decide you want to do just let me know.

VII. Officer’s Reports
a. Secretary Danielson: Things being broken on desks, fill out doodle, email working again, and looking for minutes.
b. Treasurer Raza: 5 star recognition packet introduced. Certain chairs are going to do certain portions of it. Packet is used for organization and leader of the year. Next week I am presenting the balance of our account. April is the last active month we have. Graduation stalls who is graduating in the spring, (3) anyone else not here email me.

Hoeck: Senate Alumni graduating in May?
Raza: Not that I know of, they can contact me as well. Tell them to work with me.
b. Vice President Chu: Spring break I had a meeting with administrators who formally funded the bus account. I got an idea on how to move forward. We’re going to continue the conversation next year. I will ask the administration to have a timeline for consultation and for it to be in the fall. April 1st is the date for the retreat 2-5 safe zone and 5-8 training. Bill for banquet coming up next week. Bill coming forward for the retreat, I will address that then. Chairs start the transition manual.

Trivedi: Banquet?
Chu: April 26th

c. President Ehrlich: We have Chair Bernier as an election chair. When you say follow-up make sure that you are called on before you speak again. Draft a letter about the classes being cancelled, I’m going to revise it with the new information. I am working on a problem ENGL 101, over 26 on ACT should be exempt. Took picture today and we will be taking another one at the banquet. More time efficient to have a smaller committee to discuss tuition, fees, and reset. Homework to talk to another senator about these to formulate an opinion before the meeting. We will all be voting on them. Conference call with MSUSA, last duty as board member, direct any questions to Coordinator Hoeck. External committee about Sodexo services to talk to us next week, Heather Phillips next for room and board rates, Dan Heckeman coming in to talk about print control and tech committee.

Hoeck: When do we vote on tuition and fees?
Ehrlich: Voting the week after.

Bernier: When will we have the discussion on the housing rates?
Ehrlich: Week after.
Bernier: We will have it all at once then?
Ehrlich: Yes and MSUSA is coming that week too.

Raza: Vote on increase next week.
Trivedi: I would like the discussion next week and voting the week after.

VIII. Committee Reports
a. Academic Affairs Chair Anderson: Senator Singh is waiting on Senator Fog for the grad workshop. Meeting with Provost, any questions you can ask her or bring it up to me.
b. Campus Affairs Chair Bernier: Not much for us, issues having before break not having anymore. I emailed Jeff Goebel about the hot buildings. Heat is off and the air conditioner will be on in 3 weeks. Projection in King Hall is sideways, tell them about that.
c. Diversity Chair McNamara: (no report)
d. Leg IA Chair Valdez-Delgado: No report to give.
e. MSUSA Coordinator Hoeck: Lobbying went well, spurred talk of a 3rd trip. We talked to many of our local and state reps. Talked about the textbook task force to make books more affordable. Internship tax credit for businesses who offer paid internships. We want Moorhead to win, get all your friends to take the survey. Delegates is coming up, let me know if you are coming by tonight. Priyanka working hard on GSA Gay Prom and informational session. Specialist Beneke very busy with his campaign. Trefethren
working hard on leg updates and lobby trips. Request to review banded tuition. I would like to commend diversity members that are driving forth without any reports. Trefethren: Goal is to apply pressure about internship tax credit. We got it turned to an internship tax grant after a meeting with Rep. Gunther.

f. Public Relations Chair Ferguson: No report

g. Student Affairs Chair Beneke: Slow week, Senator Thomas may have update… Thomas: I have a list of all majors that require an internship to graduate and bring that to career development office so they can make contacts. Danielson: Still trying to find her.

h. Election Chair Bernier: Filing for candidates opens March 29th and close April 4th. Senate needs to approve candidates before they can run for elections. Thursday 5th we will approve them. They can advertise 6th-17th, approve candidate meeting before our banquet. Making posters with Sen. Bunker. No advertising until you are approved. I have a bill being proposed for posters and fliers. I called Coca-Cola, Cass clay is donating ice cream. Contacting IT to set up filing and make the ballot.

Hoeck: Must be on Senate for one semester before running for executive. Bernier: Only people who can run are people in this room, we may need to amend bylaws. We have to do it next week. Only 9 people available to run. Raza: I believe only the President should be on one semester.

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

a. Senator Appointment: (scratched)

b. Election Bill:
Bernier: For the printing I talked to Copy 2 Print for estimates. I put 150 in case we need to buy stuff or make any more of it. Bunker: Ditto.

Called to question Anderson; Trefethren (passed unanimously)

d. Marketing Bill:
Bunker: We need all new stuff with a new logo. Raza: I would suggest 350 instead of 700. Hoeck: I authored this bill.. for 700 we could get 250 cups, 150 pizza cutters, and 150 sunglasses. The price changes when you order less. I think we really need them. Bernier: Last time at this time of year we voted on this as well, because of Scorch Jam and Dragon Days.

Called to question Raza; Trefethren (passed unanimously)

e. Retreat Bill:
Ehrlich: Good for senators and developmental, strength quest test. Chu: This instead of food. Danielson: People who have already taken it. Raza: Agreed:
Hoeck: Is this all the second part of the test.
Chu: take it before the class
Ehrlich: No more than 200 dollars.
Fog: Pot luck can be done in Dahl's student lounge.
Call to question Bernier; Trefethren
(passes 2 nays, 1 abstain, 12 yes)

f. Diversity Bill:
Raza: For the movie and speakers. I am in support of this. Traditionally we
sponsored over 1000 for this.
Trivedi: Movie screening ended up getting cut from the cost.
Chu: Last year we spent more than 1000, it wasn't just from senate budget. No more
than 600 came from senate.

Call to question Danielson; Bernier
(1 abstain, 2 nay, 12 yes)

g. Picture Frame Bill:
Bunker: It is so many frames because there is multiple offices to hang pictures in.
Bernier: If you work it out it is 7 picture frames for resident halls, academic depts. Or
deans office, the offices would be better, have the contact information right there
available to them.
Anderson: Turnover might cause a problem if there is not a lot of follow up. I'm
concerned about that. Need someone accountable.
Danielson: Off campus senators?
Bunker: Side entrance in MacLean by Center for Business and CMU
(Amended to say PR committee is responsible, Bernier; Bunker, pass)

Fog: I understand the concern but I think it will be a great opportunity.
Anderson: CMU would not be the best place for off-campus senators.
Trefethren: New senators do it?
Ehrlich: Can't compel them to do anything, just suggest.

Called to Question Thomas; Bernier
(10 yay, 5 nay, passes)

h. Change of Senator Seat:
Raul: No Snarr hall senator, I would like to move.

Called to question Bernier; Singh
(passed unanimously)

XI. Points for the Good of the Order
Danielson: Found some prospects for senators, please tell your friends and classmates about
senate.
Trefethren: Express disgust that people are leaving meetings early several weeks in a row. I
think people should put pressure on them that it's not right.
Ehrlich: Write formal motion to increase sanction for this.
Hoeck: We discussed with the half an hour early or not..
Trivedi: Leave after first recess maybe? Willing to appear by skype if needed.
Hoeck: Only if you skype as Cora.
Danielson: Staying out of this
Anderson: Skype more funny at the table. Bylaws, is there a way to make chairs attend meeting
still. It’s lame to have a report or bill given by someone other than their chair and they can't
answer question. At least be present for the bill. Something to put in the bylaws.
Bernier: Part of the reason is because chairs don't hold seat and can't vote. Motion or bill you
should be here I agree with.
Raza: I was told the chair would be here, I agree.
Anderson: I am starting a personal policy to deny a bill that is not presented by the chair who
sponsors it.

XII. Announcements
Bernier: Hunger games on Saturday night
Trivedi: Volunteer opportunities fair on Saturday.
Bunker: The Event on Saturday and Sunday is Walk a Mile in Her Shoes.

XIII. Adjournment (8:50)