Minnesota State University Moorhead  
Student Senate Meeting Minutes  
September 13, 2012  

I. Call to Order  
Meeting called to order at 5:00pm  

II. Roll Call  
Absent: Shresta, Williams  
Left early: Pinneke, Danielson (excused), Stumpfl  

III. Amendment of the Agenda – add MSUA bill to the agenda (Beneke, Anderson)  
Approval of the Agenda (Beneke, Bernier)  

IV. Approval of Minutes (Anderson, Bernier)  

V. Public Hearing  
a. Meet and Confer with Administration  
   i. Introduction of administration and potential senators  
   ii. Blackhurst explained what a Meet and Confer consists of. Cabinet members will meet with all bargaining units on the same day and include the student senate to keep us informed. If we have issues, we can bring them to these meetings.  
   iii. The State of the University  
       Szymanski: We have good success stories - students that win national and regional competitions. We have students that kick ass in academic competitions and loves it when we beat NDSU and UND. However, we are not known for academic quality, so this doesn’t add up. Only 44% of freshman will graduate in four years. Transfer students’ graduation rate is only 57%. We get federal funding based on performance, and at this rate, we will lose this funding. Our graduation rate is very low. In fact, we are the lowest. Comparable schools to MSUM have higher scores. Moving forward: Why aren’t students coming to us? We are perceived as not being a friendly school to transfer into. Trouble with getting transcripts, trouble across several different offices. We are working how we can make it far friendlier.  

Hanover – We want to try and find out why students that toured here decided not to come here in the end. Also find out why students aren’t returning. AAO is contacting students to find out how we can help them.
Blackhurst: There is $1 million earmarked for initiatives in student retention, this expenditure will pay for itself over time.

iv. Budget Update
Blackhurst: Projecting a budget deficit of $2.5 million because of lower enrollment, but we are not worried at this time. Total budget is $66 million, so the $2.5 million deficit is not a big number compared to that. University is in solid financial shape, but we still need look at ways to save money. To balance the budget long term, we have to become much more efficient. We don’t want to raise tuition, and we are getting less money from the state. Some ideas: Open forums, e-surveys will go out, meet and confer with Senate. Spend money on things that matter.

Szymanski: We need to reframe budget and plan, store away acorns. We work with a constrained model but even with this, we’ve had no major layoffs or dropped programs.

v. Enrollment Update
Blackhurst: Enrollment down 5% this year. This is could be from higher graduation numbers last year, and the retention rate is down.

vi. Academic Realignment
Blackhurst: Trying to change the makeup of the student body. Szymanski: Student success – we brought in significant numbers of students that did not meet the admissions criteria, and then left after two years with no degree and debt. VPs working together to see how we should be organized to succeed.

vii. University Fundraising Report
Laura Huth: We had a record year for fundraising - $5 million. Blackhurst- We kicked ass. Ferguson had to restore order after this comment. Huth: Explained donations by purpose, donations by source. Ferguson – Talking about having Senate Gala fundraising – that way we would be more awesome.

viii. New Town Hall Meeting Format
Blackhurst: Fourth meeting added. 6:30am, Owens Hall. 10:30am, 3:30pm, 5pm CMU Ballroom.
Encourage students to come

Blackhurst: October 18th, next meet and confer. Any issues, please bring them forward to Ferguson.

VI. Advisor’s Report
   a. Advisor Boschee reminded senate members that his office is located in CMU 222.
      Reminders:
      • September 19, Dragon Fest – share info with campus 10:30-3:30.
      • September 26, Homecoming
      • October 1 – Leadership Week
      Changes:
      SAF review committee position titles of people
      Adding students to different committees.
      Beneke: Why two students for Health and Wellness? Why didn’t it get separated out?
      Boschee: Will look into it.
      Student Organization Board – needs people, tell Schaunaman or Sauvageau if you are interested.

VII. Officer’s Report
   a. Secretary Salonek
      i. Reminder about Senate hours:
         Every senator must be present in the Senate office at least one hour per week. Salonek will have a chart posted next week with senator’s names so you can post when you have completed your hour.
      ii. Point system:
         The following is the point system for attendance at Senate meetings:
         If a senator should accrue 10 points, Salonek will send a notification email regarding this.
         If you come late or leave early to a senate meeting, it will be President Ferguson’s decision if you will earn a point.
   b. Treasurer Danielson
      Update on budget:
      • our budget is roughly $19,000,
      • last year’s payments made $750
      • Meeting with Advisor Boschee to get ready to present the budget. Some may need to be revised next year.
      • Will be leaving early – Ferguson excused
   c. Vice President Beneke
- If anyone thinks there should be anything else in the binder, let him know. He learned how to duplex, he was very excited.
- Named off who was on what committee, if you have any questions, contact him.
- Meet and Confer – dress up! Will let you know ahead of time.
- Chairs – email meeting times to him by Wednesday, September 19; set up a meeting time with your oversight at least once a week.
- Facebook group – please join http://www.facebook.com/#!/MSUMStudentSenate

- Town Hall meeting – We need to make sure there is a senate presence at the meeting. Beneke will be at the 6:30am meeting.

d. President Ferguson
- Thanked those who dressed up and everyone being on time.
- Sign-up sheets – Senate in the Dorms Volunteers 10/1 from 7-8pm to help with the Get Out and Vote. Inform on the issues, register to vote.
- After Dark Volunteer 9/21 7:30pm-1am looking for volunteers
- Agendas – will send out on Wednesday prior to the meeting. You do not need to print them off, Salonek will print off copies for the meeting
- Will meet with Blackhurst regarding First Year Experience class and Alcohol and College Life class.

VIII. Committee Reports
a. Academic Affairs Chair
Salscheider: Not much change from last week. Glad that Blackhurst and Szymanski were here. Hopes to set up meetings with Provost, deans, professors. Work with PR to raise awareness.

b. Campus Affairs Chair
Pinneke:
- Setting up Senate in the dorms with Ferguson – theme is Rock the Vote with a rocker’s edge to it to make it more exciting. Will have different activities such as Hot seat, diplomatic board games, and fun activities. Goal is to hit every floor of every dorm.
- Green Dragons meeting this week – goals of sustainability on campus, may need more volunteers.
- Went with Joe Herbst to Waste Management seminar
Ferguson: Adopt Woodlawn Park, would have Green Dragons on the recycling bins.
c. Diversity Chair
   Ibrahim: Not too much to report, working on Diversity week, contacting other campus groups to get input.

d. Leg IA Chair
   Anderson:
   • Met with former president of NDSU regarding bike sharing program, got lots of good information. Shouldn’t be too hard to implement in Moorhead.
   • Explained the process of how to write a motion. Motion forms are in the office, and he will send a copy by email to everyone.

e. MSUSA Coordinator
   Bernier:
   • Next week during Public Hearing – will give presentation on Get Out the Vote
   • DaD, promoting MSUSA and Senate, registered to vote in MN 600-1000 goal Conf. call with other campuses, on pace with everyone else. St. Cloud lies
   • Class rap – MSUSA, Senate, Get Out the Vote
   • Tabling to begin next week, Dragon Fest and Senate
   • Stay informed on issues, voter id concern for students

   Question from Gallery – regarding voter registration cards.
   Schwartzwalter: Do we have to register by October 16 or wait until Election Day?
   Boschee: Advocate, and educate, pre-registered is better

f. Public Relations Chair
   Schaunaman:
   • Dragon Fest tabling – need help from 1-3pm
   • Dragons After Dark – need help

g. Student Affairs Chair
   Sauvegeau:
   • Email sent to chairs to get some information, will be meeting with Beneke to go over committees.
   • Getting posters out, list serve emails

IX. Old Business
a. Anderson: Took some time to clarify questions about passing bills, motions that were tabled, previously issues talked about.

X. New Business
a. Senate Appointments
   Suspension of the rules (Anderson, Schwartzwalter)
   Prospective senators were asked to give their major, what senate position they were interested in. Other questions asked:
   Ferguson: Give a leadership story
   Beneke: How would you balance your time while working with the Senate?
   Anderson: What issue on campus would you work on?

   Enter executive session (Beneke, Bernier), motion passes

   Senators vote:
   Brian: Voted to Senate
   Ben: Voted to Senate
   Yanis: Voted to Senate

   Exit executive session (Beneke, Bernier), motion passes
   Reinstate the rules (Bernier, Beneke), motion passes

   Welcomed new senators

b. Enter caucus for five minutes to talk in committees (Bernier, Beneke)

c. Dragons After Dark Prize Bill (Sponsored by exec)
   Beneke: Allocate up to $400 for prizes at DaD event, think we should use a roll call vote for this bill.
   Anderson – What kind of prizes?
   Beneke: Kindle Fire, gift cards
   Tomko: Where does the budget stand?
   Ferguson: $19,000
   Neupane – What is the expected amount of students to attend?
   Ferguson – Hopefully 400.
   Roll call vote (Beneke, Anderson)
   9 yay, 4 nay, one abstain, bill passes

d. Dragons After Dark Advertisement Bill (Sponsored by exec)
   Beneke: If we don’t advertise, no one will show up.
Schaunman: Look at advertisement that is being passed around.
Anderson: Are both DAD and the Senate advertising or are we just donating to their advertising budget?
Bernier: Where did you get this figure?
Move to amend the amount spend to $50 (Beneke, Tomko), amended 10 yay, 4 no, bill passed

e. Motion to nominate two senators for the Homecoming Court (Sponsored by Bernier, Anderson)
   Bernier: Allocate $30 ($15 apiece) for the Senate Homecoming Royalty
   Peck: We choose one of our senators?
   Ferguson: Yup
   Nominations of Senators
   Vote: After four rounds of voting, Neo Thurston, Jessica Bernier will represent the MSUM Senate at Homecoming.

   Amend the stipend paid to $10 (Beneke, Tomko), amendment passed.
   Roll Call vote (Schaunaman, Valdez-Delgao)
   11 yay, one abstain, bill passed

f. MSUSA Conference Luncheon Bill
   Sponsored by Bernier, Anderson
   Allocate up to $230 to provide a meal to conference attendees
   Bernier: 30-35 people, host expected to pay for lunch
   Beneke: If more people show up
   Bernier: Expecting 31 people
   Anderson: There will probably be about 10 people there
   Neupane: Confirm the people?
   Bernier: Confirmed number right now is 31. Number may change.
   Anderson, Beneke roll call vote, passed
   12 yays, motion passed

g. Executive Pay Bill (Sponsored by Bernier, Anderson)
   Bernier: This bill is approving the stipends for executive committee, to be set for the remainder of the year.
   Stipend amounts: President – $75, VP – $65, Treasurer – $55, Secretary - $45
   Bernier: The amount we pay is higher than suggested in the bylaws, so we have to vote on the higher amount.
   Ferguson: Stated he was compensated for month of July, Beneke was never compensated for work done in the summer months.
Ferguson: The current stipend amounts were already worked into the budget.
Anderson: Worried about the budget, spent about $1000 over the past two weeks
Bernier: We can amend the bill if you don’t like amounts.
Peck: What is total amount?
Beneke: Chairs $200, Stipends, and scholarship for Pres., VP, and Treasurer.
Anderson: This info is in the binder.
Bernier: It adds up to about $10,000 total
Boschee: These stipends start from first day of school. Also, for his work over the summer, Ferguson was paid by a different department.

Roll call vote (Raul, Anderson)
10 yay, 2 abstain, bill passed

XI. Points for the Good of the Order
Beneke:
Take care of your binder!
Don’t forget out about the Town hall meeting
Email committee times to him by Wednesday, September 19.

Bernier: Great job everyone! Meeting may not always take this long, so thank you for your patience tonight

Anderson: Although chairs can’t vote, you are encouraged to be a part of the discussions.

Awosika: Keep an eye on the budget, be conservative

Schaunaman: Tabling around campus is important, though not the most glamorous. Please volunteer.

XII. Announcements
Thurston: Tri-College Meeting, need more student leaders, free food

XIII. Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 8:37pm (Anderson, Bernier)

Respectfully submitted,

Mari Salonek
MSUM Senate Secretary