

Student Senate Meeting Minutes

11/18/24

The meeting was called to order by Maggie Newhouse at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Maggie Newhouse, Joel Tranel, Caden Boyer, Noah Lahner, Ali French, Lizzie Pike, Mario Rodriguez-Gomez, Shania Vanlewin, Maeve Cannon, Scott Walker, Allison Ciero, Aidan Indahl, Garrett Rotzien, Noah Sheck, Joey Dunn, Jaedyn Fellenz, Simone Vega, Javier Cifuentes, Sidney Polzin (Brandon Fagiolo), Wesley Larson, Luke Pilot, Jacob Fiala, Diego Corvera, Zoe Fink, Maggie Albers (Marc Fletemeyer), Reese Heitzman (Jared Mitchell), Amanda Siemienas, Conner Perry, Cynthia Sele, Angela Gonzalez Campos

Members Absent: None

Nordic Ski Special Request:

- Suggested Amount \$660
 - Going to Yellowstone National Park over Thanksgiving Break to go ski
 - \$60 Trail Passes Each
 - Ski Rentals

Motion made to fund at the suggested amount of \$660: Aidan Indahl

Seconded: Jacob Fiala

Votes

- **For:** 19
- **Against:** 0
- **Abstained:** 1

Motion Passes

BSA Special Request:

- Suggested Amount \$660
 - Looking to host a Friendsgiving

Motion made to fund at the suggested amount of \$660: Jaedyn Fellenz

Seconded: Simone Roman Vega

Votes

- **For:** 20
- **Against:** 0
- **Abstained:** 0

Motion Passes

Asian Student Alliance Club:

- A safe space for students to be a part of
- 15 students are eager to join
- They are hosting an event tomorrow for Hmong New Year where they will have food, arts and crafts, and activities

Executive Board Reports

Maggie Newhouse, President

- I met with the Minnesota Council of Presidents last week and they shared some news regarding the State Grant program. This information was from the newsletter of the Minnesota Private College Council.
 - The State Grant program, which provides need-based grants to two out of five Minnesota college students, faces a \$210 million shortfall over the next two years. Without action, tens of thousands of students' grants will be cut or lost starting next fall.
 - The need to address the \$210 million shortfall is especially urgent after many State Grant recipients already had their awards cut for this academic year. That happened because of a previous \$42 million shortfall announced over the summer. While that shortfall also impacted students at all kinds of institutions, it fell most heavily on students at private nonprofit colleges who weren't helped by the state's new North Star Promise program, which only benefits students at public or tribal colleges and universities. Students at private nonprofit colleges experienced an average \$1,500 cut to their State Grant awards compared to last year. Looking ahead, the impact of the new \$210 million shortfall would be even larger if state leaders don't act.
 - "College students need Gov. Tim Walz and our state's legislators to protect them from additional State Grant cuts," Cerkevnik said. "State leaders can take action during the upcoming legislative session to fully fund the State Grant program and help college students and their families." It will be more important than ever for lawmakers to hear from college students and their supporters about the importance of investing in the State Grant program.

- I will update you on any new information I receive on this topic.
- There will be no Senate meeting next Tuesday.

Joel Tranel, Vice President of Financial Affairs

- Nothing to report

Mario Rodriguez-Gomez, Vice President of Campus Affairs

- Thank you for filling out the capital improvement form!

Noah Lahner, Vice President of Academic Affairs

- Nothing to report

Caden Rodning, Vice President of Public Affairs

- Nothing to report.

Ali French, Vice President of Student Affairs

- Tuesday
 - Women's basketball is at Northland College at 6 pm
 - Women's hockey home at 7 pm against UW Eau Claire
- Friday
 - Women's hockey is home vs. St. Kates at 7 pm
- Saturday
 - Women's hockey is at St. Kates at 2pm
 - W basketball is home vs. Luther at 2 pm
 - M basketball is at UW River Falls at 5 pm

Maeve Cannon, Vice President of Media and Communications

- Senator Spotlights are starting to be posted so make sure you're following the Student Senate Instagram

Lizzie Pike, Vice President of Administrative Affairs

- Senior Class Officers will be selling alcohol this Saturday from 5-8 pm at Cardinal Fest
- The sophomore class officers will be selling anonymous gratitude cards for \$1 on Monday the 25th from 11:30 am-1 pm in Toner. Students can write letters of gratitude to friends and Senate will deliver the letters to the corresponding student's mailbox.

Shania Vanlewin, Vice President of Multicultural Affairs

- Asian Student & Allies (ASA) - Event to celebrate Hmong New Year
 - 6-8 pm, Hendrickson 120
- Black Students & Allies (BSA) - Friendsgiving Dinner on Sunday
 - 2-5 pm, in Salvi Hall

Scott Walker, Advisor

- Nothing to report

Class Officer Reports

Freshman

- Nothing to report

Sophomore

- Nothing to report

Junior

- Nothing to report

Senior

- 64 responses back from the senior class party week ideas.

Senator Concerns: Nothing to report

Adjournment

Motion made to Adjourn- Aidan Indahl

Seconded - Wesley Larson

Adjourned at 7:14 pm.