



Student Government Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 12, 2026

1) Opening of Meeting

- a) Call to order at 5:02 p.m.
- b) Pledge of Alliance
 - i) Conducted
- c) First roll call
 - Vice President Joshi
 - Executive Assistant Rasmussen
 - Chair Cenolli
 - Chair Alduri
 - Chair Ghimire
 - Chair Burnell
 - Chair Gautum
 - Chair Isingizwe
 - Senator Bhandari
 - Senator Mukit
 - Senator Nwankwo
 - Senator Osman
 - Senator Lundblad
- e) Approval of today's agenda
 - i) Approved

2) Hearings

- a) Open Gallery
 - i) President Tomso
 - (1) Gave a brief overview of what has been going on since he took over as University President. Areas of focus have been taking measures to make sure that staffing matches student needs and making plans to improve student retention. The budget deficit is also being addressed. Spoke on the new Strategic Planning Committee.
 - (2) Floor was open for questioning: Senator Lundblad, V.P. Joshi, Senator Osman, Chair Alduri, Chair Isingizwe, Chair Gautum, Senator Bandari, Chair Ghimire, and gallery members gave feedback and asked President Tomso questions about more information on the current initiatives and problems the university is facing.
 - ii) Senator Nwankwo

- (1) Gave a presentation with updates on past meetings with Deans from the colleges; a full report is listed under Senate reports. Went through an overview, goals, and framework that she has been working on this semester. Established a relationship with College Deans and other Academic Affairs leaders by scheduling and attending meetings. Emphasized that student voices are most effective when informed and communicated.
- (2) Floor was opened for questioning: V.P. Joshi, Chair Isingizwe, and Chair Ghimire provided feedback and questions.
- b) Senate Finance
 - i) No new hearings
- c) Internal Elections
 - i) None

3) Plenary Session I

- a) Unfinished Business
 - i) Senator Bhandari
 - (1) Gave an update on the merchandise initiative. There is a way to avoid dealing with technicalities by not including SCSU branding.
 - (2) V.P. Joshi gave context that the Winona State student government did something similar and added that we can start working on a new design.
 - (3) Chair Isingizwe also added specifics as to what would violate
- b) New Business
 - i) No new business

4) Officer Reports

- a) President
 - i) No report
- b) Vice President
 - i) Had a meeting with potential new members for next year's senate
 - ii) Meeting with someone who is interested in creating a new committee.
 - iii) Dining meeting with Advisor regarding the survey that was sent out, another survey will be sent out to try and get more responses.
- c) Chief Justice
 - i) No report
- d) Executive Assistant
 - i) Worked with office manager Missy to get meeting minutes ready to be published on the website, should be up within the next week.
 - ii) Remaining badges are in, working on getting them dispersed.
 - iii) Reminder to senators to be doing and tracking office hours.
 - iv) Good job to Chairs for getting reports in on time this week.

5) Committee Reports

- a) Fee Allocation
 - i) Meeting with Atwood and DCI on March 12 to discuss budget proposals.
- b) Senate finance
 - i) The Senate Finance Committee held its weekly meeting of this semester on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.
 - ii) We did not have any formal funding presentations from student organizations. However, we took time to discuss funding requests for the Hmong Student Organization (HSO) & Pre-dental Club.
 - iii) Regarding HSO, we are still waiting on required quotes and invoices, as they were not provided in their request. Until those documents are submitted, we are unable to move forward with funding. I have reached out to HSO to request the missing materials so we can proceed once everything is received.
 - iv) The Pre-Dental Club submitted a request for funding so they can attend a private tooth-sculpting class that takes place off-campus. At this time, we do not allow funding for private instructional classes held off-campus. We only allocate off-campus funding for conferences or competitions. Ultimately, this request does align with our policies, it is not eligible for funding and will need to be denied.
 - v) No funding approved this week.
- c) Tech Fee
 - i) No report
- d) Public Relations
 - i) No report
- e) Campus Affairs
 - i) No report
- f) Student Services
 - i) The committee reviewed the student dining survey results and discussed key feedback from students. Members reflected on both the positive aspects of current dining services and areas where students expressed concerns. The discussion focused on identifying realistic improvements that could be implemented during the current semester while considering student suggestions and overall dining experience on campus.
- g) Constitution Committee
 - i) No report
- h) Election Committee
 - i) We had our 1st info session on 9 March in Teams, where the Presidential and Vice-presidential candidates attended. We also had a few separate sessions with Senatorial applicants both online and in document.

- ii) The Senator applications are still coming in. The deadline for applications for all the positions is March 15.
 - iii) Chair Gautam has been asked to put the QR code and countdown for the applications in stories of the SGA instagram account.
 - iv) The campaigning started on March 10 and it's been strictly monitored by the committee.
 - v) The next information session will be held on March 16 at 4 p.m. in the Alumni room. All the candidates have been asked to join this session.
 - vi) We are still appointing more members in the committee, if anyone is interested, please reach out to Chief Justice Shreya.
 - vii) Next week senate meeting we will announce the final candidates' names for the upcoming election
- i) Senator Reports
- i) Senator Nwankwo (Academic Affairs)
 - (1) Meeting on February 24, 2026, with Melissa Hanzsek, Interim Dean of the College of Education and Learning, and College of Health and Wellness
 - (a) Programs in Education and Health are highly regulated due to state legislation and accreditation requirements, not always faculty or institutional decisions.
 - (b) Accreditation reviews include syllabi, program standards, and professional requirements that must be followed.
 - (c) SGA encouraged to help students understand that some rules come from state or licensing boards, not the university.
 - (d) Examples of requirements: 2.75 GPA requirement for entry into teaching programs. English proficiency cut score for nursing students set by the Board of Nursing.
 - (e) Major initiative: aligning programs with regional workforce needs, especially in education, healthcare, and other helping professions.
 - (f) Employers and community partners want graduates who are likely to stay and work in the region.
 - (g) Focus on planning for local labor supply, including rural and community-based professions.
 - (2) Meeting on March 11, 2026, with Claudia Tomany, Dean of Graduate Studies
 - (a) Ongoing initiatives include improved immigration support for international students, including OPT/CPT coordination and updates to Terra Dotta software.
 - (b) Plymouth campus planned to move to Hennepin Community College to improve facilities, security, reduce costs, and increase student job opportunities.
 - (c) Efforts to streamline program schedules and create clearer graduation pathways while maintaining the Interdisciplinary Studies program.
 - (d) AI skills being emphasized as important for workforce competitiveness; and ethical use policy development in progress.
 - (e) Library and Graduate School integration planned under one dean.

- (f) Main challenge: maintaining student services while the university continues shifting toward more online and flexible learning formats.
- (3) Meeting on March 11, 2026, with Raymond Phillippot, Interim Dean, College of Liberal Arts
 - (a) Ongoing initiatives include university reorganization and structural changes.
 - (b) Focus on student retention, identified as a priority by the current university president.
 - (c) Expansion of services that support overall student success, including academic, financial, and wellness support - “healthy and wealthy” approach.
 - (d) Strengthening community partnerships and industry connections.
 - (e) Fundraising efforts, also led by the university president.
 - (f) Recruitment and retention remain critical priorities, supported by strong academic programs, student services, effective advising, and promoting a sense of belonging among students.
 - (g) When asked about causes of students transferring out, he noted that it is a complex issue, often involving personal circumstances or unexpected life events. Previous attempts to track transfer reasons were not very successful because students often do not respond with the actual issue.
 - (h) Recommendation made to develop a more stable feedback system to allow students to report concerns and specific issues affecting their academic experience
- ii) Senator Bhandari (International Students)
 - (1) Worked on preparing an International Student Check-In Form and met with the DSO. I will also be collaborating with CIS. CIS will be keeping QR code posters and both form links in the CIS office to collect direct feedback when students come in.
 - (2) Prepared another all student check-in form to better understand how students are doing and what challenges they are facing.
 - (3) Worked in collaboration with the Tech Fee Survey Committee. Both forms are planned to be published next week, and I will also work on increasing responses by sharing the QR codes and both form links around campus.
 - (4) Attended the Community Conversation on AI Policy and Governance with Chair Isingizwe on March 12, 2026, from 2–3:30 p.m. in the Gallery Room. During the discussion, I shared concerns about AI-related plagiarism issues students have faced. The conversation also focused on AI policy and the appropriate use of AI both inside and outside the classroom.
 - (5) Began reviewing merchandise guidelines and budget planning. We are considering not using the SCSU logo and instead using just text, since that would be cheaper and faster.
- j) Students United
 - i) No report

6) Plenary Session II

- a) Last call for business
 - i) No last call for business

7) Closing of Meeting

- a) Open Statement
 - i) Conducted
- b) Last Roll Call
 - Vice President Joshi
 - Executive Assistant Rasmussen
 - Chair Cenolli
 - Chair Ghimire
 - Chair Burnell
 - Chair Gautum
 - Chair Isingizwe
 - Senator Mukit
 - Senator Bhandari
 - Senator Nwankwo
 - Senator Lundblad
 - Senator Osman
- c) Adjournment – Adjourned at 7:20 p.m.