St. Cloud State University

Student Government Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 25, 2025

1) Opening of Meeting

a) Call to order at 4:59 p.m.

b) Pledge of Alliance: Conducted

c) First roll call

- President Das
- Vice President Joshi
- Chief Justice Norling
- Executive Assistant Monir
- Chair Loidolt (PR)
- Chair Alduri (Campus Affairs)
- Chair Rasmussen (Legislative Affairs)
- Chair Cenolli (Fee Allocation)
- Chair Burnell (Senate Finance)
- Chair and Parliamentarian Srikanta (Student Constitution)
- Senator Hossain (Athletics)
- Senator Bhandari (International Students)
- Senator Osman (RHA)
- Senator Lundblad (At-Large)

d) Approval of today's agenda: Approved

2) Hearings

a) Open Gallery

i) Guest Speaker: Students United

(1) Representatives: Em Hodge (Chair), Javelia Morrison-Galimore (Vice Chair), and Samriddhi Bista (Treasurer) presented on behalf of Students United.

(2) Provided their annual presentation outlining the organization's agenda and key priorities for the academic year.

(3) Discussed the CLF Program, emphasizing its purpose in developing student leadership and advocacy skills. Announced that CLF Program applications and the associated scholarship will open on February 1, 2026.

(4) Shared upcoming **Students United events**:

(a) **Advocacy in Action Conference**: November 7–8, 2025

(b) **Lobby Day**: February 23–24, 2026

(5) Encouraged continued collaboration and engagement between SGA and Students United throughout the year
(6) Floor Opened for Questions & Comments:
    (a) Chair Isingwize: Asked whether all seven universities in the Minnesota State system pay the same fee given tuition differences, suggesting that fees should vary by tuition level. Students United clarified that all institutions pay unified fees determined by the Board of Trustees. He also mentioned former Chair Sameer Khan's advocacy to lower international student insurance costs. Students United explained that extensive research is ongoing, noting that international insurance requirements are influenced by federal law and institutional safety protocols. A correction was made clarifying that J-1 visa holders fall under federal insurance requirements, while F-1 visa holders are covered by university policies, not federal mandates.
    (b) Vice President Joshi: Asked about Students United's agenda and focus for the year, and encouraged them to be more visible on campus, as engagement typically occurs only during formal visits. Students United responded that they are working on improving campus presence and have begun local tabling efforts.
    (c) Senator Osman: Inquired about the preservation of TRIO programs, referencing last year's Lobby Day in Washington, D.C. which helped maintain TRIO funding. He asked for progress updates and whether new package options will be available. Students United noted that advocacy efforts continue to ensure students remain informed and supported.
    (d) Chair Alduri: Asked for Students United's opinion on the recent lawsuit filed by a student against Students United. Representatives responded that they could not comment on ongoing legal matters.

ii) Guest Speaker: President Larry Dietz & Vice President of Finance and Administration Daniel Golombiecki

(1) President Dietz identified two current university priorities: the Title IX Office and the Lindgren Child Care Center. He clarified that the proposal to close Lindgren was originally planned for the end of December 2025, and that the university has held multiple hearing sessions with staff, community partners, and concerned individuals regarding the matter.
(2) He emphasized that the primary issue with Lindgren is the facility's deteriorating infrastructure, particularly the steam system, which has been patched together for years and is nearing failure. The building's heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems are outdated and unsustainable.
(3) He explained that the university recently presented to 15 state legislators about urgent capital needs, noting that the building housing Lindgren is listed as second in line for demolition if funding is approved, underscoring how severe its structural issues are.
(4) He also mentioned feedback from community partners who stressed the growing need for childcare in the region—approximately 7,000 children statewide currently lack

access—but stated that the financial model for childcare operations is not sustainable without significant subsidies. He added that the administration plans to respond to all proposals, including those concerning Lindgren, by early next week.

(5) Vice President Golombiecki elaborated on the financial and maintenance challenges:
  (a) The university spends over $100,000 annually just to keep the facility operational.
  (b) Lindgren currently pays no utilities, overhead, or maintenance costs, which creates a major financial imbalance.
  (c) Repairing the steam system would only be a temporary fix, as further issues would continue to emerge.
  (d) Relocating the childcare center elsewhere on campus has been extensively studied, but even the cheapest option would cost approximately $1.5 million due to strict building and safety codes requiring new structural modifications (e.g., external doors in every classroom).

(6) Both President Dietz and Vice President Golombiecki concluded that while SGA has the right to review and analyze Lindgren's operations, the core issue lies in the facility's unsustainable infrastructure and high maintenance costs, making long-term continuation extremely difficult without external funding or a new location.

(7) Floor Opened for Questions:
  (a) Senator Lundblad: Asked whether closing the Lindgren Child Care Center now would allow for reopening in the future or establishing an alternative program. President Dietz responded that there is no guarantee the center could reopen once closed.
  (b) Senator Osman: Asked if SGA is still scheduled to fund Lindgren through the end of the year, and noted concerns about public perception that SGA does not support childcare. He clarified that SGA's position is not against childcare but based on financial sustainability, adding that if Lindgren could become profitable, SGA would continue to support it.

b) Senate Finance Hearing
  i) The committee met on September 23, 2025, at 4:30 p.m.
  ii) Heard funding requests from BSA, International Relations Club, Drama Club, and SCSU Speech & Debate.
  iii) Approved $3,000 for BSA's Cultural Night and $1,979 for Drama Club's Salem's Daughter.
  iv) Expecting future requests from Pride Posse and the Botanical Society.
  v) Discussing a possible pause on operating budget requests this year and working with advisors Anna and Molly to improve SFC training.

c) Internal Elections
  i) No elections held Elections will take place during next week's meeting.
  ii) Reported that four applications for senatorial positions have been received

3) Plenary Session I

a) Unfinished Business

i) Lindgren Child Care Center

(1) Chair Cenolli emphasized the urgency of taking a vote on the Lindgren Child Care Center matter, noting that the proposal will be presented to the System Office on Monday. He explained that there is a firm deadline at the end of the month, which can still be met if the Senate finalizes its decision by the end of this meeting. Chair Cenolli stated that he was present to address any remaining questions or clarifications and encouraged the Senate to move forward with a motion to vote on the funding and closure of the Lindgren Child Care Center.

(2) Floor opened for questions

(a) Chair Isingwize proposed creating a reserve fund instead of continuing Lindgren funding, suggesting the money be saved for 3–4 years and later used to build a new childcare facility. Advisor Balicky explained that this idea is not possible due to bonding and financial restrictions. Senator Isingwize added that the Senate could propose to the administration not to permanently close Lindgren but to allow future Senates to reinstate it once the university's finances stabilize.

(b) President Das appreciated the intent but noted that future administrations might not honor this Senate's decisions, which could create conflict. He advised against adopting the reserve-fund proposal. Chair Cenolli stated there is no certainty that conditions 5–6 years from now would favor reopening Lindgren, citing possible demographic changes, inflation, and budget mismanagement. He emphasized the issue is more complex than simply preserving the program's memory.

(c) Chair Alduri said Lindgren could still be profitable, as other Minnesota State universities operate childcare centers successfully. He proposed funding it through the end of the year and, if a 15% profit margin is achieved, continuing support next year; otherwise, funding should cease. Advisor Balicky clarified that SCSU's enrollment remains strong, ranking second-largest after Mankato. Executive Assistant Monir noted SCSU's higher ratio of international students compared to Mankato and Duluth and questioned the repetition of the same discussion each meeting.

(d) Vice President Joshi asked how many members were willing to reallocate student fees to fund Lindgren again.

(e) President Das asked how hiring another person would resolve the issue, pointing out that this would require cutting funds from other departments such as Athletics or Graduate Assistant stipends.

(f) Chief Justice Norling shared insight from a local daycare owner, explaining that childcare costs continue to rise while wages remain stagnant—an issue affecting all of Greater Minnesota.

(g) Senator Lundblad motioned for a 10-minute open discussion to promote productivity; the motion was denied by dissent. She supported Chair Isingwize's idea to revisit Lindgren in future years and agreed with Chair Alduri on maintaining support through the end of the academic year for goodwill.

(h) Senator Nwanko stated there is little value in continuing debate since current information shows Lindgren would remain unprofitable. She asked about relocating the center; Advisor Balicky responded that building or renovating another facility would cost at least $1.5 million.

(i) Senator Hossain observed that 4–5 childcare centers in St. Cloud charge less and operate effectively, arguing that Lindgren has not shown profit and has unclear staffing expenses; he supported closing the center.

(j) Senator Osman motioned to proceed to voting on whether SGA should continue funding Lindgren. The motion carried, and the Senate voted to support the Fee Allocation Committee's recommendation to discontinue funding after May 2026.

b) Unfinished Business: None

4) Officer Reports

a) President
   - i) Connecting with Students United alongside cabinet members.
   - ii) Met with Chair Rasmussen regarding Career Center initiatives.
   - iii) Met with Advisor Balicky to discuss agenda items and upcoming projects related to the Career Center.

b) Vice President
   - i) Met with Advisor Balicky, President Das, and Chair Rasmussen to discuss Career Center reforms.
   - ii) Actively working to connect and coordinate with all chairs and senators.

c) Executive Assistant
   - i) Collaborating with Missy to organize and finalize meeting minutes.

5) Committee Reports

a) Senate Finance
   - i) Met on September 23, 2025, at 4:30 p.m.
   - ii) Heard funding requests from BSA, International Relations Club, Drama Club, and SCSU Speech & Debate.
   - iii) Approved $3,000 for BSA's Cultural Night and $1,979 for Drama Club's Salem's Daughter.
   - iv) Anticipating future requests from Pride Posse and the Botanical Society.
   - v) Discussing a potential pause on operating budget requests for this academic year.
   - vi) Collaborating with advisors Anna and Molly to develop improved SFC training

b) Legislative Affairs
   - i) Met with President Das and Vice President Joshi to discuss collaboration with the Career Center to improve future career fairs.

ii) Met with Vice President Joshi again to explore ways to enhance student career opportunities.
iii) Met with Executive Assistant Monir to coordinate senator badge completion.
iv) Continuing recruitment efforts to fill committee membership.

c) Tech Fee
   i) Attended Campus Academic Technology Team meeting.
   ii) Appointed Senator Osman as Vice Chair.
   iii) Planning tabling sessions in Atwood and Garvey to promote committee initiatives.
   iv) Appointed Senator Bhandari to the AI Policy Committee.
   v) Announced the launch of the new Clock In/Out software system.

6) Plenary Session II

a) Last Call for Business:
   i) Vice President Joshi requested senators to select a time slot to meet with him and the advisor to discuss agendas for the academic year. He also asked committee chairs to schedule individual meetings for detailed discussions.

7) Closing of Meeting

a) Open Gallery II: None
b) Open Statement: Presented (6:46 - 6:51 p.m.)
c) Last Roll Call
   - President Das
   - Vice President Joshi
   - Chief Justice Norling
   - Executive Assistant Monir
   - Chair Loidolt (PR)
   - Chair Ghimire (Student Service)
   - Chair Alduri (Campus Affairs)
   - Chair Rasmussen (Legislative Affairs)
   - Chair Cenolli (Fee allocation)
   - Chair Burnell (Senate Finance)
   - Chair Isingwize (Tech Fee)
   - Chair & Parliamentarian Srikanta (Student Constitution)
   - Senator Hossain (Athletics)
   - Senator Bhandari (International Student)
   - Senator Nwankwo (PR)
   - Senator Osman (RHA)
   - Senator Lundblad (At-Large)
d) Adjournment – Adjourned at 6:53 p.m.