



Student Government Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 23, 2025

1) Opening of Meeting

- a) Call to order at 5 p.m.
- b) Pledge of Alliance: Conducted
- c) First roll call
 - President Das
 - Vice President Joshi
 - Chief Justice Norling
 - Executive Assistant Monir
 - Chair Ghimire (Student Service)
 - Chair Alduri (Campus Affairs)
 - Chair Cenolli (Fee allocation)
 - Chair Burnell (Senate Finance)
 - Chair Isingwize (Tech Fee)
 - Senator Hossain (Athletics)
 - Senator Bhandari (International)
 - Senator Dalhberg (At-Large)
 - Senator Lundblad (At-Large)
 - Senator Garcia (At-Large)
- d) Approval of today's agenda: Approved

2) Hearings

- a) Open Gallery
 - i) Shahzad Ahmed – Associate Vice President of Global and Multicultural Engagement
 - (1) TerraDotta, New Software System
 - (a) Announced the implementation of a new software system, to improve student accessibility and efficiency. The new system will automatically transfer data from ISRS.
 - (b) Transitioning from paper-based processes to an online platform, allowing students to access records, such as I-20 reprints without visiting the office.
 - (c) Minnesota State University - Mankato, has also implemented this software successfully.
 - (2) Journey Across the World: Collaborated event by Center for International Studies (CIS) & Multicultural Student Service (MSS)
 - (a) Announced the upcoming event on November 5 at the Paramount Center in Downtown Saint Cloud.

- (b) Free to all SCSU students
- (3) Movie Screening: Free Lunch – Surviving Immigration.
 - (a) Scheduled for Thursday, October 23, 6:30 p.m. onwards
 - (b) Focusing on the experiences and challenges of immigrants, produced by Reggie Anderson, local Twin Cities filmmaker.
- ii) Holly J. Schreiner – Director of Athletics
 - (1) Athletics and Campus Recreation Updates
 - (a) Shared that the athletes are in full competition season and expressed appreciation for SGA’s presence at games
 - (b) Highlighted the importance of campus recreation as a resource that allows students to focus on personal growth and well-being
 - (c) Discussed changes in academic advising for athletes; with the Greenhouse moving, the department is seeking alternative spaces for study groups.
 - (d) Reported extended Campus Recreation hours and plans to conduct surveys to evaluate the effectiveness of recent changes.
 - (2) Division I status and Facility Updates
 - (a) Addressed operational changes under Division I, emphasizing the benefits of maintaining Division I status for visibility and reputation
 - (b) Mentioned that lower enrollment has impacted student attendance at athletic events; plans to collaborate with SGA to increase engagement.
 - (c) Introduced a new ticketing system, which previously used Student ID swipes but now requires physical tickets, resulting in longer wait times before games
 - (3) Student Engagement and Future Plans
 - (a) Emphasized rebuilding partnership with the foundation to strengthen athletic funding and community connections
 - (b) Acknowledged current budget challenges affecting staffing and marketing
 - (4) Floor opened for questions and comments
 - (a) Senator Osman: Asked how SGA can best assist athletics in increasing student involvement. Holly encouraged senators to bring creative engagement ideas and noted that upcoming programs like camping trips will be open to all students, not just athletes, to build a stronger community connection.
 - (b) Senator Hossain: Asked about nutrition programs for student-athletes. Holly responded that nutrition is a growing focus area but remains limited by funding; they are balancing between D1 and D2 expectations while trying to maintain adequate nutrition and advising support.
 - (c) Vice President Joshi: Raised questions about low student attendance at games and lack of promotional presence, such as tabling. Holly agreed and acknowledged the marketing challenges due to budget restrictions but welcomed SGA’s help in tabling and outreach. She emphasized that getting even 50 more students at events would make a major impact. He also asked about collaboration between athletics and the

Foundation. Holly confirmed that an assigned staff member manages the relationship, but the department is actively working to rebuild stronger, more consistent communication.

- (d) Chair Isingwize: Asked whether the volleyball team might move to Division I and about challenges of sustaining D1 hockey. Holly clarified that volleyball will remain in its current division and that maintaining D1 hockey requires consistent fundraising to compete with other schools offering larger or full scholarships.
- (e) Chair Loidolt: Asked what drives SCSU to stay in Division I. Holly explained that since no D2 option exists, moving to D3 would harm visibility. Remaining D1 keeps SCSU competitive, recognizable, and helps sustain its athletic brand across the region.

iii) Dr. Katherina Pattit – Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

(1) Overview of Student Satisfaction and Success Survey Presentation

- (a) Presented the findings from the *Drivers of Student Satisfaction and Success* survey conducted earlier this year, aimed at understanding key factors influencing student experiences at St. Cloud State University.
- (b) The survey included 22 questions, exploring student perceptions of classroom experiences, faculty and staff engagement, and overall connection to the university.
- (c) The survey had an exceptionally high response rate, providing valuable insights that guided the development of new improvement initiatives.
- (d) Key Findings
 - (i) Four major factors identified as the strongest drivers of satisfaction: Feeling welcomed and valued by the university. Feeling connected to St. Cloud State. Positive online learning experiences. Receiving responsive support from faculty.
 - (ii) The results showed that students who felt valued, connected, and supported were significantly more likely to report high satisfaction and recommend SCSU to others.
- (e) Insights and Analysis
 - (i) Open-ended responses revealed deeper insights into where improvements could be made; particularly in responsiveness, communication, and faculty engagement.
 - (ii) Emphasized the importance of clarity, communication, and follow-through in building a sense of belonging and satisfaction among students.
 - (iii) Highlighted the correlation between faculty visibility, student engagement, and overall student success.
- (f) Online Learning Experience & Next Steps
 - (i) Noted that many students take hybrid or online courses, making the digital learning experience a crucial aspect of satisfaction.
 - (ii) Introduced a pilot initiative to implement unified course shells in D2L to ensure consistency across courses, reducing confusion for students.

- (iii) Addressed the balance between academic freedom and standardized learning design, proposing collaboration between faculty and student representatives to align expectations.
- (iv) Encouraged SGA members to participate in smaller working groups to provide student perspectives and shape future academic improvements.
- (g) Invitation for Collaboration
 - (i) Dr. Katherina concluded by inviting senators and student leaders to continue this discussion through follow-up meetings and collaborative workgroups.
 - (ii) The goal is to enhance online learning quality, strengthen faculty-student connections, and create a more engaging and inclusive campus environment.
- (h) Floor opened for questions & comments
 - (i) Chair Alduri raised concerns about the Academic Affairs Restructuring Project (2026), noting that students were not included in the early feedback process. Dr. Katherina explained that the project is still in its internal phase, focusing on job descriptions and department structures, but student input will be sought as the plan progresses. She also clarified that faculty feedback is gathered through meetings and email submissions, ensuring transparency in how input is addressed.
 - (ii) Senator Osman discussed communication gaps in online and upper-division advising, emphasizing the lack of responsiveness from advisors. He asked about mechanisms to ensure feedback leads to action. Dr. Katherina said the university is exploring a centralized feedback form to collect and route student concerns more effectively, acknowledging the need for more transparency and follow-up.
 - (iii) Senator Lundblad asked about improving accessibility of resources and the usability of the SCSU website. Dr. Katherina said accessibility work is underway to ensure compliance for online materials and improve digital navigation. She mentioned potential use of AI tools like chatbots and welcomed collaboration with students to collect usability feedback for future website improvements.
 - (iv) President Das asked about plans to improve the 47% six-year graduation rate. Dr. Katherina explained that factors like part-time status and transfer students affect the number, but several initiatives are in place. These include structured advising for first-year students, better use of data analytics, and new scheduling software (CourseDoc) to reduce course conflicts and support timely graduation.
 - (v) Chair Alduri also inquired about the proposed restructuring of the College of Arts and Sciences and faculty concerns regarding non-teaching administrators. Dr. Katherina clarified that the model is still being developed and administrative positions like assistant deans would only handle operational support, not teaching. She confirmed that student feedback will be included once the structure is finalized.

- (vi) Vice President Joshi asked about student feedback on faculty performance and inconsistent D2L use. Dr. Katherina said faculty associations have resisted sharing evaluations beyond departments, but she supports a consistent and transparent feedback system. She also emphasized that D2L should at least include syllabi and gradebooks and agreed that greater accountability and collaboration with deans could improve retention and teaching quality.
- (vii) Chair Ghimire asked how SCSU ensures course quality compared to other universities and updates outdated syllabi and D2L content. Dr. Katherina said programs undergo annual reviews to assess learning outcomes, while accreditations like AACSB provide external checks every few years. She acknowledged that some materials remain outdated and said the university is working to set clearer faculty expectations and strengthen internal review processes. She added that student feedback through SGA is key to promoting accountability and keeping courses current.
- (viii) Senator Dahlberg raised concerns about outdated systems, noting that the USSR still appeared as a country option on the graduation form. He questioned how the university ensures its online services and databases are modern and accurate. Dr. Katherina explained that many systems, including those used for graduation and records, run on an aging state-wide platform called ISRS, which is being replaced by Workday Student. She said the transition is complex since it involves all Minnesota State institutions and is expected to be completed around 2030. Until then, minor fixes can be made through the system office, but larger updates are limited by state-level control.

iv) India Heritage Club (IHC)

- (1) Chair Srikanta, who also serves as the Vice President of IHC, was scheduled to present details about the event but was unable to attend due to unavoidable circumstances. Vice President Joshi conveyed the message on their behalf.

- (a) Cultural Night 2025 - Anant Utsav

- (i) Inviting the senate to attend their cultural night on November 2, starting at 5 p.m. onwards. Mentioned that free entry tickets are offered to the senate.

b) Senate Finance

- i) The India Heritage Club (IHC)

- (1) Anant Utsav

- (a) After reviewing their request and committee deliberation, the SFC approved \$2,928.17 in funding.
 - (b) The approved amount included expenses for décor, Atwood tech fees, Printing costs and the Chartwells Invoice.

c) Internal Elections

- i) A motion was raised by Senator Bhandari to move internal election to next week, the motion was denied by Chief Justice Norling.
- ii) ASM Mukit (At-Large Senator Candidate)
 - (1) Asked to introduce himself, followed by a series of questions from the Senate
 - (2) A deliberation session was held to discuss his candidacy
 - (3) Chief Justice Norling announced that candidate Mukit was approved for the position of At-Large Senator
- iii) Anchal Piyari (At-Large Senator Candidate)
 - (1) Asked to introduce herself, followed by a series of questions from the Senate
 - (2) A deliberation session was held to discuss her candidacy
 - (3) Chief Justice Norling announced that candidate Piyari was not approved for the position of At-Large Senator. However, the senate encouraged her to join one of the committees as a non-senate member

3) Plenary Session I

- a) Unfinished Business: None
- b) New Business
 - i) President Das
 - (1) To be brought up in next week's unfinished business session regarding a proposed freeze/cap on tuition fees.

4) Officer Reports

- a) President
 - i) Student United Board Meeting
 - (1) Advocacy in Action Conference; Day 1: Business casual attire required. Day 2: University Apparel (Husky Gear)
 - (2) Tuition Fee Resolution: The board of directors passed a motion to freeze/cap tuition fees for the next two fiscal years. Work is underway on a formal resolution to support this decision.
 - ii) Search Committee Meeting: Participated in interviews of candidates for the presidential search
 - iii) Campus Engagement
 - (1) Held two meetings with Advisor Balicky, majorly focused on campus engagement.
 - (2) Attended the hockey game with senate members; Our team won!
 - (3) Met with the Pakistan Student Association (PSA) to discuss their upcoming event and offered suggestions for improvement.
- b) Vice President
 - i) Career Center: Meeting last Friday and presented an outline identifying current gaps and proposed solutions. Discussed preparations for the upcoming Career Fair in February
 - ii) Administrative and Campus Meetings

- (1) Held three meetings with Advisor Balicky, primarily focused on student service initiatives and campus engagement
- (2) Meeting with the Campus Academic Technology Team (CATT) to discuss collaboration opportunities and technology initiatives supporting students.
- (3) Meeting with Adam Thompson to coordinate system-level planning for Advocacy in Action Conference
- (4) Scheduled a meeting with Dr. Jason Woods next week to discuss ongoing and future campus projects
- iii) Student Services and Dining Committee
 - (1) Met on Monday with Chair Ghimire and the Husky Dining team to explore ways for SGA to increase engagement
 - (2) Requested input from dining services on how SGA can support them in gathering student feedback and improving dining experiences.
- c) Chief Justice
 - i) Professionalism and Conduct
 - (1) Addressed concerns about maintaining appropriate decorum during meeting and reminded members to remain professional and respectful in their communication and conduct.
 - (2) Noted instances of overstepping by members of the executive board and emphasized the importance of following procedural boundaries and respecting designated roles.
 - ii) Senate Participations
 - (1) Expressed disappointment regarding the low attendance of senators during the recent hockey match. Encouraged greater engagement and presence at university events representing SGA
- d) Executive Assistant
 - i) Career Center
 - (1) Adding to Vice President Joshi's Report; Attended a productive meeting with the career center last Friday to discuss upcoming initiatives and collaborations.
 - ii) Advocacy in Action Conference
 - (1) Adding to President Das's Report; A Microsoft Team chat will be created with all attendees for internal communication before and during the conference.
 - iii) Action Items
 - (1) Completed all assigned action items provided by Vice President Joshi.
 - (2) Working on new action items assigned by President Das

5) Committee Reports: A motion was raised to move Committee Reports to teams chat: Approved

- a) Senate Finance
 - i) Held its weekly meeting on Tuesday, October 21, at 4:30 p.m.
 - ii) IHC presented their funding request for the upcoming cultural event, Anant Utsav
 - iii) Hosted Tabling events in Garvey on October 22 and Atwood on October 24 to promote awareness of the committee's role in supporting student organizations.

- b) Tech Fee
 - i) Attended the AI work group meeting on October 20 to review and refine the draft Academic AI policy before submission
 - ii) Participated in the NextGen Platform Group discussion on the transition to the Workday ERP system for better integration.
 - iii) Joined the Campus Academic technology team (CATT) meeting with Tech fee Vice-Chair Osman and Vice President Joshi to discuss printing survey outcomes and campus technology improvements.
 - iv) Finalized the Survey and Qualtrics Subcommittee policy, ensuring consistency in survey procedures across SGA committees
- c) Student Service
 - i) Discussed the creation of a complaint box to collect student feedback and improve accessibility.
 - ii) Reviewed the progress of the Campus Resources Survey, which is currently open for responses
 - iii) Meeting with Vice President Joshi to outline future goals and collaboration plans.
- d) Public Relations
 - i) Husky Howler is active again and will resume regular updates. An announcement will be made on SGA's Instagram to enhance student engagement and increase visibility.

6) Senatorial Report: A motion was raised to move Senatorial Reports to teams chat: Approved

- a) Senator Osman (RHA Senator & Tech Fee Vice-Chair)
 - i) Attended the Campus Academic technology team (CATT) meeting with Tech fee Chair Isingwize and Vice President Joshi
 - ii) Continued editing video project
 - iii) Meeting with Dr. Schwartz was moved to next week.

7) Plenary Session II

- a) Last Call for Business:
 - i) Chair Isingwize regarding Committee Reports
 - (1) Emphasized that certain committees may have important updates that should be presented
 - (2) Recommended that any future motion to cut reports can specify which committee can deliver reports to ensure essential updates are shared with the Senate.

8) Closing of Meeting

- a) Open Statement: Presented (8:26 p.m. to 8:27 p.m.)
- b) 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 Cenolli (Fee allocation)
 - Chair Burnell (Senate Finance)
 - Chair Isingwize (Tech Fee)
 - Senator Hossain (Athletics)
 - Senator Osman (RHA)
 - Senator Nwanko (PR)
 - Senator Dalhberg (At-Large)
 - Senator Lundblad (At-Large)
 - Senator Garcia (At-Large)
 - Senator Mukit (At-Large)
- c) Adjournment – Adjourned at 8:28 p.m.