ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY

Student Government Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 31, 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 Rasmussen (Legislative Affairs)
      - Chair Cenolli (Fee allocation)
      - Chair Isingwize (Tech Fee)
      - Chair & Parliamentarian Srikanta (Constitution)
      - Senator Hossain (Athletics)
      - Senator Bhandari (International)
      - Senator Nwanko (PR)
      - Senator Osman (RHA)
      - Senator Dalhberg (At-Large)
      - Senator Lundblad (At-Large)
      - Senator Garcia (At-Large)
      - Senator Mukit (At-Large)
   d) Approval of today's agenda: Approved
2) **Hearings**
   a) Open Gallery
      i) Dan Golombiecki – Vice President of Finance
         (1) Budget Overview
            (a) Agenda focused on informing SGA about the budget structure, financial picture, and scenario planning, followed by questions from the Senate.
            (b) Shared that revenue mainly comes from the General Fund, which supports 75% of operations — primarily tuition, fees, and state appropriations.
            (c) Explained that 75% of General Fund expenses go toward salary and benefits, while Residence Life differs slightly due to some buildings carrying debt.

(2) Financial Impact and Projections
   (a) Mentioned that multiple budgets are submitted through the legislative process for appropriation funding, where a 1% change can lead to a $3.2 million impact.
   (b) Estimated FY26 appropriation impact at ($4,383,000) and compensation impact at ($4,453,000), totaling ($8,836,000).
   (c) Projected that by FY28–29, there will be a $6 billion deficit systemwide.
(3) Scenario Planning
   (a) Outlined possible scenarios where appropriation is expected to decrease (controlled by the State of Minnesota), salaries and benefits continue to increase (controlled by bargaining units), and non-salary costs rise due to inflation.
   (b) Noted that these pressures on tuition to maintain resources may result in reduced staffing and services if the budget does not balance.
(4) Floor opened for questions and comments
   (a) Senator Lundblad: asked about the source of the projected 6 billion dollar deficit and how soon the university must respond. Mr. Golombiecki clarified that the projection came from MMB's February 2035 forecast and assured there is no immediate emergency. Discussions can begin in November, but actions would likely not take effect until January or February.
   (b) Senator Osman: asked if other Minnesota State universities plan to increase tuition. Mr. Golombiecki confirmed that all are considering increases, though some, such as Mankato, have announced slight reductions. Senator Osman followed up asking about the projected tuition increase, to which Mr. Golombiecki said it is uncertain due to multiple changing factors, expressed concern that budget cuts will not solve the issue long-term, emphasizing the need to retain and grow enrollment through stronger marketing rather than reducing programs. He mentioned that Saint Cloud once had a thriving community but is now sinking. Mr. Golombiecki responded that SCSU is not "sinking" but rather not progressing as quickly as other institutions. He noted that enrollment declines, not management failure, are the main cause of financial challenges.
   (c) Chair Isingwize: stated that students often bear the negative impacts of budget adjustments and asked how students would benefit from current financial strategies. Mr. Golombiecki agreed this is a drawback, explaining that past tuition freezes benefited earlier students but created funding challenges for future ones.
   (d) Vice President Joshi: Asked what SCSU's competitive leverage is if affordability is reduced, given competition within the Minnesota State system. Mr. Golombiecki said students consistently ask for more resources, which require appropriate funding. He emphasized that each university has unique priorities, and that SGA should focus on SCSU's needs specifically. Vice President Joshi then asked about the university's foundation revenue and how it contributes to stability. Mr. Golombiecki explained that most foundation funds are restricted, primarily benefiting athletics

and liberal arts. Vice President Joshi also asked about the financial risks facing athletics. Mr. Golombiecki said there are risks, but leadership, including Holly, is pursuing external funding to maintain Division I athletics. Without such funding, athletics would face financial strain.

(e) President Das: Asked what steps have been taken to address the 14 million dollar budget deficit and how much savings have been identified. Mr. Golombiecki said approximately 13.6 million has been identified, mainly through the restructuring from five colleges to three, merging areas like Professional Sciences and Business. About 90 positions are impacted, focusing on realignment to minimize costs. In a follow-up, President Das asked how the remaining gap will be addressed considering lower enrollment projections for 2026. Mr. Golombiecki said minor assumption shifts, such as 0.5 percent changes, have major effects. He plans to leave certain positions vacant and adjust strategically rather than making forced cuts.

(f) Senator Dahlberg: Asked for a breakdown of salaries across administrators, faculty, and staff. Mr. Golombiecki said detailed figures were unavailable during the meeting but most salary expenses are within academics. He offered to provide a department-based or position-type breakdown later. Senator Dahlberg followed up by asking what pressure exists to ensure accountability from the Minnesota State system. Mr. Golombiecki explained that Minnesota State has a representative who regularly communicates university concerns and priorities to the legislature.

ii) James Moore – Policy & Data Specialist, Office of the President

(1) Policy Proposal: Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence

(a) Presented a draft proposal for an institutional AI policy outlining ethical use, academic integrity, and procedural standards.

(b) Emphasized that only vetted and approved AI systems may be used to ensure privacy, security, and data protection.

(c) Stated that AI use should support learning and critical thinking without replacing student effort, and that all AI use must be disclosed and cited properly.

(2) Institutional Standards

(a) The policy establishes ethical guidelines for AI use, requiring alignment with Minnesota State System data and privacy protections.

(b) Faculty are responsible for including AI-use expectations in course syllabi each semester; violations fall under the Academic Integrity Policy.

(c) The policy prohibits using unauthorized AI detection tools as sole evidence of misconduct due to reliability concerns.

(3) Research and Review

(a) AI use in research not governed by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) must follow university and system-level standards.

(b) The policy requires semesterly reviews by subject matter experts to ensure relevance and compliance with evolving technologies and laws.

(4) Procedures
   (a) Outlined responsibilities for faculty and students regarding proper AI use and documentation of potential misuse.
   (b) Stressed that harmful uses, such as misinformation or harassment, must be reported to campus officials for investigation.
   (c) Highlighted the ongoing effort to balance innovation with integrity through transparent and ethical AI practices.
(5) Floor opened for questions and comments
   (a) Senator Dahlberg: Asked if faculty would also be restricted under the proposed AI policy and whether this information would be disclosed. James Moore confirmed that the policy applies to everyone at the university, including faculty, and that disclosure will be required.
   (b) Chair Isingwize: Noted that if AI tools are to be blocked, the university should clearly communicate which ones will be restricted so students are informed. James responded that this information will be announced through official channels, such as email, and a list of approved and restricted tools will be maintained. Chair Isingwize added that a workgroup is currently reviewing the draft and that it was prompted by a recent incident involving alleged AI misuse. He asked how student feedback will be gathered and integrated into the policy. James explained that there will be a four-to-six-week commentary period for feedback, and that the draft will return to both SGA and the Faculty Association for review before moving forward.
   (c) Chair Rasmussen: Asked if other Minnesota State universities have similar AI policies. James replied that none currently have a finalized policy of this nature. Some community colleges have started developing guidelines, but there is no standard model across the system.
   (d) Senator Osman: Asked when the policy is expected to be finalized. James said the realistic timeline is by mid-spring semester.
   (e) Vice President Joshi: Asked if the faculty union has shared any feedback or stance on the proposal. James said the faculty union has not yet reviewed the draft; only members of the AI workgroup are aware of it. The union will have an opportunity to comment once the proposal moves through the appropriate committees. Vice President Joshi followed up, asking whether SGA would vote on the policy. James said there may not be a vote, but SGA will have the opportunity to comment before it moves to the Cabinet and President's Office. Vice President Joshi also asked whether the Minnesota State System Office plans to establish a universal AI policy. James explained that currently, no systemwide policy exists, and each university develops its own framework.
   (f) Chief Justice Norling: Asked if the policy is currently official or enforceable. James clarified that it is still in draft form and not yet active. **During this session, Chief**

Justice Norling issued a formal warning to Senator Bhandari for repeated phone use during the meeting after confirming the behavior had been ongoing.

(g) Senator Bhandari: Asked if there could be a way to make AI policies consistent across all courses instead of faculty implementing their own rules. James said that at this stage, complete standardization is not possible due to academic freedom, but the ethical use guidelines in the policy are intended to promote consistency.

(h) Senator Nwanko: Asked about the overlap between the AI policy and IRB (Institutional Review Board) research guidelines, noting that the draft excludes IRB research. James clarified that IRB policies take precedence over the AI policy. In a follow-up, Senator Nwanko asked how to distinguish between class-based student research and IRB-approved research. James said clarification will be added, but for now, classroom research falls under the university's AI policy, while IRB-approved research follows IRB's own AI guidelines.

iii) India Heritage Club (IHC)

(1) Representatives: Say Ganesh (Vice President) and Ankit Bhandari (Food Coordinator).

(2) Announced the upcoming event, Anant Utsav, scheduled for November 2nd in the Atwood Ballroom. Gates will open at 4:30 p.m., and the event will begin at 5 p.m. A table will be reserved for SGA members.

b) Senate Finance

i) SCSU Dance Team

(1) Requested funding to attend the UDA College Nationals Dance Competition, scheduled for January.

c) Internal Elections: None

3) Plenary Session I

a) Unfinished Busines:

i) Tuition freeze Discussions – Anindya Das

(1) President Das provided an update on the Students United initiative, noting that all seven Minnesota State university presidents are collaborating on a proposal to implement a tuition freeze for the next two to three years. He added that SCSU and Mankato are jointly drafting a resolution to present to the System Office for consideration. While the Students United Board of Directors approved the proposal, the final decision rests with the System Office.

(2) Floor opened for Questions and Comments

(a) Senator Dahlberg expressed support for the tuition freeze, stating that it would encourage the administration to focus on increasing student enrollment.

(b) Chief Justice Norling asked why the proposal is being introduced now. Vice President Joshi explained that the timing follows last year's 6.5% tuition increase, which caused significant student dissatisfaction. President Das added that Minnesota's higher education system is strong, but the state is losing both international and domestic students. A tuition freeze could attract new students and serve as a marketing advantage for the university. Chief Justice Norling asked why are we not getting Student United's meeting minutes. President Das clarified that updates from Students United are available on their website and social media.

(c) Chair Isingwize voiced support for the freeze, emphasizing its importance for students most affected by tuition hikes.

(d) Vice President Joshi noted that students should question how tuition increases are being used, urging transparency on where the funds go and what improvements they bring. He pointed out that freezing tuition now could help offset future increases.

(e) Senator Mukit expressed that rising tuition discourages new enrollment, especially for students comparing SCSU to larger city universities. He stressed that focusing on affordability could strengthen enrollment.

(f) Senator Nwanko added that tuition increases are often used to fill budget gaps rather than to improve student resources, and that financial strategies should prioritize enhancing university services.

b) New Business
   i) President Das
      (1) Concerns were raised that some senators are not fully aware of proper meeting decorum.
      (2) A short training session will be scheduled to address this matter, to be conducted with Chair Srikanta, Chief Justice Norling, and Chair Rasmussen in attendance.

4) Officer Reports

a) President
   i) Meetings and Updates
      (1) Met with Advisor Balicky regarding the Atwood reformation project.
      (2) Attended the Tech Fee Committee meeting; discussed stipend matters from last year.
      (3) Met with Grant from Students United.
      (4) Met with President of Minnesota State University, Mankato to discuss the proposed tuition gap resolution.
      (5) Provided an update on the Presidential Search, noting that highly qualified candidates will be visiting SCSU soon.
      (6) Met with Vice President Jason Woods for administrative updates.

b) Vice President
   i) Meeting with Tommy
      (1) Met with Tommy to update him on discussions held with the Provost and Holly, as he was unable to attend.
      (2) Planned a meeting with Public Safety to address parking concerns, to include President Das, Chair Alduri

(3) Tommy is arranging another meeting with Kevin McDonnell who was unavailable this and next week.
(4) Requested Provost's contact information to coordinate senator meetings regarding structural concerns raised by Chair Alduri.

ii) Meeting with Dr. Jason Wood (Wednesday)
(1) Held a productive meeting with Dr. Wood to discuss Career Center initiatives, Learning Management engagement, and student-focused efforts.
(2) Inquired about the allocation and transparency of student funds and donations from the Foundation.
(3) Requested stronger administrative collaboration by having departments reach out proactively to Student Government.
(4) Sought departmental feedback on previous engagements to improve future collaboration.

iii) Other Updates
(1) Parking concerns will be revisited in a future meeting with Dr. Woods.
(2) Discussed improving student orientation to make it more engaging and less repetitive; will attend the next committee meeting on this topic.

c) Chief Justice
i) Judicial Affairs
(1) Issued a formal warning to a senator; noted that if the senator responds appropriately, the issue will be considered resolved, otherwise a judicial review may be held.
(2) Upcoming Judicial Review
(a) A complaint was submitted three hours prior to the meeting, it has merit for judicial review.
(b) Vice President Joshi inquired whether an individual who files a complaint may also self-report. Vice President Joshi disclosed that he had placed Chair Grace Loidolt under judicial review in terms of not working properly. VP Joshi asked Senator Nwanko to confirm the number of PR Committee meetings held so far; Senator Nwanko confirmed there has only been one in the span of 10 weeks

d) Executive Assistant
i) Administrative Issues
(1) Collaborated with President Das to resolve issues regarding unpaid Tech Fee Committee stipends from last semester.

ii) Action in Advocacy Conference
(1) Created a Teams chat for all members attending the upcoming conference to streamline communication about travel and logistics.

iii) Questions
(1) Senator Bhandari questions why meeting minutes were not being provided to teams chat. It was clarified that all minutes are uploaded to the SGA website and that the link

will be shared in the Teams chat for easy access, but individual pdfs cannot be shared to teams chats

5) **Committee Reports**
   a) No committee reports were presented this week.
6) **Senatorial Report:**
   a) Senator Ritesh (RHA senator & Vice Chair of Tech Fee)
      i) Met with Dr. Michael Schwartz from the Intensive English Center to discuss reopening *The Write Place* (Writing Center), which was closed due to high costs. They identified key stakeholders, including Academic Affairs, MUSaF, and the IFO, and plan to present a proposal with a full action plan by November 16.
   b) Senator Nwanko (PR)
      i) Participated in SGA visibility tabling with Chief Justice Norling.
   c) Senator Hossain (Athletics)
      i) Attended the Atwood Reformation tour on Tuesday.
   d) Senator Mukit (At-Large)
      i) Attended the Atwood Reformation tour and the Tech Fee Committee meeting.
   e) Senator Bhandar (International Student)
      i) Planning to meet with Dr. Clifford.
7) **Plenary Session II**
   a) Last Call for Business:
      i) Senator Nwanko regarding a time constraint on the SGA meeting
         (a) Senator Nwanko suggested implementing a time limit for SGA meetings and moving remaining agenda items to the following week once the time limit is reached.
         (b) President Das clarified, in Chair Srikanta's absence, that the SGA Constitution does not support such a constraint. The senator application packet specifies that meetings may run until 12 a.m., and both the President and Vice President have 24-hour access to Atwood Memorial Center.
8) **Closing of Meeting**
   a) Open Statement: Presented (8:05 pm to 8:07 p.m.)
   b) Last Roll Call
      - President Das
      - Vice President Joshi
      - Chief Justice Norling
      - Executive Assistant Monir
      - Chair Ghimire (Student Service)
      - Chair Cenolli (Fee allocation)
      - Chair Isingwize (Tech Fee)
      - Senator Hossain (Athletics)
      - Senator Bhandari (International)

- Senator Nwanko (PR)
- Senator Osman (RHA)
- Senator Dalhberg (At-Large)
- Senator Garcia (At-Large)
- Senator Mukit (At-Large)

c) Adjournment – Adjourned at 8:09 p.m.