



ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY

Student Government Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 13, 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 Rasmussen (Legislative Affairs)
 - Chair Cenolli (Fee allocation)
 - Chair Burnell (Senate Finance)
 - Char Isingwize (Tech Fee)
 - Chair & Parliamentarian Srikanta (Constitution)
 - Chair Loidolt (PR)
 - Senator Hossain (Athletics)
 - Senator Bhandari (International Student)
 - Senator Nwanko (PR)
 - Senator Osman (RHA)
 - Senator Dalhberg (At-Large)
 - Senator Lunblad (At-Large)
 - Senator Mukit (At-Large)
- d) Approval of today's agenda: Approved

2) Hearings

- a) Open Gallery: None
- b) Senate Finance: None
- c) Internal Elections: None

3) Plenary Session I

- a) Unfinished Business:
 - i) Tech Fee Voting Member: Chair Isingwize
 - (1) Chair Isingwize explained the recent changes in the Tech Fee Committee's bylaws, noting that voting members can now be revised and sent to the Judicial Committee for review.
 - (2) Although several members could not attend due to prior commitments, Chair Isingwize introduced the existing voting members to the Senate.

- (3) The updated bylaws were presented for Senate approval, and the Senate approved them through a motion.
- ii) Tuition Freeze Resolution Proposal: President Das
 - (1) President Das presented an update on the proposed three-year tuition freeze resolution, developed in collaboration with other MinnState universities. He noted that Minnesota State University, Mankato's Student Government has already passed a similar resolution, and SCSU's draft—prepared by Chair Srikanta and Senator Mukit—is nearly complete and will be presented to the Senate next week for discussion and voting. Chair Srikanta encouraged senators to research tuition trends and be prepared to provide input or suggestions when the resolution is shared, either through Teams or email prior to the next meeting.
 - (2) Senator Tushar requested to review Mankato's resolution for reference, which was presented by Chair Srikanta.
 - (3) Floor was opened for questions and comments
 - (a) Senator Osman asked if it was necessary for SCSU to pledge through Students United like Mankato did. President Das clarified that Students United connects all student governments to the MinnState System Office.
 - (b) Senator Dalhberg asked about the difference between funded and unfunded tuition freezes. President Das explained that an unfunded freeze caps tuition and fees but does not include other costs such as utilities or online program fees, while a funded freeze covers all student expenses.
 - (c) Vice President Joshi commented that a fully funded freeze would mean the state appropriation covers any additional institutional costs, which could help relieve financial pressure on students. He emphasized the need for consistent resolutions across all seven universities so Students United can compile a unified statewide proposal. President Das added that each university will pass its own version of the resolution, which will later be consolidated by Students United and presented collectively to the MinnState System Office and state legislators.
 - (d) Senator Dalhberg asked if the resolution could be enforced rather than requested. Vice President Joshi clarified that Students United will advocate on behalf of all student governments during Lobby Day at the Minnesota Capitol next semester. President Das added that unified advocacy across all campuses would strengthen the case and allow student leaders more influence when meeting with state representatives.
- iii) Previous Unfinished Businesses: Vice President Joshi
 - (1) Senatorial Recruitment Questionnaire
 - (a) Presented by Senator Garcia on behalf of the Student Services Committee. Senator Garcia shared a draft of the updated Senatorial Recruitment Questionnaire,

explaining that it was a tentative version intended to gather feedback from the Senate.

(b) The new draft includes sections for personal information—such as name, student ID, major, expected graduation date, phone number, and school email—as well as a series of written-response questions. Key additions include an optional but encouraged résumé submission and open-ended questions such as “Tell us about yourself,” “What are you passionate about?”, “How do you make an impact in your community?”, “Why are you interested in joining SGA?”, and “What issues do you believe are most important to students at SCSU?”. Senator Garcia explained that these questions aim to better understand applicants’ motivations, interests, and ability to collaborate, helping the committee prepare for interviews and assess how prospective senators would contribute to the Student Government Association.

(c) Floor opened for questions and comments.

- i. Senator Dalhberg suggested splitting the community involvement question into two—one focusing on experiences within SCSU and another outside of it—to capture broader perspectives and clearer context.
- ii. President Das agreed and added that the questionnaire should be shortened to around seven or eight key questions to prevent applicants from losing interest. Senator Garcia concurred, noting that while all questions serve a purpose, combining or condensing them could make the form more approachable.
- iii. Chief Justice Norling recommended rephrasing the “Resume” question to “What are your leadership experiences?” to avoid confusion and make expectations clearer for applicants.
- iv. Senator Lundblad proposed making some questions optional and dividing the form into multiple sections in Microsoft Forms to make it less intimidating for respondents.
- v. Vice President Joshi suggested replacing the short-answer “Resume” section with a PDF upload option for a “Leadership Resume,” which would allow applicants to highlight their leadership background and demonstrate commitment. He also recommended adding a multiple-choice question about club involvement to save time and streamline interviews.
- vi. Senator Osman supported shortening the form and merging overlapping questions, such as combining “What are you passionate about?” with “What issues do you believe are most important to students?” He also proposed adding word limits to responses to make them concise and easier to review. Senator Garcia agreed with Osman’s suggestion and clarified that question 10 was meant to ask what issues students believe need improvement at SCSU, rather than what they personally face.

- vii. Vice President Joshi concluded the discussion by suggesting that senators attend the Student Services Committee meeting on Tuesday at 7 PM to collaboratively finalize edits. He proposed moving the form to Microsoft Forms for greater accessibility while keeping it available through HuskiesConnect and as a physical copy outside the SGA office.
- viii. Chair Loidolt supported Vice President Joshi's Idea, adding that it should be publicized more widely across campus rather than limited to the SGA office. She asked for clarification on whether the form would remain available in the same or a similar format on HuskiesConnect for accessibility and consistency.
- ix. Chair Isingwize asked for clarification on whether the proposal referred to printing physical copies or keeping the form digital. Vice President Joshi explained that the primary plan was to use a Microsoft Form for accessibility, while also maintaining a HuskiesConnect version. He noted that Microsoft Forms would align better with SGA's existing application templates. Chair Isingwize suggested following a dual-format model similar to Public Safety's approach, where both digital and physical copies are available. Students could either fill out a printed form and return it to the SGA office or complete it online. Vice President Joshi and President Das agreed, confirming that the decision would ultimately be up to the Senate's preference.
- x. Senator Bhandari suggested merging the "work experience" and "leadership experience" questions into a single prompt to make the form more concise. Vice President Joshi agreed that this could be finalized during the next Student Services Committee meeting. Senator Garcia responded that the purpose of requesting a resume upload was to keep the form brief and avoid redundancy, emphasizing that too many overlapping questions could discourage applicants. Senator Bhandari further questioned why personal details like name, major, and email were required if applicants were already submitting a resume containing that information. Vice President Joshi acknowledged the point and encouraged Senator Bhandari to bring the suggestion to the Student Services Committee meeting for further discussion, noting that the group could collectively decide whether to retain or remove those fields.
- xi. Executive Assistant Monir asked whether senators would receive a copy of each candidate's completed form before the Thursday SGA meeting to review applications in advance. Vice President Joshi agreed that this should ideally happen, noting that it is not the current practice.
- xii. Senator Nwanko expressed that requiring a resume for student applications may be unnecessary since the position is not employment-based. She added that most of the form's questions resemble interview questions, giving applicants

advance notice of what will be asked. She supported reducing the number of questions to seven or eight, focusing only on the most essential ones. President Das clarified that he had not suggested removing questions entirely but agreed that the form could be shortened for simplicity.

- xiii. Vice President Joshi recommended keeping a “leadership resume” option, distinct from a professional resume, where applicants could briefly list relevant leadership or volunteer experiences, such as working with organizations like the Red Cross. He noted that including this step demonstrates dedication and encouraged further discussion and revisions during the next Student Services Committee meeting to finalize the format collaboratively.
- xiv. Senator Lundblad emphasized the importance of ensuring data security and preventing spam by having the application form automatically collect university emails and limit unauthorized access.
- xv. Chair Loidolt agreed with Senator Lundblad, adding that the form should restrict submissions to one per applicant for security and organization. She also advised against using paper forms due to potential issues with legibility and record-keeping, suggesting that QR codes directing students to the online form would be a more efficient and accessible alternative.
- xvi. Senator Osman raised a concern about the accessibility of the application form, noting that making it widely available outside platforms like Huskies Connect could result in an overwhelming number of applications, such as 100 applicants. He cautioned that reviewing a large volume of submissions would be time-consuming for the Senate and suggested that keeping the form on Huskies Connect ensures applicants already familiar with student organizations are more likely to apply intentionally and meaningfully.
- xvii. Senator Dahlberg responded that receiving 100 applications would be unlikely, given current student engagement levels at SCSU. He added that if such a situation did occur, it would be a positive challenge, as it would allow the Senate to select from a highly qualified pool of candidates, even if it required extra review sessions. Regarding resumes, he suggested keeping them optional — noting that students who submit one demonstrate preparedness and professionalism, while those who do not can still be evaluated fairly. He concluded that offering the resume as an optional component strikes the right balance between inclusivity and quality.
- xviii. Senator Lundblad stated that Huskies Connect is awful to use most of the time and expressed preference for having the application available directly in the SGA office.

- xix. Chief Justice Norling yielded his question to Chair Loidolt, she agreed with Senator Dahlberg that receiving an excessive number of applications would be unlikely. She added that, if it did occur, a pre-screening process could be implemented to filter out unserious applicants based on the quality of their responses or resumes before proceeding to internal elections.
- xx. Vice President Joshi agreed with Chair Loidolt and Senator Dahlberg, stating that receiving 100 applications would be a positive challenge. He emphasized that the goal is to attract more students to join the Senate and advocate for campus issues, and that ensuring accessibility for all applicants is essential.
- xxi. Executive Assistant Monir suggested adding a section to the application form allowing candidates to indicate which position they are interested in, such as specialized or at-large senator, noting that the previous form was primarily designed for at-large applicants.
- xxii. President Das asked whether candidates could apply for multiple positions, such as both At-Large and Academic Affairs Senator, and how that would be managed. Chair Srikanta clarified that senators cannot hold more than one position simultaneously and should therefore apply for only one role. Vice President Joshi agreed, recommending one application per position. President Das added that allowing multiple applications could cause confusion during questioning and voting, so it would be clearer to limit candidates to a single choice.
- xxiii. Executive Assistant Monir raised a clarification regarding application accessibility, noting that if a senator is denied in the fall and wishes to reapply in the spring, their Tech ID would remain the same and could prevent them from submitting another form. Vice President Joshi suggested collaborating with Chair Isingwize from the Survey Committee to resolve the issue. Chair Loidolt added that applicants could request permission to submit a new form if they had already applied once. Senator Garcia asked whether the “position of interest” question referred to committees, and Executive Assistant Monir clarified that it referred to specialized senator roles, such as RHA, PR, Urban Affairs, or Academic Senator positions. President Das confirmed that approximately five to six specialized positions remain open.
- xxiv. Senator Garcia mentioned that the form lists the resume as optional but highly encouraged and asked whether there is a designated person to review applications to avoid overburdening any one individual. Vice President Joshi responded that he currently emails applicants upon receiving their submissions and noted that all members can access applications via Huskies Connect under the Student Government page. Senator Garcia then inquired if a meeting is held

to review candidates before interviews. Vice President Joshi clarified that the process involves emailing candidates with details on the procedure and a copy of the constitution for reference, as most interview questions are based on it. Chair Srikanta added that, according to defined responsibilities, the Executive Assistant is the designated individual responsible for reviewing all incoming applications.

- xxv. President Das stated that once the application form is finalized, a senator may be assigned to assist with managing submissions, alongside the Parliamentarian or Legislative Affairs Chair could handle candidate communication as needed. Vice President Joshi suggested limiting this responsibility to executive members, emphasizing that messages sent from executive-level representatives appear more formal and credible. President Das clarified that the Parliamentarian would send the official emails, but in their absence, a senator could assist as part of an ad hoc committee, depending on the Senate's decision.
- xxvi. Vice President Joshi concluded by encouraging members to join the Student Services Committee meeting on Tuesday at 7 p.m. for further discussion, to which Senator Garcia added that representation from each committee would be beneficial for balanced input.

(2) Senator Position Changes

- (a) Requests were received from Senator Osman (RHA → DEI) and Senator Nwankwo (PR → Academic).
- (b) It was clarified that Senator Osman could switch from RHA to DEI as he had originally applied for the DEI position during external elections. Senator Nwankwo, however, must resign from her current position and stand for an internal election, as one cannot hold two positions simultaneously.
- (c) Senator Osman transitioned from RHA to DEI, while Senator Nwankwo was given liberty to decide how she would like to proceed.

(3) Meeting Decorum Training

- (a) Scheduled with Chair Srikanta, Chief Justice Norling, and Chair Rasmussen.
- (b) Members are requested to send their available times to any of the three coordinators to ensure the training is completed by the end of the month.

(4) Meeting Scheduling

- (a) Vice President Joshi requested for everyone's availability for two separate sessions — one for "Chairs Only" and another for "Senators Only."

b) New Business:

i) Point of Order –Tech Fee Committee Bylaws: Gallery Member

- (1) A point of order was raised by Kridish, a gallery member, stating that the Constitution does not support the Tech Fee Chair's bylaw changes.

(2) The concern referenced Article III, Section B, Subsection 3, Clause E, and Article IV, Section C, Subsection 6.

(3) A motion was then sought to rescind the previously approved motion regarding the Tech Fee Committee bylaws.

4) Officer Reports

a) President

- i) Meeting with the President of Minnesota State University, Mankato, to discuss the Tuition Freeze Resolution.
- ii) Meeting with Shahzad to discuss enrollment strategies and scholarship opportunities.
- iii) Meeting with Advisor Balicky to review the progress report.
- iv) Highlighted that St. Cloud State University had a strong presence and performance at ADCON.
- v) Meeting with the Executive Assistant regarding Student United's Digital Signage initiative.

b) Vice President

- i) Meeting with the Director of Residential Life and Advisor Balicky to discuss marketing content.
- ii) Attended ADCON, advocating for increased grant funding and greater appropriations.
- iii) Meeting with Advisor Balicky to discuss the Atwood Reformation project, with a focus on Metro Bus access and athletic space improvements.
- iv) Meeting with Shahzad to discuss ACSS and scholarship allocation processes and upcoming meeting with Chee
- v) Announced a parking meeting with administration, potentially virtual, next Friday.
- vi) Planning a future meeting with Alumni Engagement.

c) Chief Justice

- i) Announced the upcoming appointment of the next Chief Justice; Two potential appointees are currently under consideration.

d) Executive Assistant

- i) Met with President Das regarding Student United's Digital Signage initiative. Followed up with Chair Loidolt regarding Signage coordination.
- ii) Attended ADCON, noting it was a successful experience.
- iii) Updated a few of the senators' tag names.

5) Committee Reports

a) Public Relations Committee

- i) Met on Friday with the committee and newly appointed Vice Chair, Kriti Baidya, to discuss new initiatives. Plans are underway to expand SGA's social media presence to additional platforms after Thanksgiving break.

- ii) Collaborating with Senator Osman from the Tech Fee Committee to produce an informational video about on-campus printing, which will be shared on social media once editing is complete.
- iii) On Monday, coordinated with the PR Director of Students United through the Executive Assistant to launch digital signage across campus promoting the Advocacy Interest Survey—now officially running.
- iv) Resolved formatting issues with *The Howler*, resulting in increased engagement.
- v) Met Wednesday with the Assistant Director of Campus PR to discuss collaboration opportunities and strategies to amplify student event outreach.
- vi) Will be posting about AdCon soon.
- vii) During questions and comments:
 - (1) Vice President Joshi asked for opinions regarding collaboration with Campus PR; President Das advised stopping the discussion to avoid any potential policy violation.
 - (2) Chair Srikanta asked for an update on the Spotlight project. Chair Loidolt confirmed it will be up and running soon and expects to finish chair spotlights this semester while continuing with senator spotlights next semester.
 - (3) Chair Srikanta suggested combining posts to complete spotlights faster and maintain relevance.
 - (4) Senator Bhandari agreed the initiative's primary purpose is to make senators visible to students for easier outreach. The discussion concluded with plans to address the issue in a future PR meeting.
- b) Constitution Committee
 - i) Collaborating on the Tuition Freeze Resolution with Senator Mukit, and President Das which will be presented to the Senate at the upcoming meeting.
 - ii) Will coordinate with Chair Rasmussen and Chief Justice Norling to schedule *Meeting Decorum Training* sessions for senators and chairs. Requested that President Das or Vice President Joshi attend these meetings to assist with handling questions and facilitating discussion.
- c) Student Services Committee
 - i) Attended AdCon, where members successfully represented SCSU and engaged in advocacy efforts.
 - ii) Participated in the Dining RFP and proposal review as part of the advisory committee, contributing to decisions aimed at improving campus dining services.
 - iii) Three primary projects in progress:
 - (1) **Garvey Dining Survey** – Finalized and edited based on feedback from the Dining Committee; expected to be released before final exams.
 - (2) **Senator Application Form** – Draft completed by Senator Garcia; awaiting final edits and review.

(3) **Athletics Survey Form** – Completed and forwarded to the Executive Assistant for review by the Athletics Department.

6) Senatorial Report:

- a) Senator Hossain (Athletics)
 - i) Working on two surveys that were reviewed by Holly earlier in the day.
- b) Senator Mukit (At-Large)
 - i) Collaborating with President das and Chair Srikanta in drafting the resolution for the Tuition Freeze initiative.
 - ii) Reviewing the SGA Constitution to ensure proper procedure in recruiting Tech Fee Committee voting members.
 - iii) Attended the Advocacy Conference on November 7–8, which was successful.
- c) Senator Bhandari (International Student)
 - i) Completed the GRP Feedback Form and convert it from Google Forms to Microsoft Forms for consistency.
 - ii) As the AI Lead for the Tech Fee Committee, I met with Isaac Olson from the College of Science to discuss AI policy development.
 - iii) Shared updates from AdCon, noting that other universities are hosting educational events about AI before drafting regulations, while SCSU is currently prioritizing policy creation first.

7) **Plenary Session II**

- a) Last Call for Business:
 - i) Senator Nwankwo raised concerns regarding a potential conflict with a member. Vice President Joshi and Chief Justice Norling advised that, since the matter may fall under judicial review, it be discussed after the meeting's adjournment.
 - ii) Senator Bhandari raised a concern regarding tuition and fee increases, referencing discussions from the recent Students United meeting. He stated that if any campus fee or tuition increase exceeds 2%, a student vote or survey should be conducted before approval. He noted that the previous 6.5% tuition increase did not appear to include such student input and suggested the Senate revisit the policy to ensure compliance and transparency. Gallery Member Kridish clarified that under existing procedure, if a resolution requests a tuition or fee increase, it must be included as a referendum during the general election. However, last year the Minnesota State Board of Trustees did not approve the fee increase until June or July, making a student vote difficult to conduct in time. He recommended that future fee increase discussions occur earlier in the year—by February or March—to allow proper student consultation. He emphasized that SGA acts as a consultative body—able to recommend actions but not make final administrative decisions. Members were encouraged to discuss ways to strengthen student bargaining power with the incoming university president. President Das stated that he plans to raise this topic with the new president during spring semester and confirmed that the new president's introduction will include

student representation. He informed the Senate that the new president will be officially announced next Wednesday, with both an in-person event at the system office and a live virtual broadcast link provided to the campus community. To which, Chief Justice Norling suggested organizing a viewing session for the Senate to watch the live announcement together.

8) Closing of Meeting

- a) Open Statement: Presented (7:01 to 7:03 p.m.)
- b) Last Roll Call
 - President Das
 - Vice President Joshi
 - Chief Justice Norling
 - Executive Assistant Monir
 - Chair Rasmussen (Legislative Affairs)
 - Chair Cenolli (Fee allocation)
 - Chair Burnell (Senate Finance)
 - Chair & Parliamentarian Srikanta (Constitution)
 - Chair Loidolt (PR)
 - Senator Hossain (Athletics)
 - Senator Bhandari (International Student)
 - Senator Nwanko (PR)
 - Senator Osman (DEI)
 - Senator Garcia (At-Large)
 - Senator Mukit (At-Large)
 - Senator Lundblad (At-Large)
 - Senator Dalhberg (At-Large)
- c) Adjournment – Adjourned at 7:04 p.m.