



ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY

Student Government Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Opening of Meeting

1. Call to order at 5:03 p.m.
2. Pledge of Alliance: Conducted
3. First roll call (Key: X absent, O present)
 - President Isingizwe O
 - Vice President Osman O
 - Chief Justice Lundblad O
 - Executive Assistant Iten O
 - Chair Steinman (Fee Allocation) O
 - Chair Dahlke (Senate Finance) O
 - Chair Dahlberg (Legislative Affairs) X Excused
 - Chair Bhandari (Tech Fee) O
 - Chair Baidya (Public Relations) O
 - Chair Ronk (Constitution) X Excused
 - Senator Zarneke (Athletics) X Excused
 - Senator Schoonover (Campus Services) O
 - Senator Burson (DEI) X Unexcused
 - Senator Knight (At-Large) O
 - Senator Arellano (At-Large) O
 - Senator Tarwo (At-Large) O
 - Senator Cattell (At-Large) O
 - Senator Hassan (At-Large) O
 - Senator Robertson (At-Large) O
 - Senator Kirton (At-Large) O
4. Approval last meeting minutes: Approved
5. Approval of today's agenda: Approved

Open Gallery 1: Abi Semanko, Assistant Athletic Director for Marketing, Chair Steinman, Chair Dahlberg and Vice President Osman.

1. Abi Semanko

- a. Ms. Semanko spoke on behalf of Athletic Director Holly Schreiner, who hopes to attend later in the year (end of October/November). The goal is to hear student ideas on getting more students to attend hockey games and all athletic events.
- b. Student admission to all home events is free. Because the online ticket process is seen as complicated, students may now simply show their student ID at the gate.
- c. Tickets are being distributed at residence hall front desks, and athletics is partnering with Res Life on Res Life nights (e.g., a volleyball night at the end of October with pizza in the north balcony of the gym).
- d. Dog Pound: Two marketing graduate assistants are focused on re-engaging students. An email list (collected through QR codes) is being used to send game reminders, photos of where the student sections are, and information on free Dog Pound t-shirts, which are available to every student.
- e. Questions and comments: Chair Bhandari asked that tickets be dropped off at the student government office for distribution, 50 tickets were dropped off. Vice President Osman raised concern about athletics marketing's partnership with Alpha News, describing its coverage as right-wing and focused on immigration, and noting the university's large international student population and that UTVS is available as a campus partner. Ms. Semanko stated the partnership was arranged by Learfield's external marketing team, was essentially a hockey game sponsorship, does not reflect an agreement with their views, and is currently under review. Vice President Osman stated the concern is nonpartisan and suggested partnering with organizations with at least a neutral stance. President Isingizwe will follow up with Athletic Director Shriner on internal and external partnerships. He also suggested a student fan club that travels to away games and helps recruit students for lightly attended games, and asked about opening access to game streams in the dorms and spaces like Atwood. Ms. Semanko agreed with the fan club idea. Senator Tarwo asked where students can find out whether there is a game. Ms. Semanko noted the campus schedule boards and Hollenbeck Office 328, and agreed more clarity on event locations and wider placement (departments, residence halls) is worthwhile. Senator Robertson asked whether a quieter viewing option could be offered for students who want to attend but are sensitive to noise. Ms. Semanko said this had not been considered but could be explored. Senator Robertson also suggested making more use of the Huskies Sports Band, including pre-game and outdoor performances. Ms. Semanko was open to this and will raise it with the new band director. Chair Steinman asked who decided to raise the weight room fee from \$50 to \$60 per semester, noting Fee Allocation had previously given athletics funds to avoid a raise. Ms. Semanko did not know and said Director Shriner could answer. Chair Dahlberg suggested tabling in Atwood, noting voter registration tabling gathered 60 pledges. Ms. Semanko said athletics tables at general campus events and that Atwood tabling has been limited by staffing but agreed to prioritize it.
- f. Ms. Semanko encouraged senators to send suggestions to her or Director Shriner at any time.

2. Chair Steinman

- a. Chair Steinman announced his selection of Ishak, a public safety officer and former committee member, as Vice Chair, noting he drafted an excellent agenda and has helpful knowledge of past committee work.

- b. Chair Steinman announced his selection of Professor Lynn Collins (information systems and accounting) as Advisor, citing her auditing experience and connections across campus departments. She was unable to attend due to a meeting.
- c. Vice President Osman voiced support for student-focused advisors.

3. Chair Dahlberg

- a. Overview: Chair Dahlberg informed the Senate of changes to federal direct loan eligibility under an "earnings accountability" rule stemming from HR 1, confirmed as Department of Education policy in September. Programs whose graduates do not earn more than the state's median high school graduate wage (about four years after completion) could lose Title IV eligibility, including federal loans and Pell Grants. Changes are slated to begin July 1, 2027, and will be calculated program by program and university by university, so which St. Cloud State programs are affected is not yet known.
- b. Programs mentioned as potentially affected: cosmetology, medical/dental assisting, social work and mental health counseling, graphic design, English literature, and early childhood education. He also noted earlier reclassification limiting loans for social work, nursing, physician assistants, physical therapists, accountants, and educators.
- c. Context: Many of these fields are public or nonprofit sector and female-dominated, with disproportionately low wages despite labor shortages. Chair Dahlberg argued the solution is advocating for higher wages rather than restricting access to education.
- d. Proposed actions: (a) pass a resolution reaffirming the dignity of these professions and majors, to be introduced under New Business; and (b) provide resources so students, especially incoming freshmen, can plan accordingly without causing unnecessary panic.
- e. Discussion: Chair Steinman asked whether the legislation passed both houses; Chair Dahlberg clarified it is already law and now implemented as policy. Chair Steinman also referenced a separate effort to move education authority to the states. Vice President Osman suggested exploring grants, state-level lobbying, and an endorsement from Students United (USSA), noting bill language may need to be written in-house with help from professors. Chair Dahlberg noted Minnesota's expected budget deficit makes state grants difficult, and stressed the importance of advocating to legislators with partner organizations. President Isingizwe supported the resolution, noted related Department of Education actions (accreditation and Title VI), and suggested advocating for alumni and school grants for affected scholarships. He proposed a town hall meeting in October to hear how federal changes are impacting students. Vice President Osman encouraged Legislative Affairs to research lobbying groups, with the resolution and town hall as starting points. Chair Dahlberg noted affected professions have strong lobbying organizations.

4. Vice President Osman

- a. Journey Across the World, hosted by Multicultural Student Services at the Paramount on October 5: Students from over 20 cultures will share music, dance, and traditions. Vice President Osman is performing. Free for students; transportation is being provided. A cultural fashion show is open to those who wish to participate, and Vice President Osman can connect senators with the coordinator. The mayor usually attends.
- b. Social Work Association silent auction supporting Project Homeless Connect.

- c. Donation drive for Anna Marie's Alliance (women and children affected by domestic violence). SGA is an authorized collection site, and the drive is a joint effort with public safety and other campus offices. Vice President Osman is following up with UTVS to cover two events, including a "Huskies on the Road" segment at Anna Marie's.
- d. Questions and comments: Chair Bhandari noted an Anna Marie's Alliance visitor will be on campus Wednesday, October 14, from 10-11 a.m. President Isingizwe asked for members to staff the SGA office the week of October 12–16 to receive drop-offs on a rotating basis and proposed a tabling event and purple ribbons for awareness. Vice President Osman and Dr. Butenhoff plan to decorate the office purple and invite senators to help. Senator Tarwo asked about attire; attendees may wear what they wish. Chair Bhandari noted downtown St. Cloud parking is free after 5 p.m. and on weekends.

Hearings

- 1. Senate Finance Hearing
 - a. Chair Dahlke reported one hearing, for the InterVarsity group, for about \$850 for campus events on the homecoming docket (the campus ministry breakfast). Funding was approved to partner with Sodexo for catering. The event was held in collaboration with other religious groups such as Cru and Newman. Tabling for the dance team was also noted.

Plenary Session I

- 1. Unfinished Business
 - 1.1. None
- 2. New Business
 - 2.1. Fee Allocation Committee Bylaws update
 - 2.1.1. The Fee Allocation Committee voted unanimously to update its bylaws. No vote was taken today; the update was presented for awareness.
 - 2.1.2. Changes: removed the Lindgren Child Center (department no longer exists); combined the LGBT Center and Women's Center in the audit list; changed quorum from two-thirds to 50% plus one; and changed membership from exactly seven to a number at the chair's discretion.
 - 2.1.3. The Chief Justice and Vice President noted questions are not taken during new business. The bylaws will be shared in the Teams group chat, and senators may contact Chair Steinman with questions or amendments ahead of a future vote.
 - 2.2. Federal Loans Resolution
 - 2.2.1. Introduced as a new business. Chair Dahlberg will circulate a rough draft for collaboration, hoping to move to a vote next week. Vice President Osman asked that the draft be sent over the weekend or early in the week.

Officer Reports

1. President

- a. Met with Students United regarding their semester campus visit and suggested they meet the interim vice president for student affairs. Their leadership development session is on the 16th from 4-4:45 p.m. and senators are invited. They will also table in Atwood with a cotton candy machine, meet the faculty association, and meet the president's cabinet the next day.
- b. SGA released a statement regarding the fire at Campus Side Apartments affecting St. Cloud State students. The university opened residence hall space for emergency housing; donations can be directed to Student Affairs, and students affected can access emergency assistance and housing. Chair Steinman added that displaced students are being housed in the Mitchell Hall basement with free bedding and amenities, are not yet allowed back into their apartments, and that funding assistance is under discussion; those affected should contact Res Life
- c. USSA is creating a campus representative role separate from student government presidents, and asked SGA to nominate a point of contact. The role is currently uncompensated. Chair Steinman expressed interest.
- d. October is busy: a State of the University address and a community advisory board meeting are planned. President Isingizwe expects students to attend and has asked the president for two SGA spots at the advisory board meeting.
- e. Assisted a student in a matter involving the Department of Nursing; details withheld under FERPA.

2. Vice President

- a. Working with ITS leadership (with Senator Robertson) on a proposal for a tech-focused incentive program, with a meeting tomorrow and a hoped-for pilot this semester.
- b. Meeting tomorrow with Andrea Rooney, interim Title IX director, to set the structure and guardrails of the proposed ad hoc committee.
- c. The faculty association president reported three spots for the Academic Success and Retention Committee. SGA representatives are needed; meetings are expected roughly biweekly, dates not yet set.

3. Chief Justice

- a. This is the last grace period week for office hours and attendance. Excused absences require a legitimate reason and at least four hours' notice before the meeting.
- b. Issues with the office hour check-in/check-out system should be sent to Executive Assistant Iten, the Chief Justice, and Vice President Osman. The Chief Justice is exploring alternate technology.
- c. Contact potential Judicial Council members and expect an active council within a couple of weeks.
- d. Reminded the Senate that officer reports accept comments only; points of information are always allowed.

4. Executive Assistant

- a. No Report.

Committee Reports

1. Fee Allocation
 - a. No report.
2. Senate Finance
 - a. Reviewing policy updates to present to SGA soon, aiming to loosen restrictions and make funding more accessible. Still meeting to appoint internal and external vice chairs.
 - b. Point of information (Chair Steinman): Vice President Osman explained that a fee committee chair cannot serve as vice chair of another fee committee (conflict of interest; against the constitution), but a chair of a non-fee committee may be appointed by a committee chair and then voted on by that committee, as the PR chair previously did for Tech Fee. President Isingizwe encouraged members to consider the ethics of holding a chair role paid over \$5,000 plus a vice chair stipend over \$400, and to prioritize outside voices from the wider student community.
3. Tech Fee
 - a. Heard updates on three priority IT projects. The AI initiative will discuss training, communication, and an AI hackathon planned this year.
 - b. Welcome a new external member and voted an external member to voting member. President Isingizwe shared information about a survey.
4. Public Relations
 - a. The first committee meeting will be held next week.
 - b. Chair Dahlberg asked PR to help post voter registration information on Instagram. Vice President Osman invited committees to contact PR, subject to its bandwidth.
5. Legislative Affairs
 - a. Distributed a class rep sign-up sheet (Monday–Friday) for voter registration/pledge classroom visits. Visits earn senatorial hours and a \$20 Visa gift card per class through the Soda Project. The dorm storm was canceled due to Res Life complications; sign-ups reflect availability only and class visits depend on professor approval.
 - b. Nearly 200 pledges collected so far; goal is 350 pledges/registrations (set with Soda and Students United). Training will be provided, and a QR code covers most questions.
 - c. An on-campus early voting booth will be in Atwood on Tuesday. Voter registration ends next Tuesday, and there are no classes next Monday and Tuesday.
 - d. Discussion: Dr. Butenhoff noted many classes are online and that Minnesota voters can register on Election Day with a registered voter from their precinct, using proof of address such as a course schedule. Chair Steinman shared that Res Life decided against dorm canvassing after students posted no-canvassing signs, and disagreed with the decision. Senator Robertson offered to build a web platform to support outreach for online classes.
6. Senatorial
 - a. No Reports.

Last Call for Business

1. Meeting minutes on the SGA website: Chair Bhandari requested that minutes (last posted in March) be updated.
2. Executive Assistant Iten has contacted the Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs multiple times and will try again; updated minutes are in Teams. Chair Steinman suggested a letter from the full body. Vice President Osman advised diplomacy first and escalation if unanswered. President Isingizwe noted the process runs through ITS, Student Affairs, and UCOMM and can take one to two months. Chair Bhandari asked to be copied on correspondence, since this falls under the Tech Fee Committee, and noted contact information needs updating for departed senators.

Closing of Meeting

1. Open Statements: None
2. Last roll call (Key: X absent, O present)
 - President Isingizwe O
 - Vice President Osman O
 - Chief Justice Lundblad O
 - Executive Assistant Iten O
 - Chair Steinman (Fee Allocation) O
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 - Senator Kirton (At-Large) O
3. Adjournment – Adjourned at 6:56 p.m.