



ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY

Student Government Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September, 24, 2026

1. Opening of Meeting

1. Call to order at 5:00 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) O
 - Chair Bhandari (Tech Fee) O
 - Chair Baidya (Public Relations) X
 - Senator Zarnecki (Athletics) O
 - Senator Schoonover (Campus Services) O
 - Senator Burson (DEI) O
 - Senator Igabaneza (International Students) Resigned
 - Senator Knight (At-Large) O
 - Senator Arellano (At-Large) X
 - Senator Tarwo (At-Large) O
 - Senator Cattell (At-Large) O
 - Senator Hassan (At-Large) O
 - Senator Kirton (At-Large) O
 4. Approval last meeting minutes: Approved
 5. Approval of today's agenda: Approved
- ### 2. Open Gallery 1: Abi Semanko, Assistant Athletic Director for Marketing
1. Abi Semanko - Absent however will be available next week.
- ### 3. Hearings
1. Senate Finance Hearing
 - a. No report

- i. Chair Dahlke noted that All Tribes Council did not submit a request form (the matter concerned the last fiscal year), so Senate Finance was unable to assist them.

4. Internal Election

- 1. Damien Ronk (Constitution Chair - Parliamentarian)
 - a. Was unable to attend due to a prior engagement. The position is not elected and only requires approval from the Senate.
 - b. Vice President Osman stated the Executive believes a Constitution Chair is needed to help get governing documents in order. Mr. Ronk has extensive experience in parliamentary procedure; that being beneficial to the senate.
 - c. Chief Justice Lundblad worked with him at the front desk and described him as a valuable campus resource for issues with student boards and Huskies Connect. Chair Steinman noted he helped register the DECA chapter and answered every question with professionalism and expertise
 - d. Seeking a movement to approve the candidate.
 - e. Motion : Unanimously approved
- 2. Colin Robertson (At-Large Senator)
 - a. Background: Third year cybersecurity student, president of the Cyber Competition Club (CCC); equipment manager for the Huskies Sports Band. A returning, non-traditional student with about three years of professional experience at a hosting company and in business management.
 - b. Candidate statement: Better enable student organizations to have more access to the tech on campus. He also wants to involve students of all majors in student organizations, rather than limiting them to a single niche.
 - c. Deliberation Summary: Concerns raised about the candidate's time commitment and consistency given his many involvements; others replied that members know their own capacity, noted several chairs and senators carry heavy commitments without missing meetings. Suggestions: consider the vacant Campus Affairs chair position (Vice President Osman clarified a chair appointment would require separate Senate approval), or seat him as an at-large senator and then assign him to a College of Business seat. No action was taken on these suggestions.
 - d. Voted in, 5 to 3.
- 3. Nawshin Sneha (At-Large Senator)
 - a. Background: Freshman majoring in accounting; graduated from Tech High School in May. Active in BSA and the Lumen organization;

previously in mock trial and choir; volunteered with the high school student council on events such as prom and homecoming.

b. Candidate statement: Wants to learn leadership skills that other clubs did not teach her, be more active, and help other students and organizations.

c. Deliberation: Members supported inclusion and leadership development but wanted a clearer purpose or issue to address; several suggested committee involvement as a well-scoped first step, noting that committee membership procedures vary by committee. President Isingizwe noted that Academic Affairs and Student Services (both currently without chairs) are suited to issues such as dining.

d. Not voted in, 7 to 1, 1 abstaining.

5. Plenary Session I

1. Unfinished Business— **SFC Funding Expansion Resolution** (Reintroduced by Senator Schoonover)
 1. Background: Brought up last semester by Chair Alderi (with Chair Dahlberg also contributing) and not passed; it was neither passed nor denied previously.
 2. Summary: Senate Finance has an allotted annual budget for student organizations, but not all of it is used each year (Chair Dahlberg estimated about half, which rolls into the general fund), even though active organizations reach their funding cap. The fund exists to support student engagement and club activities. The resolution raises the per-organization cap.
 3. The current cap (set years ago) was stated as \$2,000; the resolution proposes \$3,000, with an additional \$1,000 available if an organization's treasurer, vice president, president, or another board member attends SGA meetings. Logistics for tracking attendance remain to be determined.
 4. Motion this business to next meeting: Approved
2. Point of Privilege: Senator Zarnecki (Athletics) was excused - Prior commitment at 6:00 pm.
3. Point of Privilege: Senator Schoonover (Campus Services) was excused - Prior commitment needed to leave at 6:15 pm.
4. New Business
 1. **Ramadan Resolution & Religious Practice Resolution**
 - a. Background: Vice President Osman brought a resolution supporting students observing Ramadan forward as a senator in 2025. It did not pass due to administrative hurdles within SGA; Executive members also raised concerns that students hold many beliefs and that faculty work within a fixed contracted calendar.
 - b. Progress: Vice President Osman and Senator Schoonover joined the academic calendar committee and connected with Dr. Samia

Hakim, president of the faculty association (IFO), who strongly supports the effort and will bring it to the Faculty Association Senate once SGA passes the resolution. Senator Schoonover and President Isingizwe took part in these meetings and approved of the resolutions.

- c. Content: The resolution asks the University to observe two holidays, Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha. Because Ramadan follows the lunar calendar and shifts each year, a chart of the full month will be provided once it begins so faculty and students can plan, particularly for classes after Iftar.
- d. Second resolution: Will affirm that religious practice is a protected right that should remain accessible to students even when the University cannot formally observe every occasion. The Ramadan resolution is a precursor to resolutions for other religions.
- e. Next Steps: Vice President Osman and Dr. Hakim are drafting both resolutions and will bring finalized drafts to the Senate for a vote. No vote was taken at this meeting

2. New Committee Proposal

- a. Background: Vice President Osman and President Isingizwe met with Andrea Rooney, interim director for institutional equity and access and Title IX coordinator, about better connecting students with the Title IX office and creating a safer space to reach out.
- b. Proposal: Establish a committee to serve as a bridge between the student body and the Title IX office, making its resources easier to find, approach, and more visible on campus.
- c. Vice President Osman asked Parliamentarian Damien Ronk to help build the committee's foundation and ensure it fits within the bylaws; a formal structure is hoped to return to the Senate next week or the week after.
- d. President Isingizwe described it as an ad hoc committee for as long as Title IX needs student feedback, possibly becoming a permanent committee later. The Vice President also seeks students from the social work department, for whom the experience is career-relevant.

6. Officer Reports

a. President

- i. Had a meeting with the President and Vice President of the faculty Union. It was productive and they hope to have it monthly.
- ii. Attended the Students United monthly check-in (last Sunday). Students United is offering two paid graduate assistant positions (policy, advocacy, and outreach)

working across all seven state public universities. invitations from other campuses return to St. Cloud State, which is hosting the event.

- b. Vice President
 - i. No Report.
- c. Chief Justice
 - i. Working on training Senators; untrained senators were asked to stay after the meeting for a training of about half an hour.
 - ii. Will follow up with people interested in joining the Judicial Council.
 - iii. Attendance and office hours will be enforced more strictly starting in about a week; senators should ensure they are properly part of a committee. The Chief Justice reminded the Senate that officer reports accept comments only; questions go after the meeting.
- d. Executive Assistant
 - i. Continuing to organize the digital and physical archive; chairs and senators are invited to send items to be added.

7. Committee Reports

- a. Fee Allocation
 - i. Reached out to two potential advisors, both accounting professors. Both candidates said they could not due to prior commitments. Looking for faculty advisors, has contacted other potential candidates.
- b. Senate Finance
 - i. No Report.
- c. Tech Fee
 - i. The committee selected a vice chair and subcommittee leads. Salini Mundell will lead the printing survey subcommittee and Ryan Dry will lead the AI subcommittee.
 - ii. Continues reviewing the Tech Fee Committee by-laws each week.
 - iii. The printing survey is to be developed within two weeks to gather student feedback on the new printers installed this summer. The AI lead will be connected with Dr. Mary Clifford to discuss next steps.
- d. Public Relations (Chair Baidya: Absent)
 - i. No report.
 - ii. President Isingizwe reported working to organize the committee: seeking members (including potential senatorial candidates who are not yet officially members), one additional interested member, and a primary point of contact. Senator Cattell, a marketing major, was invited to join and the President offered to connect her with the chair.
- e. Legislative Affairs
 - i. Met with Soda Project, which will finalize how it will support the committee's goals.

- ii. Early-voting class rep visits are planned; senators can earn office hours and Visa gift cards for participating. Volunteers with varied schedules are needed to reach all students.
 - iii. Planning an SGA legislative agenda for the Minnesota legislative session, in addition to advocating for Students United at the Capitol in St. Paul. Senators with ideas are encouraged to reach out.
- f. Senatoral
 - i. No Report.

8. Closing of Meeting

1. Open Statement: Chair Bhandari reminded senators that every committee needs members and that senators must join committees and complete the required committee training.
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
 - Chair Dahlke (Senate Finance) O
 - Chair Dahlberg (Legislative Affairs) O
 - Chair Bhandari (Tech Fee) O
 - Chair Baidya (Public Relations) X
 - Senator Zarnecki (Athletics) X
 - Senator Schoonover (Campus Services) X
 - Senator Burson (DEI) O
 - Senator Igabaneza (International Students) Resigned
 - Senator Knight (At-Large) O
 - Senator Arellano (At-Large) X
 - Senator Tarwo (At-Large) O
 - Senator Cattell (At-Large) O
 - Senator Hassan (At-Large) O
 - Senator Kirton (At-Large) O
3. Adjournment – Adjourned at 6:33 p.m.