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### Minnesota State

**FY2019 Summary of Consultation Letters (UPDATED)**

**Regarding Tuition & Fees**

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*College/University submissions may contain Revenue Fund letters not rated*
April 11, 2018

Chancellor Devinder Malhotra  
Office of the Chancellor  
Minnesota State Colleges & Universities  
30 7th Street East, Suite 350  
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Chancellor Devinder Malhotra:

The members of the Alexandria Technical and Community College Student Senate have been informed of Minnesota State funding, the tuition forecast, and other college budget items. We have discussed the budget at several of our Student Senate meetings, and have voted to support Alexandria Technical and Community College’s projected budget.

We appreciate the time Chief Financial Officer, David Bjelland, extended to us. We were provided with a background and historical perspective on the budget process, as well as the comparative data and recommendations relative to this year’s budget process. The opportunity to discuss the budget was greatly appreciated. Using the discussion and handouts provided we motioned to support the budget.

I would like to express thanks on behalf of the students of Alexandria Technical and Community College for your continuing work to better our education experience. We look forward to continuing the communication between administrators and students.

Sincerely,

Joe Berger, Student Senate President  
Alexandria Technical & Community College  
xj7111og@go.minnstate.edu
April 11, 2018

Chancellor Devinder Malhotra
Office of the Chancellor
Minnesota State Colleges & Universities
30 7th Street East, Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Dear Chancellor Devinder Malhotra:

This letter is to outline the consultations in which the Alexandria Technical and Community College Student Senate received from Chief Financial Officer, David Bjelland, in regard to the Parking Lot Revenue Fund.

The Alexandria Technical and Community College Student Senate is pleased with the consultation and updates given by Mr. Bjelland. The ATCC administration has kept the Senate updated and well informed on their plans for the parking lot fee increases, as well as the current negotiations with the snow removal company.

With the information we were provided, the Senate discussed the parking lot fees and voted to support the fee increase.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Joe Berger, Student Senate President
Alexandria Technical & Community College
xj7111qq@go.minnstate.edu
Chair Michael Vekich and Board of Trustees,

Cambridge Student senate has met with our President Kent Hanson, and CFO Don Lewis on these dates for the academic year 2017-2018, November 7th, 2017 and March 19th, 2018. In these meeting we talked about where the budget currently sit and that we were still waiting to hear about the union contracts. The budget is currently in the good and that there will not be any big chances to the current projections.

Don Lewis gave a presentation and shared all the materials what where talked about with the Student Senate. We were also given all the information to have on hand for later discussions. We were also given the spread sheets for the projections for the upcoming year.

Cambridge Student Senate wanted to know what the plans for sale of part of our current land and where the funds from that would be going. Don explained that they do plan to have the funds used for Cambridge Projects. Also what the plans for the build projects of Cambridge Campus.

There will also be a fallow up meeting on April 30, 2018 to discuss some of the final projections for next year.

Administration would like to keep the fees all at the same for this year after we did raise some them last year.

Sincerely,

Andrea M. Gerrard
Cambridge Student Senate President
agerrard1@my.anokaramsey.edu
Chair Vekich and Board of Trustees,

As requested by Minnesota State’s Student Consultation Policy (Board Policy 2.3), this letter will outline the tuition consultation process that recently took place at Anoka-Ramsey Community College Coon Rapids Campus.

Coon Rapids Student Senate met with our CFO Don Lewis on the following dates for the academic year 2017-2018: October 25th, 2017; March 7th, 2018; and April 25th, 2018. Mr. Lewis covered where our budget currently was. He also explained that we were waiting on contracts to be approved. Thankfully, Mr. Lewis had a projection of how the contracts could affect our budget. The message was our budget is stable, and we need to look at future projects. In the last meeting it was projected that we would end with an operating surplus. Enrollment at Anoka-Ramsey Community College is expected to be flat; therefore, our budget is projected to be flat next year as well.

Don Lewis gave a presentation and shared any and all information that he had available at each meeting. Student Senate was given copies of the paperwork as well as forwarded the presentation and spreadsheets, in case we needed to have further discussion.

It has been proposed to raise the Student Life and Technology fees this year since it has been a number of years since both have been raised. Students, in conjunction with Student Senate, approved a 2% increase for the Student Life fee. We are currently waiting on word from the Technology Advisor Committee about a possible increase of 5% for our Technology fee. All other fees have been approved and will stay the same.

Sincerely,

Rachel Bray

Rachel Bray
Coon Rapids Student Senate President
Rbray1@my.anokaramsey.edu
Chair Vekich and Trustees:

As requested by Minnesota State’s student consultation policy (Board policy 2.3), this letter will outline the tuition consultation process that recently took place at the Anoka Technical College campus.

Our senate met with President Kent Hanson and Vice President/CFO Don Lewis a total of three times this year. The first time was on Nov 15th and then again on February 21st. Our final meeting with them was on April 18th, where we had a budget forum with all interested students.

Background material were provided to us, which included information on what would happen if we were to leave the fees as is, and what fees would look like if we increased them incrementally up to a 3% increase. The administration proposed no fee change and we brought this information to the all senate meeting and forum.

The information given on the budget was sufficient for the students to have a lengthy discussion about the proposal and make an informed decision. At this time we see no reason to increase life fees on our campus. President Hanson has made himself available at any time for comments or questions and members of his staff were very responsive to any and all questions we had. We feel we have complete support from our President and CFO.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments regarding the Anoka Technical College budget consultation process. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Thomas Lien
Anoka Technical College Student Senate President
Tlien2@my.anokatech.edu
April 25, 2018

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
Office of the Chancellor
30 East Seventh Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Chancellor Malhotra, Chair Vekich, and Trustees:

On behalf of the Bemidji State University Student Senate, I respectfully submit to you our budget consultation letter for the fiscal year 2019.

We were consulted multiple times by our Vice President of Finance, Karen Snorek. We were first consulted on February 7th, 2018, where VP Snorek attended our Student Senate meeting where 20 student senators were consulted on the projected figures for FY19. Even though the numbers at the time were preliminary, this was a great opportunity to really dive into the possible changes and ask a lot of questions. We felt very satisfied about that meeting and left feeling well-informed about how the projected budget will be used in different areas.

VP Snorek attended our Student Senate meeting again on March 28th, 2018 and we were then consulted as an entire Student Senate and in the presence of other students in the gallery, 27 students in total. Our Associate Vice President Dr. Grant was also present and helped answer questions when appropriate. The information presented was using a detailed and very easy-to-understand presentation on the screen. We were extremely satisfied with the professionalism, the transparency and willingness to answer any and all questions exhibited by VP Snorek throughout the consultation.

We were well-informed by VP Snorek about the MN State ask of $10 million for campus support and the $21 million to support the ISRS Next Gen. During the consultation process we have been well informed about the use of and need for ISRS Next Gen. The information provided by our administration matches accurately with the multiple discussions we have had among our student representatives, on the importance of replacing our out-of-date enterprise technology system, at BSU and at a state-wide level.

We understand that our Undergraduate Tuition will remain unchanged for FY19. However, our Graduate Tuition will increase from $403.50 to $419.60 (per credit).

Our administration is requesting a 2% increase in the Student Activity Fee, a 3% increase in the Student Union Fee, a 1.8% increase in the Health Center Fee, a 3% increase in Room, a 3% increase in Board and an average increase of 3.6% in the Parking Fees. However, the Technology Fee and the Athletic Fee remain unchanged for FY19. In total, our fee increases will not exceed 2%. It is worth mentioning that our administration has also
informed us about the update to the MN State Student Fee Referendum which mandates a campus referendum with a minimum of 51% support from the student body, for fee increases greater than 2%.

While we respect and understand the administration’s position, we still have our concerns. Although the Undergraduate Tuition freeze provides some consolation, we disagree with the increase in Graduate Tuition. At Bemidji State University, our graduate students have already expressed concerns about their financial difficulties due to lack of adequate compensation in the opportunities available to them; therefore, increasing the cost of education will be an additional burden to them which we believe, is unfair to our graduate students and may hinder their pursuit of further education. It is our strong belief that increasing tuition should not be the trend and that our institution needs to explore other options to fulfill its financial requirements. As far as the fee increases are concerned, we understand the need for them and we recognize the crucial role they play in maintaining current standards and in some cases, enhancing student experience at BSU. Despite that, we urge the administration of BSU and the MN State System Office to seriously consider alternative revenue streams and creative cost savings.

We are very grateful for the opportunity to share our feedback and we greatly appreciate Vice President Snorek and Associate Vice President Dr. Grant for keeping us so well-informed. We want to stress here that, even though we disagree with some of the outcome, we feel very strongly that the process was fair, professional, transparent, and positive. Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions.

Respectfully,

Eshfaq (Ash) Ullah
Student Senate President
Bemidji State University
218-755-2099
bsustudentsenate@bemidjistate.edu
Greetings Chancellor Malhotra, Chair Vekich, and Trustees,

We are writing to you in regards to Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Student Consultation Policy 2.3 on the tuition consultation process representing both of Central Lakes College campuses. Both of our student senates are writing to you as one unified body.

Our Tuition Consultation meetings totaled 4 hours, President Hara Charlier, Vice President of Administrative Services Kari Christiansen, Vice President of Student & Academic Affairs Joy Bodin, Student Life Director Erich Heppner, and Student Senate members of both campuses were in attendance. An overview of changing fees, the college budget, and budget assumptions were all discussed at these meetings.

Also, our Technology Fee will remain at the current rate of $10 per credit. The Student Life Committee is recommending that the Athletic Fee remain at $4.20 per credit, and raising the Student Activity Fee by 10¢ to $5.45 per credit. Upon completion of these meetings the proposed changes were brought to both campuses for approval. The students of both Brainerd and Staples campuses were free to ask questions and express thoughts about the proposal. Both campuses unanimously approved the proposed changes.

Please feel free to contact either of us with any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the Central Lakes College Brainerd & Staples tuition consultation process. Thank you for your time as well as your consideration.

Sincerely,

Osirus Washington
Student Senate President
Central Lakes College
Brainerd Campus
(612)462-2065; osirus.washington@go.clcmn.edu

Jordan Johnson
Student Senate President
Central Lakes College
Staples Campus
(763)350-5399; Jordan.johnson@go.clcmn.edu
Chair Vekich and Trustees:

I am writing to you today in regard to the 2017-2018 tuition and fee consultation process between the Century College Student Senate and the Administration as requested in Board Policy 2.3.1

Throughout the 2017-2018 academic year, the Student Senate met with the administration to discuss previous, current, and projected budget status of the college. We met with the administration on November 29, January 31, February 28, March 28, and April 25. These meetings were attended by both the student senate and the administration: President Angelia Millender, Vice-President of Finance Pat Opatz, Vice-President of Student Services Joyce Coleman, Associate Vice-President of Information Technology and Administrative Services John Rohleder, Vice-President of Academic Affairs Micheal Berndt, Dean of Student Services Kristen Hageman, Director of Student Life and Leadership Jennifer Rassett, the Century College Student Senate Executive Officers, and senator-at-large members.

The administration provided background materials to the student senate; which included detailed spreadsheets and links that covered: FY2018-FY2019 Minnesota State Legislative Request, Century parking pro forma, statewide college and university fee comparison, current and proposed special course fee, current 2018 and expected 2019 fee and enrollment changes.

The student senate proposed no increase to tuition. The Student Senate discussed the proposed fee increase in our meetings and found them to be appropriate. The Student Senate also worked in the Student Life Committee and the Technology Committee to create recommendations for the Student Life and Technology fee respectively. The Student Senate recommended a $0.25 increase in the Technology fee. We also recommended that the Student Life fee decrease of by $0.22. One last thing we wanted to make note of is that a new Health Fee was created at $0.61. The money was taken out of Student Life general budget and also that the campus will be working on appropriate allocation of the Mental Health Resource grant that was given to the college.

The athletic fee committee has met during the Fall 2017 – Spring 2018 semesters. They brought the fee to student senate on February 14th, student senate accepted to the recommendation to sunset the soccer team and decrease the athletic fee. However, it was a difficult decision to make Student Senate feels that this was in the best interest of our students. Student Senate did receive a push back from the athletic department, but we were able to come to
a compromise. Athletic Fee committee approved the fee with the recommendations given by Senate.

The 2017-2018 budget consultation was overall highly informative and sufficient for the student senate to discuss and present our views on the proposal being made for the fiscal year 2018 budget. President Angelia Millender and Vice-President of Finance Pat Opatz made themselves available between meetings to answer any questions that came up. The administration did a wonderful job at providing additional information and documents whenever they were requested. Although because of new transition of new administration it did become a learning process as for both administration and senate it was new and lead room for miscommunication. Fortunately, we did have veteran troopers in each committee that made it easier for both Presidents to understand the process.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the Century College 2017-2018 budget consultation process. I would like to thank the Board of Trustees for their dedication to the students of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Ruth “BC” Mejia
Century College Student Senate
President
(651)399-6943
yv2327pv@my.century.edu
Dear Chair Vekich and Board of Trustees:

As requested by Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board policy 2.3, which outlines student involvement in decision-making, this letter outlines the budget consultation process that recently took place at Dakota County Technical College (DCTC).

DCTC Vice President/Chief Financial Officer, Patrick Jacobson-Schulte, has kept the students informed of the financial situation at the college on a regular basis. Dates that our senate was able to discuss financials:

- 3/28, 3/7 – Tim Wynes discussed transportation options and possibility of bus line
- 4/11, 3/28 – Patrick Jacobson-Schulte, course differential proposals and budget
- 4/11 – Mike Opp discussed course differentials
- 4/18 - Mike Opp, Patrick Jacobson-Schulte, course differential questions answered prior to budget committee vote
- 4/25 – Mike Opp, Patrick Jacobson-Schulte, course differential questions answered prior to senate vote

Since the previous year’s decision by legislature to set a tuition freeze, our students are pleased with the result. At this time, all student and technology fees on campus are remaining the same. Our enrollment did increase, leading to an increase in student fee funds available to allocate for student activities. This has made budget decisions in student life more favorable for students.

Our Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs, Mike Opp along with Mr. Jacobson-Schulte came to senate with six separate course differential request April 11, 2018. We had two additional meetings on the topic of course differentials. A budget meeting on April 18, 2018 with Mr. Opp and Mr. Jacobson-Schulte and during our senate meeting on April 25, 2018. Students were able to ask additional questions before taking a vote. Attached you will find a table with explanation of course differentials. Student senate officers were recently made aware the system office did not approve all but one course differential. Mr. Jacobson-Schulte came back to senate officers in regards to ELLW 0098 Introduction to Climbing proposed $200 charge per credit (this course is one credit), the system office recommended $7 per credit across the entire program. Several students voiced concern with this option due to the cost being higher by completion of the program. I.E. cost by the end of the program would be a potential additional $315-$420. The higher cost would affect the students that continued in the program vs. those who dropped out after the first course.

WWW.DCTC.EDU
We took a vote electronically on April 26, 2018 and did not reach quorum with our best attempts. At this time, student senate does not support a $7 per credit course differential for the Electrical line worker program. We will be bringing the information and discussion back to senate on May 9, 2018. I would like to note the timing on the consultation for this last course differential recommendation was tight and contributed to students not understanding the recommendation. If you should want any further information on the status or outcome of the course differential proposals please contact me.

The Student Association at DCTC is satisfied with the level of consultation we have received throughout the year regarding the college budget, tuition, and fees. The college administration has been readily available and willing to answer all questions we have had regarding fee structures. The senate appreciates the opportunity to consult on these decisions.

I would encourage you to contact me should you have any further questions about the budget consultation process at Dakota County Technical College. Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Susan Garcia
Student Senate President
Dakota County Technical College
Recommendation that came to senate 3/28 & 4/11

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Recommendation that came back to senate 4/26/2018

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<th>Proposed total base tuition plus differential rate charge per credit:</th>
<th>Student Senate consensus</th>
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</thead>
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<td>ELLW 0098 – Introduction to Climbing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Support course differential. Vote taken 4/18/2018</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$200</td>
<td>$168</td>
<td>$368</td>
<td></td>
<td>Electronic Vote taken 4/26/2018 did not have quorum, so was not successful</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electrical Line Worker Program</td>
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<td>$315-$420 (based on credits)</td>
<td>Electronic Vote taken 4/26/2018 did not have quorum, so was not successful</td>
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<td>Electronic Vote taken 4/26/2018 did not have quorum, so was not successful</td>
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Board of Trustees
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
500 Wells Fargo Place
30 East Seventh Street
St. Paul, MN, 55101

Board of Trustees:

As requested by the Minnesota State Student Consultation Policy, this letter will outline the tuition and budget consultation process that took place on numerous occasions throughout the year at Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College. The attendees of these tuition and budget meeting were the FDLTCC Student Senate President Christopher Huard, FDLTCC President Larry Anderson, and FDLTCC Chief Financial Officer Stephanie Hammitt.

Throughout the Fall and Spring semesters, we were briefed thoroughly by the FDLTCC administration that the current financial status of FDLTCC is strong. This has been the pattern over the last two years due to the administrations budget plan to reserve five to seven percent to guarantee the success of FDLTCC. While over the past few years there has been a slight decline in enrollment and attendance here at FDLTCC, it remains in a strong financial position and the decline of enrollment has been aggressively addressed by the FDLTCC Dean of Students Dr. Russel Swaggers, Recruit, Retain, Graduate Plan which will ensure a strong financial position moving forward. We are here at the Student Senate are extremely appreciative of the partnership that exists between the FDLTCC administration and their students. Here at FDLTCC we pride ourselves on our school's diverse population. This diversity had lead to a student government format that is singular in this state and has led to the success of the school’s ability to be able to maintain programs and retain staff and faculty.

When we discuss budget items, especially tuition we all work together to make sure that our $158.90 class credit is not only competitively set but also affordable to the students that attend FDLTCC. Other items discussed are student assistance items such as the school’s technology fee. FDLTCC’s I.T. department works rigorously to ensure that the student here at the college have all the technology tools to optimize success and to ease the struggles of finding reliable technology equipment for our students. We on the Senate, along with administration, support a rise in the technology fee set by the school from $8 to $10. This increase would put FDLTCC on level fields with surrounding MNSCU schools.

The Senate and the administration has been a remarkable partnership over my time here at the school. We are reasonably priced in tuition, we show support for an increased technology fee, and we are always ready to adjust in benefit to our student community here at FDLTCC. We are excited to continue our dedication to the students of the college and to continue to hold our educational commitment to the highest of standards, along with ensuring that the campus has appropriate renovations and upkeep to maintain these standards.

President Anderson, CFO Hammit, and Dean Swagger have been wonderful assets to this school and have set a standard of transparency to our students so that we may all work together to make Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College the most diverse, student centered MNSCU school.
If there are any questions or comments regarding the Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College tuition consultation process, please feel free to contact me via email or phone at Christopher.huard@s.fdltcc.edu or 218-390-8928.

Respectfully,

Christopher J. Huard
FDLTC Student Senate, President
Chancellor Malhotra and Trustees,

This letter is to briefly outline the process of Hennepin Technical College (HTC) budget consultation, as requested by the Minnesota State policy (Board policy 2.3).

Our Student Senate Executive Board Officers, including Presidents from Brooklyn Park – Guadalupe Lira-Jimenez and Eden Prairie – Brandon Machtemes, meet with HTC administration monthly throughout the school year. During our November, January and February meetings specifically, there were updates and discussions regarding the budget and required tuition consultation processes. Along with the student leaders from both campuses, President Dr. Merrill Irving, Jr., Vice President of Finance and Operations Craig Erickson, Provost Dr. Carmen Coballes-Vega, Interim Director of Student Life & Career Development Sue Schmizt, Brooklyn Park Student Senate Advisor Brenna Hucka, and Eden Prairie Student Senate Advisor Jesse Ledbetter attended the budget consultation meetings. Background materials were provided during these meetings to detail the all college budgets for FY18 and projections for FY19. The discussion allowed Student Senate leaders to ask questions about the budget.

The administration explained that they will be budgeting based on a Full-Time Equivalent of 3350 students. This is lower than it has been in recent years and due to the national trend of declining enrollment coupled with the financial demands and importance of technical education, every dollar is critical.

Student Senate has been working closely with Chief Information Officer Jason Kopp throughout the year to address growing technology needs. Students have overwhelmingly voiced their support for increasing the Technology Fee by $1.00 to $10.00 total to address these needs and provide more technology support for students.

Administrators are receptive to further answering the Student Senate leaders’ questions and hearing the feedback we have or that we ask on behalf of other students. We feel our voices are heard and taken seriously, and the administration and students share the same vision and goals for the college.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the budget consultation at Hennepin Technical College, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Guadalupe Lira-Jimenez
Brooklyn Park Campus Student Senate President
Chancellor Malhotra and Trustees,

This letter is to briefly outline the process of Hennepin Technical College (HTC) budget consultation, as requested by the MnSCU policy (Board policy 2.3).

Our Student Senate Executive Board Officers, including Presidents from Brooklyn Park – Guadalupe Lira-Jimenez and Eden Prairie – Brandon Machtemes, meet with HTC administration monthly throughout the school year. During our November, January and February meetings specifically, there were updates and discussions regarding the budget and required tuition consultation processes. Along with the student leaders from both campuses, President Dr. Merrill Irving, Jr., Vice President of Finance and Operations Craig Erickson, Provost Dr. Carmen Coballes-Vega, Interim Director of Student Life & Career Development Sue Schmitz, Brooklyn Park Student Senate Advisor Brenna Hucka, and Eden Prairie Student Senate Advisor Jese Ledbetter attended the budget consultation meetings. Background materials were provided during these meetings to detail the all college budgets for FY18 and projections for FY19. The administration explained that they will be budgeting based on a Full-Time Equivalent of 3350 students. This is lower than it has been in recent years. The discussion allowed Student Senate leaders to ask questions about the budget.

Student Senate has been working closely with Chief Information Officer Jason Kopp throughout the year to address growing technology needs. Students have overwhelmingly voiced their support for increasing the Technology Fee by $1.00 to $10.00 total to address these needs and provide more technology support for students.

Jason Kopp and Administrators have been receptive to further answering the Student Senate leaders’ questions and hearing the feedback we have or that we asked on behalf of other students. Jason has attended four Eden Prairie Student Senate meetings this year providing open dialogue with the students. Student Senate leaders also talked in our Learning Commons talked in classrooms and engaged with students regarding the $1 technology increase. We feel our voices are being heard and taken seriously; the administration and students share the same vision and goals for the college.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the budget consultation at Hennepin Technical College, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Brandon Machtemes
2017-2018 Eden Prairie Campus Student Senate President
Board of Trustees  
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities  
500 Wells Fargo Place  
30 East Seventh Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Chair Vekich and Trustees

As requested by MNSCU’s student consultation policy, this letter will outline the budget consultation process that recently took place at Inver Hills Community College. The process was beneficial to students’ understanding of the budgeting process.

The Student Senate met with Inver Hills Chief Financial Officer, Patrick Jacobsen-Schulte on February 1st, March 15th, and again on April 12th. During these meetings we were informed of the financial status of the college, how it is affected by legislation, and projects underway due to bonding. Student Senators, the Senate Executive Board, and Senate Advisors were in attendance. We asked several questions for clarification, and are satisfied with the explanation given.

Administration did an excellent job of providing materials to aid our understanding, as well as strategically planning for a realistic and efficient budget. The student body was pleased that the administration is making every effort to avoid a tuition increase after the tuition freeze is lifted.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding our consultation process.

Respectfully,

David Zelm  
Student Senate President  
Inver Hills Community College  
SSPresident@inverhills.edu
Board of Trustees  
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities  
500 Wells Fargo Place  
30 East Seventh Street  
St. Paul MN 55101

Trustees:

As requested by Minnesota State’s student consultation policy (Board policy 2.3), this letter will outline the tuition consultation process that took place at Lake Superior College in Duluth, MN over the last 9 months.

The Lake Superior College Student Senate (LSCSS) has had official meetings with President Patrick Johns and CFO Alan Finlayson on various occasions. Including, but not limited to, Jan. 11, Jan. 25, Feb. 22, Mar. 1, and Mar. 29. On various occasions, I had met with the administration to talk about the next fiscal year and how the freeze next year would affect operating costs and the general fund budget.

Al Finlayson, at every one of these meetings, provided last year (actual), this year (current), and next year (projected) budgets to give the Student Senate an accurate perspective as to what to expect. Last year, we were prepped the same way and understood the 1% increase in tuition this year. We understand with the projected budget, for the general fund, that tuition will stay frozen at its current rate.

The administration has proposed a $1.25 fee increase for our progressing athletics program. This increase will help fund a new basketball team, support the current cross country bike team, and trap shooting team. This increase was put to a student referendum, as outlined by the system office, to take place the week following Spring Break of the 2018 semester. This referendum passed; the Student Senate understands the increase in the athletics fee.

The LSCSS was given sufficient access to the actual, current, and projected budget. They also understand that the projected budget for next year is balanced with no excessive surpluses or deficits.

Our Senate has voted to support the current proposed budget, as well as, support the increase in the athletics fee. We feel as if our vote is truly for the betterment of our student body and accurately represents the voice of the students at Lake Superior College.

President Patrick Johns and his Vice President of Finance (CFO), Alan Finlayson, have made themselves readily available since the beginning of the academic year. We feel that our
administration has properly informed and educated us in the budget process. We feel that our questions and concerns were properly answered with reasonable urgency.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding this letter, as well as, anything regarding the consultation process with the LSCSS. Thank you for your consideration.

Warm Regards,
Dillon Forcier, Student Senate Representative, mi1551bp@my.lsc.edu

In congruence with, Nathaniel Ballard, Student Senate Vice President, ij1373ir@my.lsc.edu
As requested by Minnesota State’s student consultation policy (Board policy 2.3), this letter will outline the tuition consultation process that took place at Lake Superior College in Duluth, MN over the last 9 months.

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Warm Regards,
Dillon Forcier, Student Senate Representative, mi1551bp@my.lsc.edu

In congruence with,
Makayla Wojtysiak, Student Senate President, zi3213jc@my.lsc.edu
April 27, 2018

Chancellor Malhotra
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
500 Wells Fargo Place
30 East Seventh Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Consultation Process at Metropolitan State University

Honorable Chancellor Malhotra and Board of Trustees,

This letter is in regards to the consultation process between the Metropolitan State University Student Senate and the Metropolitan State University Administration. The Student Senate was unsatisfied with the consultation process, and believes in the following solutions regarding the FY18 tuition rates. The consultation process in its entirety was from March 29th to April 27th. This was much too short of a timeline for the Student Senate to effectively hear the voices of our constituents and propose feedback to the administration.

Previously, the Administration discussed with us the need to improve the technology services offered on our campuses. Through discussion, we have been informed that a $2.00 per credit fee increase for a total of $9.00 per credit is imperative for Metro State to become sustainable as a university. The Student Senate understands the necessity behind this fee, but given the current economic climate, has advocated for the smallest fee increase possible for our students.

Metropolitan State University currently charges a $2.50 per credit health care fee. The healthcare services provided by the university are not greatly unitized which has resulted in a surplus of funding for healthcare initiatives. The Student Senate proposed a decrease in the health care fee to offset the overall impact of fee changes to our students. The administration was able to propose a decrease in the healthcare fee by $1.50 for a total of $1.00 per credit fee for health care.

Given the increase in the technology fee and the decrease in the health care fee, the total impact to students will be an increase of $0.50 per credit. Understanding that this is the minimum possible impact to students, the Student Senate is agreeable to this change. More time in the consultation process would have allowed us to disseminate the fee proposal information to the general student body and receive feedback. With the inability to do so, the feedback received was from the Student Senate and immediately available students.

The administration has also proposed a 4% increase in graduate tuition to offset the deficit the university may be facing in FY20. Although the Senate understands the necessity of this, we would respectfully ask the university to be mindful of the impact that this can have on our graduate programs. Metropolitan State University is composed of many historically marginalized populations who are seeking a better life though education, and this may not be possible if we continually increase our tuition rates.
Finally, the Student Senate would like to acknowledge the work of our new Chief Financial Officer Tracy Hatch, as we feel that the small consultation window was not a result of her work and that her communication was impeccable when distributing information and responding to inquiries of the Senate. The university’s conscientious budgeting and awareness of the areas that can be more frugal will help us spend smarter and have a positive impact on the students, so we encourage the continuation of those efforts.

Please feel comfortable reaching out to the Metropolitan State Student Senate if you have any further questions or comments.

Very Respectfully,

Heather Moenck
Heather Moenck
Student Senate President
Metropolitan State University
April 2, 2018

Chancellor Malhotra and the Board of Trustees:

This letter serves to verify that the Minnesota State Student Association (MSSA) has been consulted regarding the cumulative increase of 1.66% in Student Fees at Minnesota State University, Mankato. The fee recommendation amounts to $41.13 per credit hour, banded at $498.56. Given rising costs throughout our system and the forecasted decrease in enrollment, the MSSA, the official voice of students at Minnesota State Mankato, is very proud to have kept fee increases to a minimum. Despite serving one of the largest and most diverse student bodies in the system, and the financial pressure associated with a tuition freeze, the MSSA has taken a critical and thoughtful approach to student fees, and, with the collaboration of excellent administrators, has been very successful at keeping the financial burden on students to a minimum.

Student Activity Fee
The Minnesota State Student Association approves an increase of 2.96% of this fee to maintain some services for current programs and departments under Student Activities and to expand others. The student activity fee will be set at $8.36 per credit hour. The Student Allocations Committee (SAC) is an independent committee of the MSSA and spends the year allocating travel/event-hosting dollars and hosting budget hearings for departments funded through student activity fee dollars. Under the vigil of Centennial Student Union Director, Mark Constantine and Centennial Student Union Business Manager, Theresa Schwartz, the committee presented a series of recommendations to the MSSA which were modified and approved by the Student Senate. This fee increase is subject to approval by a vote of the student body taking place on April 10. Should the vote fail, the fee will be set at $8.28 per credit hour, banded at $99.36, reflecting a 1.97% increase.

Centennial Student Union Fee
CSU administration has been wonderful to work with during the course of the year, and their efforts have, for as long as I have been involved with our student association, mirrored an approach of thoughtful transparency. Our Centennial Student Union Board meets with CSU staff, student board members and administration once per week during the entire academic year. This board serves to ensure the budgeting process and that CSU fees are spent with fiscal responsibility. The board has agreed to a 0.73% increase in CSU facility fee for FY19 and the Minnesota State Student Association voted in approval of this fee. The CSU fee for FY19 will be $10.99 per credit hour, banded at a maximum of $131.88.
**Student Health Services Fee**
A 0.18% increase to the Student Health Services Fee will result in a total of $5.42, banded at the maximum of $65.00 per term. The increase is mainly a result of the decrease in credit hours as compared to FY18. The MSSA also recognizes that salary accounts for 70% of the overall Student Health Services budget. The MSSA appreciates all that Student Health Services does for the student body.

**Technology Fee**
The MSSA was presented an increase in the technology fee. A technology fee of $10.00 per credit, which represents a 1.94% increase, was approved. The MSSA commended the efforts of Information and Technology Services and acknowledge the need to grow and develop services.

**Intercollegiate Athletic Fee**
This fee is separate from the student activity fee. The MSSA recognized the hard work, dedication, and success of our intercollegiate athletic teams, and appreciated the efforts of the Athletics Department to continue to grow and develop the programs. A 4.04% increase in the fee was approved, which will result in a fee of $3.86 per credit hour. This fee increase is subject to approval by a vote of the student body taking place on April 10. Should the vote fail, the fee will be set at $3.78 per credit hour, banded at $45.36, reflecting an increase of 1.89%.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please reach me by email at abdulrahmane.abdul-aziz@mnsu.edu or by calling 507-389-2611.

With Maverick Pride,

[Signature]

Abdulrahmane Abdul-Aziz
85th Minnesota State Student Association President
280 Centennial Student Union, Mankato, MN 56001
Thursday, April 5, 2018

Board of Trustees
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
30 7th Street East
Suite 350
St Paul MN 55101

Minnesota State Board of Trustees,

As requested by legislative law, as per Minnesota State Policy on student consultation policy this letter will outline the budget consultation that took place at Minnesota West Community and Technical College- Canby campus.

The meeting took place on March 27, 2018, with Diana Fliss, business manager, giving the presentation. A number of students were also present at the meeting. Also Judy Drown, student senate advisor/faculty, Sara Abrahamson, and Mike DeVries were faculty members present.

We were able to ask several questions regarding the budget including student fees. Most of the questions asked were in regards to the amount of money coming in and the projected short falls. Questions were answered and the unanswered questions were due to neither Diana knowing the answer or having the information at the meeting.

Overall, the meeting was a success with students understanding most of the information. Diana was straight forward with the information and welcomed all questions. They were willing to find the information of the unanswered questions and answer future questions anyone may have.

If you have any questions or comments regarding Minnesota West Community and Technical College Canby Budget Consultation process, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mark Patterson, Student Senate President
Minnesota West CTC – Canby Campus

CC: Judy Drown, Student Senate Advisor; College President, Terry Gaalswyk
Board of Trustees  
Minnesota State College and Universities  
500 Wells Fargo Place  
30 East Seventh Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55101  

Chair Vekich and Trustees:  

As requested by Minnesota State’s student consultation policy (Board policy 2.3), this letter will outline the tuition consultation process that recently took place at Minnesota West Community and Technical College Granite Falls campus.  

During our last meeting in April, student senate members met with Business Manager Diana Fliss to discuss the college’s budget and how it will affect the students.  

Business Manager Diana Fliss discussed the budget in great detail covering topics to help student senate members get a better understanding of where the college receives their numbers for the budget. Diana Fliss compared this year’s budget with previous years, which put the college’s financials in perspective. She talked about our campus’s fees and tuition, and told us that at this time there will be no changes to either.  

Diana Fliss was very insightful and helped student senate members get a better grasp on the college’s budget and where the college will head next. All of the information she provided is available for student senate members to view at their leisure.  

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments regarding Minnesota West Community and Technical College - Granite Falls, MN budget consultation process. Thank you for your consideration.  

Sincerely  

[Signature]  

Esmeralda Hernandez, Student Senate President  
Minnesota West Community and Technical College – Granite Falls Campus  
esmeralda.hernandez@live.mnwest.edu
Board of Trustees

On behalf of the entire student body I would like to thank Diana Fliss for coming to our campus to discuss tuition consultation. The response I received from other students tell me everyone was well informed and appreciated the effort of all the individuals it took to put the presentation together. This presentation helped us as students to understand the finances of the Minnesota west community and technical college.

We realize the importance of informing us as students of the financial health of the college. We would like to urge our administration to continue to look towards every option possible to help keep Minnesota west growing to a strong financial position and sustain where we are currently.

Thank you and the rest of your staff and administration for all your hard work going into this issue.

Sincerely

Brody Heinzel

MNwest Jackson campus

Student senate president
April 13, 2018

Board of Trustees
Minnesota State
30 East Seventh Street
St. Paul MN 55101

Dear Trustees:

As required by the Minnesota State student consultation policy (Board Policy 2.3), this letter is to outline the tuition consultation process that place at Minnesota West Community and Technical College – Luverne Center.

The consultation was held with the student body on April 9, 2018, with Diana Fliss presenting a detailed power point outlining the information regarding the 0% decrease/increase on tuition, the financial health and planning; enrollment and allocation history and a better understanding of the reserves and fund balances. Diana also went over FY2019 projections, along with strategies, efficiencies and capital requests.

After the consultation meeting, the student body has a better understanding on how tuition and fees are established as well as the future of Minnesota West Community and Technical College’s financial health and future planning, to ensure that students have affordable education, along with the receiving the best education.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments regarding Minnesota West Community and Technical College – Luverne Center’s student consultation process. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christi Wilson, Student Senate President, christi.wilson@live.mnwest.edu
Chair Vekich and Trustees:

As requested by MinnState’s student consultation policy (Board Policy 2.3), this letter will outline the tuition consultation process that recently took place at Minnesota West Community and Technical College-Pipestone Campus.

Our senate met with Minnesota West Community and Technical College administration to consult on the college budget on November 14, 2017 and March 20, 2018. These meetings were attended by Diana Fliss, Rebecca Weber, Dean of Student Services; our senate members and the senate’s executive board.

A Power Point slide show was presented with detailed description. The Power Point was also offered to be dispersed through email upon request.

The consultation on the budget was sufficient for the senate to ask questions and have discussions about the budget for the next year.

President Gaalswyck was also in attendance for the March 20, 2018 consultation meeting. Our President, Diana Fliss, and staff have made themselves available for any questions, comments, or concerns. We feel as though our views were factored into the administration’s budget plan and felt that the consultation process was taken seriously by both students and administration.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any question or comments regarding Minnesota West Community and Technical College-Pipestone’s consultation process. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Bobbi Westra, Student Senate President, bobbi.westra@go.minnstate.edu
Board of Trustees  
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities  
500 Wells Fargo Place  
30 7th Street East-Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101-7804

Dear Board of Trustees:

This letter is to inform you that the Minnesota West-Worthington campus has completed and participated in their duty in the consultation process. The Student Senate has gone over the financial information that was supplied to our Student Senate during the April 11, 2018 meeting. Diana Fliss presented the information to our Student Senate.

We, the student body understand how the tuition rates and fees are established and how they are factored each year. Minnesota West also appreciate the efforts put forth by the current administration and appreciates the time spend explaining this process to us.

Sincerely,

Melinda “Kassandra” Lopez  
Minnesota West Community & Technical College  
Worthington Campus  
Student Senate President
Board of Trustees  
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities  
500 Wells Fargo Place  
30 East Seventh Street  
St. Paul MN 55101  
To the Board of Trustees:

As requested by Minnesota State’s student consultation policy (Board policy 2.3), this letter will outline the tuition consultation process that recently took place at the Minneapolis Community and Technical College.

Our student senate executive board met with MCTC administration to consult on the college budget on multiple occasions. We’ve gone over Student Life fees, tech fees, health fees, the expenditures on facilities, website redevelopments, and new construction developments laid out on five-year plans. We’ve been informed by MCTC President Sharon Pierce; Chris Rau, CFO; Tiffni Deeb, CIO; Tara Martinez, Dir. of Student Life; Gail O’Kane, VP of Academic Affairs; Deanna Sheely, CCO & Chief of Staff; Jay Williams, President’s Council; Patrick Troup, VP of Student Affairs; and Roger Broz, the Physical Plant Director. They’ve made it very clear that we can obtain this information at our whim by sending an E-mail, or arranging a meeting, and have done their due diligence in keeping the senate informed on developments at MCTC. As well as working to incorporate student input on the direction of projects.

Background materials were provided to the senate, which included a detailed spreadsheet outlining the FY2018 actual budget, the FY2019 projected budget, as well as a history to provide context. Details were provided outlaying the colleges’ revenue, expenses, net operating costs, enrollment, and many other facets of the school’s budget. We feel that our views were heard by the administration and that both students, and administration, took the consultation process seriously.

As for student fees, I’d like to make note here that we are collectively against creating an orientation fee. We’ve been seeing a continuous drop in enrollment for years now, and a lot of that correlates with growing economic pressures in our community. From our State’s community colleges being the 5th most expensive in the nation, to growing textbook costs, to increases in the local housing/rental market, to difficulty in maintaining personal transportation in our
student body, to programs and support being cut by the federal government, to a noticeable presence of hunger and homelessness on campuses across the state. Adding another financial burden to the student body is the wrong move to make right now, and it sets a bad precedent of applying fees to any issue schools are dealing with. As well as being a violation of the tuition freeze that state lawmakers mandated for the upcoming school year, because orientation is supposed to be encompassed by tuition. I recognize that there currently is a wide spread problem with orientation, but at MCTC we are trying to find solutions to that as a community, through reorganization. Even if I was supportive of the reasoning behind the fee and its precedent, now is simply not the time to implement another pressure upon students.

There are no increases or decreases proposed to student fees, but the student body has recently passed a referendum reallocating $.25 from the student Health Fee, to the Student Life Fee, with an 80% approval rating from 20 votes. I've been hearing about resistance to this change from members in the system office, and Mike Dean from LeadMN. I would like to take the time to formulate my reasoning for going forward with the change, and point out that we met every requirement that was set by the system office on this referendum. It is only after the fact that the goal posts are being asked to be moved, and the only feedback we have gotten on that move, is a vague notion to do better, without any metrics to officially reach. We started this semester with no direct advisor, because she was on maternity leave, and later retired; An understaffed information desk because a recent hire quit; Turnover of board members on our senate mid semester; And multiple occasions of not having quorum in both the Student Life Budget Committee, and General Assemble. This created a chain of events where Student Life Director Tara Martinez was/is essentially working 3 jobs, and is in part why we started off our budget consultation process, and student fee referendum, later than normal, leading to the short amount of time we had this vote available to the public. This was, in my belief, part of the reason only 20 people voted on the final vote, but weather and finals had a hand as well. Regardless, The Student Life Budget Committee had time to deliberate on this change, recommending $.50 to our General Assembly. Then the Director of the Health Clinic came in during a GA vote on this subject, and we collectively discussed, and voted, on the amount that would be transferred. Landing on $.25, because it wouldn't impact the clinic even if there's an 8% drop in enrollment. Whereas if we don't make this transfer, student life programs look like they will be cut, and those excess funds in the health clinic will be dropped into a
reserve fund we have less access to, for one-off expenditures. After that vote in the GA, we then put the referendum up on D2L for 5 days, pinging everyone's bright-space app, and D2L notifications, as well as put up physical white boards around the school to direct students to this vote. Since then, there hasn't been any questions or complaints about the referendum from students, nor the results which are publicly posted. I don't see a single reason to not go forward with this transfer, because for the first time ever in our school, every stakeholder had an opportunity to put input on student life fees, and not doing so is the only outcome that would affect students negatively. That's not to say that we didn't learn things from this vote. I recommend that we start the budget consultation process much earlier in the year, before spring break even, and have votes like this available for 10 business days. On this occasion though, I feel like we've met not only the requirements presented, but fulfilled our due diligence to reach out to the student body under the circumstances.

We’ve recently passed a resolution favoring OER’s, and have communicated about redirecting some of the funds saved from affordable textbook classes, to compensating the curriculum development of others. As well as empowering a creative commons licensed faculty member, Maran Wolston, to help other faculty members make the transition to Open Educational Resources. There are a lot of student focused developments like this happening on campus right now. In fact, I would say every facet of the school is going through some type of restructuring, and that's a scary thing to manage. All of which is being done beautifully, and very coherently, by Sharon and the team she has put together. All with regular student input, per their regular requests. The changes that are being made are a digital restructuring, with a website redesign, and integrated communication platform for student life; A massive rebranding of the school’s brand, and logo; Courses are being organized into pathways, making it easier to know what you need to take to graduate, or transfer, grouping generals together as well; Infrastructure development, making the school more coherent and inclusive, by organizing the different “school’s” together physically, and including a new cultural diversity center; Even a reorganization of the administration, and their committee’s themselves. They’re actively working at evolving, and becoming more coherent. A reflective capacity I have rarely seen held by teams leading institutions. It has been a pleasure and privilege to be a part of this school in the midst of all this. That being said, I understand why everyone is spread a little thin, and why there were
difficulties in getting through the budget consultation in a timely manner, regardless of that, the consultation on the budget was sufficient for the senate to have a lengthy discussion about proposals, and to make informed decisions about the direction of the school.

I personally approve of the job being done by the administration, their use of funds, and their communications about this through the budget consultation. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments regarding Minneapolis Community and Technical College’s budget consultation process. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Charles Karter

Charles Karter, President
M.C.T.C. Student Senate 2017-2018

ta9530ks@go.minneapolis.edu

(651) 428-1978
April 24, 2018

Board of Trustees
Minnesota State
500 Wells Fargo Place
30 East Seventh Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Chair Vekich and Trustees:

As requested by Minnesota State’s student consultation policy (Minnesota State policy 2.3), this letter will outline the budget consultation process that took place at Minnesota State College Southeast, Red Wing campus.

Our Student Senate had the chance to meet with our administration over a three-meeting process to discuss the FY2018-2019 budget. Interim President Larry Lundblad and Vice President of Finance, Mike Kroening, along with the whole senate attended our first meeting. We were provided with the opportunity to address many budget concerns and ask questions about the state of the college in general.

CFO Mike Kroening attended two subsequent meetings to give us further updates and made it clear that there would be no proposed fee increases or tuition changes for the upcoming fiscal year. It is the senate’s opinion that the consultation process was followed and that enough discussion was allowed to consider it successful. Both the Interim President and CFO made their contact information available for any follow up questions or discussion that students felt might be necessary.

The senate has worked with faculty, staff, and administrators to advocate for affordable textbooks. It has been announced that starting in the Fall of 2018, students will have the opportunity to use Online Education Resources (OER) through Cengage for selected classes. This will be a huge savings for many of our students on whether on campus or online and aids in lowering the overall cost of education. We, the Red Wing Student Senate, feel this change among others will strengthen our students and campus.

Feel free to contact me at any time with questions or comments in regard to Minnesota State College Southeast, Red Wing’s budget consultation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michelle Waller
Student Senate President, Red Wing campus
Minnesota State College Southeast
Michelle.waller@my.southeastmn.edu
April 17, 2018

Board of trustees
Minnesota State College and Universities
500 Wells Fargo Place
30 East 7th St #350
At Paul MN 55101

Dear Chair Vekich and Board of Trustees,

Consultation of the MSC Southeast budget and the ten-dollar Radiography Department Differential requested has been reviewed and discussed with the Student Senate on April 17th, 2018. We are indeed compelled to approve this action and support the requested differential.

As the newly elected 2018-2019 Student Senate Vice President, I speak on behalf of the MSC Southeast student body. We are cognizant of the financial challenges faced by MSC Southeast.

We have been informed that the 2018-2019 fiscal year tuition and fees will not change for our college. MSC Southeast student body does support this decision and we thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Corey Kasper
Winona Student Senate Vice President
Chair Vekich and Trustees,

Chief Financial Officer Pat Nordick came to meet with the Student Government Association (SGA) on our campus at M State Moorhead on both February 27th and the April 17th to discuss the final status of the budget for the following fiscal year.

The Fitness Center Fee will continue at the rate of $4.00. These funds will continue to cover the cost of the annual operating costs of the Fitness Center, staff salary, and paying off the revenue bond.

Sincerely,

Joshua L Hansen
Student Government Association, President M State Moorhead
Joshua_hansen2@my.minnesota.edu
701-318-6227
April 25th, 2018

Chair Veich and Trustees:

As requested by Minnesota State’s student consultation policy (Board policy 2.3), this letter will outline the tuition consultation process that recently took place at the Minnesota State Community and Technical College-Detroit Lakes campus.

Our senate met with the M State administration to consult on the college budget on October 30, 2017 and on April 24, 2018. These meetings were attended by CFO Pat Nordick and the senate’s executive board. Additionally, student senate meetings were held to discuss information from these meetings with the all SGA senate members.

Background materials were provided to the senate, which included Statements of Net Position, Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and changes in Net Position, a Composite Financial Index (CFI), and a General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2019.

There we no reported increases to any budget indicated at our last meeting. Student Government Association members were happy to see that tuition rates wouldn’t be going up as of this time. We stand firmly that tuition rates should remain at the current amount with services remaining the same.

CFO Nordick made himself available for questions, leaving his contact information with the senate team. As there where no changes to student budget cost senate didn’t have any issues or concerns to discuss with him.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments regarding Minnesota State Community and Technical College-Detroit Lakes budget consultation process. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

John M. Reinke
Student Senate President
john_reinke@my.minnesota.edu
On behalf of the M State Fergus Falls Student Government, I present this letter to you in response to our recent budget consultations. After having the opportunity to meet with CFO, Pat Nordick on multiple occasions, I can safely say we feel thoroughly briefed on the current state of the budget and M State’s plan of action moving forward.

Though complicated, Mr. Nordick did his best to help us understand the important roles MinnState and the Minnesota Legislature play in enabling M State to continue to meet the educational needs of our region. He provided us with helpful handouts detailing the many financial obligations facing the college. He gave us numerous examples of how M State is being wise and frugal with students’ tuition. He gave us ample time to ask questions, and he did his best to speak in language that we could understand. Finally, he made sure to distinguish between his perspective and the cold hard facts. This was greatly appreciated.

While we were disheartened to hear how much tuition has risen over the past 5 years, we are pleased to hear it’s going to remain flat for FY19. We believe this is a sign of good things to come, as the college and MinnState seem to have developed better methods for managing enrollment swings. With that said, we expect M State Administration to continue to pursue cost-saving measures that do not compromise the quality of education. Pat Nordick was able to give us a brief rundown of these different efforts. Going forward, we would like to be included in these efforts whenever possible.

All in all, we feel like it was a very satisfactory budget consultation. We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback, as we believe it’s important to keep the students at the center of the decision making process.

Sincerely,

Nikola Schulz

Nikola Schulz
Student Government President
Minnesota State Community & Technical College – Fergus Falls
Board of Trustees  
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities  
500 Wells Fargo Place  
30 East Seventh Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101  

April 27th, 2018  

Chair Vekich and Trustees,  

Chief Financial Officer Pat Nordick came to meet with the Student Government Association (SGA) on our campus at M State Moorhead both on February 27th and the 17th of April to discuss the final status of the budget for the following fiscal year. As per timing, the state legislation is still in the midst of deciding on certain key factors that will affect our budget. What we really discussed was the going forward with the assumption of a 2% drop in enrollment and how that will affect the budget as a whole. The SGA was very excited to hear the report as the information was in limbo for a while and uncertain due to the employment contracts not being finalized. With most things in place, we were given a clear message that while cuts will need to be made this following year, most focus was given to not allowing these cuts to affect students. We were given details of how this was being avoided by reducing the costs of the Surgical Technology CST exam fee by $43.00. This was further accentuated by the ask in the supplemental budget request for the full $21 million funding of the NextGen system.

All of the information received from Mr. Nordick was on par with the discussion that we had with Dr. Peggy Kennedy our President when she visited us on March 6th. She assured us that moving forward that M State is preparing for a 2% loss in enrollment, but she is confident that her team can keep enrollment steady or even improve it in the coming year. She also expressed to us that she was confident that none of the cuts, if necessary, would affect the student body. We are confident in this promise after meeting with Mr. Nordick and going over the proposed budget for the following year.

The SGA is more than pleased with the efforts of President Kennedy and Mr. Nordick in balancing the budget and keeping the students the top priority in those discussions. The SGA always welcomes the information that comes along with these budget consultations. We are satisfied with the information that we have received.

Sincerely,

Joshua L Hansen  
Student Government Association, President M State Moorhead  
Joshua_hansen2@my.minnesota.edu
Chair of the Board of Trustees,

This letter, as requested by the Minnesota State student consultation policy, is an outline of the budget consultation that Minnesota State Community and Technical College - Wadena’s CFO Pat Nordick presented on the Wadena campus. Members attending the 2017-2018 budget consultations include Student Government Advisor Suzanne Rethemeier and the Student Government Association President, Executive Board, and Senators. Several meetings were held with Pat Nordick in the fall and spring semesters, and more developed information was presented to the Student Government Association meeting attendees.

Background materials were presented on the budget of the college to every member in attendance. These materials described the proposed budget, possible outcomes, and directions that Minnesota State Community and Technical College’s budget could take.

The time of these meetings provided the Student Government Association with proper time to have discussions, ask questions, and make informed decisions. Attendees of the meetings were welcomed to contact Pat Nordick with any additional questions, comments, or concerns at any time by e-mail or phone. I did reach out to Pat, and he met with me during the same week to answer all my questions.

The Student Government Association members appreciate the time that was given to them and feel that their voices were taken seriously from both parties, and also factored into the administration’s budget plan even though there was nothing to vote on. No new fees or increases were brought to the table.

We are looking forward to the improvements in our facilities. If you have any additional questions regarding Minnesota State Community and Technical College - Wadena, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Shane Motschenbacher

Student Government Association President
Minnesota State Community and Technical College-Wadena
Friday, April 27th 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is being written per Minnesota State University Board Procedures 2.3.1 (Student involvement in decision making), regarding the university budget, tuition rates, Housing and Residential Life rates, the technology fee, and a multitude of other fee rates.

MSUM’s President Anne Blackhurst, Vice President of Finance and Administration Jean Hollaar, and Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs Brenda Amenson-Hill met with our Student Senate to start updating us about graduate tuition rate increase and differential tuition rate change proposals at our meet and confer on April 19th, 2018. While the Student Senate agreed with all of the information presented, we do not believe that such a financial burden should be placed on students continuously. With the level of transparency and continual conversations about tuition rates and how this incoming money will be used, both Student Senate and I felt well informed to be able to approve the recommended increases.

In regards to the Housing and Residential Life rates, the Director of Housing and Residential Life, Heather Phillips, came to our Student Senate on March 15th and 22nd, 2018. On March 15th Heather provided a detailed breakdown of the Housing and Residential Life room and board rates as well as answered our questions. On March 22nd Heather then again attended our meeting to be present when Student Senate made its decision. Ultimately, the Student Senate decided to support the fee increase that had been presented. Due to how helpful Heather was during this process there was adequate time to make an informed decision as well as answer any questions that arose from the Senate.

On April 5th, 2018 both the Director of Learning Communities Hannah Severtson and the Director of First Year Programs Julia Roland came to Student Senate to discuss their respective fee area. Finally, the Director of International Student Services Janet Hohenstein came to discuss MSUM’s International Student Services fee on April 12th, 2018. Each director provided Student Senate with adequate materials to make an informed decision in regards to each fee area, while allowing for an abundance of time to ask questions and allow for time to hold any discussions. This year each area noted was not requesting for a fee increase. Student Senate believes that these programs provide a greater student life experience, and has seen that the current level of service is meeting the needs of students respectively involved.

Also during our consultation period, the newly hired Director of Public Safety Ryan Nelson and Vice President of Finance and Administration Jean Hollaar attended Student Senate on April 12, 2018 to discuss parking rates and zoning. Student Senate was very receptive to the amount of information that was presented, and discussed at great lengths the recommendation brought forward. Throughout the conversation members expressed dissent to a rezoning of general parking Lot G-5, as parking space is limited on campus currently. Members approved the recommended increases in parking rates without including the recommendation to rezone Lot G-5. Students believe to maintain the services that we currently have it is imperative to invest.

This year MSUM had resounding support to increase the universities technology fee. While this is not something that would typically get placed in this letter, it is something that needs to be addressed due to the fact that it is a fee area that is requested to go beyond the 3% cap. For this fee increase it is important to know that our Chief Information Officer Dan Heckamen, in consultation with Student Senate, is attempting to change how our technology fee is used. Over the past year students have been engaged in the University Technology Committee to better assess the needs of our students, and Student Senate recognized that students are in demand for more from our IT services. Some of the specific areas that this fee increase will go
to fund include classroom updates, significant Wi-Fi upgrades, student computer updates, classroom computer updates, and security projects like door access and data security requirements. While our Student Senate was provided multiple choices in how to approach this change, after consulting students across campus we decided to see a bigger increase in our technology fee in the coming year allowing for a more tangible change to be seen immediately on campus.

In regards to the overall fee process there were many opportunities for dialogue between administration and students. Every budget manager that oversees any student fee money (wellness, athletics, student activity/life, etc.) presented their annual budget to a committee of students called the Student Activities Fee Review Committee (SAFR) throughout the spring semester. This year I was consulted to reformat the committee that is led by the University Comptroller Karen Lester as well as Director of First Year Programs Julia Roland. Students from each fee generating area as well as Student Senators participated by sitting on this committee. Our Student Senators brought back what was discussed at SAFR at our weekly Student Senate meetings to ensure communication silos did not form. This allowed for Student Senate to be provided with materials from the budget managers as well as opportunities to provide any questions the Senate might have had. Due to the level of transparency and communication between the Student Senate and administration, our Senate was able to provide a well informed decision on the overall Student Fee process.

Student Senate’s decision to modify the SAFR recommendations by moving two cents from the Intermural to the Student Life fee. The rationale behind this change was due to this new position being created to combine the efforts of other areas within the university to maximize value. For this reason, Student Senate believed funding the Student Life fee more would allow for this goal to be accomplished.

Overall, the level of transparency and conversation regarding all fee areas as well as the University budget proposals was well received by both Student Senate and I. The amount of information that we were given allowed for our body to make informed decisions and consider options that would best serve our student population as a whole. Throughout this consultation process Student Senate was given an abundance of time to have a conversation with administration, faculty, and staff about financial areas and allowed adequate time to make decisions. While these increases are going to force students into a larger financial burden, we as a Student Senate feel that to maintain and better the student life experience at MSUM these investments are necessary.

Should there be any questions or concerns, or if more information is felt to be required on any of these topics please contact me at kruegerka@mnstate.edu or (701) 388-9480.

Sincerely,

Kaleen Krueger

Kaleen Krueger
Minnesota State University Moorhead Student Body President
Students United Director for Moorhead
April 9, 2018

Office of the Chancellor
Minnesota State College and Universities
500 Wells Fargo Place
30 East 7th Street, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-7804

Dear Chancellor Malhotra,

As requested by MNSCU’s student consultation policy (Board Policy 2.3), this letter will outline the tuition consultation process that took place at Hibbing Community College. Our Provost Michael Raich met with us to discuss the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, as well as the reality of the past year. We, the Student Senate, discussed with them potential solutions to ease the effects of the cuts.

One such solution is, for the current year, the retiring of several faculty members. This is a temporary solution to ease the issue. We discussed with them the issues going on at the state level and how they may impact our campus in particular. Several Senate members also serve on the Student Life Committee, and saw first hand the impacts of the projected 5% decrease in our Student Life Funds.

We are thankful to have been granted a bonding bill, which will help to update our school dramatically. This update was much needed, due to some of our buildings being quite aged and outdated. We are hoping that this exciting renovation will have a positive impact on our enrollment rates. We support higher education and feel grateful to be a part of HCC’s Student Activities. We look forward to seeing what next year will bring.

Please feel free to contact any of us at Hibbing Community College. We would be pleased to speak with you about any questions or concerns you may have. We look forward to working with you in the upcoming years!

Thank you,

Cassidy Thompson
Student Senate President
Hibbing Community College
April 26, 2018

Chancellor Devinder Malhotra
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
30 East 7th Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Chancellor Malhotra,

This letter is to inform you that Itasca Community College has participated and completed their duty in the tuition consultation process. I have met with our Provost Dr. Bart Johnson and NHED Vice President of Finance and Administration, Karen Kedrowski to discuss what tuition will look like for next school year. We discussed the increase in on campus housing, facilities, Student Union planning process and the Student Union fee along with other adjustments for the future.

We do have a lot of student interest in a Student Union fee and we agreed upon a fee maximum. Also with the tuition freeze we will be facing the challenge of reducing program offerings on campus. We are looking at ways to maybe increase student fees with the student body to possibly save some program opportunities.

We as students feel the administration has done a great job handling tuition. We would like to continue to look for solutions, and know this cannot be done alone. We are satisfied with the process we went through.

Thank you very much and please feel free to contact me with any question or concerns involving the tuition consultation process at Itasca Community College.

Thank you,

Brooke Ostendorf
Student Senate President
Itasca Community College
Email: brooke.ostendorf@itascacc.edu
April 10, 2018

Board of Trustees
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
500 Wells Fargo Place
30 East Seventh Street
St. Paul MN 55101

Dear Chancellor Malhotra and Board of Trustees:

As requested by Minnesota State Student Consultation Policy (Board Policy 2.3), this letter will outline the tuition consultation process that recently took place at Mesabi Range College. Our senate met with Mesabi Range College administration to consult on the college budget on 4/6/2018.

In attendance, in the Spring 2018 meetings were Karen Kedrowski, Vice President of Finance & Administration, Northeast Higher Education District, Shelly McCauley Jugovich, Interim Provost, Virginia Campus Student Senate representatives Elizabeth Bloch, Viola Connor, Brian Welch, Whayde Peddie, Eveleth Campus Student Senate representatives Ben Rosman, Wade McBride, Alaina Martin,, and Student Senate Advisor Matt Jarva.

The overall college budget for FY19 was presented, along with a breakdown of anticipated FYE, no increases in tuition rates, no differential change, and no increases overall for the college. Campus leadership presented the entire budget planning process. All parties involved in the consultation made themselves available to hear the concerns and opinions of the student body.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or comments regarding Mesabi Range College Virginia/Eveleth Campus tuition consultation process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Student Senate Presidents
John Baldwin, Student Senate President – Eveleth, Johnny Baldwin john.baldwin2@yahoo.com
Ryan Jandrey, Student Senate President - Virginia
April 15th, 2018

Chancellor Devinder Malhotra &
Board of Trustees
Minnesota State System Office
Wells Fargo Place
30 7th St. E
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Chancellor Malhotra and members of the Board of Trustees,

Rainy River Community College Student Senate has met with Administration twice this semester and I have also met with Administration one on one to go over the budget for FY 2017-2018. During the consultation, Provost Kelly addressed any questions from the Senate in full. Provost Kelly provided a projected 2018-2019 budget and reviewed it with the student senate as well.

We are concerned about the budget situation that Rainy River is facing. Reducing services and/or faculty is of grave concern. We plead with you to either change the allocation formula to better fund rural colleges, and/or secure additional funding from the state. Rainy River cannot sustain the colleges needs for very long based on this budget formula.

Rainy River Community College is the only college within 100 miles of International Falls. Our community depends on this college not only for a quality education close to home but for economic development, personal prosperity and it also provides opportunity to celebrate diversity, a rare luxury in Northern Minnesota.

From our time advocating at the state capitol, we understand the uphill battle to increase state funding, but it is a necessity. We do not want to see access to a quality education taken away from rural areas. Thank you for considering the students voice during this process.

Sincerely,
Darius Vohler
Student Senate President
Rainy River Community College
Darius.Vohler@RainyRiver.edu

[Signature]

Darius Vohler
April 25, 2017

Chancellor Malhotra and Trustees
Minnesota State
500 Wells Fargo Place
30 East Seventh Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Chancellor Malhotra,

The Vermilion Community College Student Senate has met with our Provost Shawn Bina regarding tuition rates for academic year 2018-19. On behalf of the VCC Student Senate, please accept this letter as confirmation of this consultation.

The VCC Student Senate accepts the current status of tuition for next year. We appreciate the opportunity to be educated and consulted on this process. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Abby Maki
2017-18 Student Senate President
Vermilion Community College
To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in acknowledgment that the President of Normandale Community College, Dr. Joyce Ester, has consulted with Normandale Student Senate on all matters concerning Normandale’s budget.

President Ester, along with Normandale Community College Vice President of Finance and Administration Dr. Lisa Wheeler, attended multiple Student Senate meetings to provide students with information about Normandale’s budget and answer any questions that Normandale students had. Both President Ester and Dr. Wheeler went above and beyond in their dedication to the students of Normandale by providing us with a multitude of demonstrations/tools to break through the barriers surrounding the complicated process that is finance and making it more accessible to students.

The Vice President of Student Affairs, Dara Hagen, was also in attendance and along with the Director of Student Life, Justin Martin, presented the Normandale Student Life budget. During the consultation, a proposal was made for creating two new Student Life positions. These positions would continue to work on and expand some of the work that Student Life has advocated for, including equity and inclusion.

President Ester made herself available at any time for comment or questions and members of the Cabinet were very responsive to all of our questions.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments regarding Normandale Community College’s tuition and budget consultation process.

Sincerely,

Mohamed Ahmed

Normandale Student Senate President
STUDENT FEES AND BUDGET CONSULTATION LETTER

April 21, 2018

Dear Chancellor Malhotra and Trustees:

As requested by MnSCU’s student consultation policy (Board Policy 2.3), we are writing this letter to outline the student fee requests and the tuition and budget consultation process from North Hennepin Community College. Our Student Senate is pleased overall with the budget consultation process on campus and following budget areas this year:

- We are aware that the previous Student Senate passed a three year technology fee increase plan last year and it began this year. We know that this was approved in past years and we still support the plan. We had representatives that made up three-fourths of the Student Tech Fee Committee that met approximately four times and we were involved in developing a priority list of how to spend the money in the fee based on student feedback we collected on campus. We were consulted on how the tech fee spending plan was developed. This plan and priority spending list was presented to Student Senate on April 5, 2018. It was easy to follow, clear, and we understood it well.

- For the Health Fee, we had one representative on the Health Services Committee. The proposed 2018-2019 budget was presented to Student Senate on April 5, 2018. The budget still had some variables, as the contract with Fairview is not finalized. However, the estimates satisfied us for now. We recommended that in the future Senate see the breakdown from Fairview as to what the costs in the contract are for the supplies, medical staff, etc.

- For the Student Life Budget Committee, our Senate Treasurer was a co-chair of this committee and students made up 2/3 of this larger committee. This committee met a series of times and they presented their final budget proposal to Student Senate on April 5, 2018. At this meeting, the

- The College Budget was presented to Student Senate on April 19, 2018. At this meeting, the proposed budget including what critical and essential things would be funded and what likely would not be funded as requested if enrollment is as projected. We had budget updates 2 other times throughout the school year. For example, the college leadership gave us updates about faculty layoffs and budget plans in the fall semester.

- Other budget conversations we had with the college this year have included discussions on Access & Opportunity dollars. The President shared that these funds were being re-directed this year for initiatives such as Writing Center Funding, Diversity in Education work, and mentoring programs.

Overall, the consultation process was detailed and straightforward. We understood what was done in past years and how decisions were made this year. We also feel like our feedback was considered in building the budgets and in making adjustments the areas where student feedback was requested. We have no objections to the budget proposals, we feel like the process was open and students were consulted. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Eddie Xiong & the NHCC 2017-2018 Student Senate
2017-2018 Student Senate President
SenatePresident@nhcc.edu
April 26, 2018

Board of Trustees
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
500 Wells Fargo Place
30 East Seventh Street
St. Paul MN, 55101

Dear Board of Trustees and Chancellor Malhotra;

In accordance with Minnesota State Board Policy 2.3, our student senate held tuition consultation meetings with Northland Community and Technical College administrators. These meetings were held on March 14th and April 25th. These meetings were attended by Dr. Bona, VP of Administrative Services Shannon Jesme, IT director Stacey Hron, Senate advisor Jason Pangiarella, and representatives of the NCTC student senate.

Background materials were provided detailing budgetary items which are dependent on enrollment numbers and student fees. Present admins were very willing to answer questions raised by senators and explain the processes that go on. Administration is not asking for an increase in tuition.

Administration detailed changes to individual courses including: the cost of uniforms being added to the fire and paramedic courses, we also reviewed the proposed 2018-2019 technology budget. We also talked about Imagery Analysis and Geospatial course tuition changing to match distance tuition as they are becoming a distance program.

The senate and students appreciate all the effort that was put forth to keeping us informed on Northland’s East Grand Forks campus financial and enrollment realities. Due to Board of Trustee timeframes we feel we would have benefited with more time and deeper details about fees.

As a senate we feel that the items proposed by administration are reasonable and well intentioned for the incoming and remaining students.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions pertaining to the Northland Community and Technical College East Grand Forks Campus.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Melby
EGF Student Senate President
Kathryn.melby@student.northlandcollege.edu
April 24, 2018

Chancellor Devinder Maholtra
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities 500
Well Fargo Place 30 East 17th St.
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Chancellor Maholtra,

In accordance with Minnesota State Board Policy 2.3, our student senate held tuition consultation meetings with Northland Community and Technical College administrators. These meetings were held on March 16th and April 18th. These meetings were attended by President Dennis Bona, Dean of Students Mary Fontes, VP of Administrative Services Shannon Jesme, Senior Account Clerk Kari Conner, and representatives of the NCTC student senate.

Background materials were provided detailing budgetary items. They were based on current numbers and expected enrollment. Present admins were very willing to answer questions raised by senators and explain the processes that go on.

Administration detailed changes to individual courses including: the cost of uniforms being added to the fire and paramedic courses, $23 fee for CPR certification cards being added onto the course cost as opposed to being an outside cost, and Imagery Analysis/Geospatial Intelligence will now be offered online and will cost the same as other online programs. Trapshooting will be added as an athletic activity and will have a $300 activity fee. We also reviewed the proposed 2018-2019 technology budget as well.

As a senate we feel that the items proposed by administration are reasonable and well intentioned.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Tyler Tollefson
TRF Student Senate President
Board of Trustees
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
30 E 7th St #350
St Paul, MN 55101

4-17-2018

As requested by Minnesota State Board Policy 2.3 (Student Consultation), this letter outlines the tuition consultation process that recently took place at Northwest Technical College.

Vice President for Finance and Administration, Karen Snorek, met with the Student Senate on Feb 15th, 2018 and explained the bi-annual budgeting process and explained why FY19 tuition rates are frozen. She then discussed all fees and explained her rational, per fee, for raising or remaining the same.

Karen returned on April 5th, 2018 to finalize our discussion.

On Feb 22nd 2018, the Senate discussed the information VP Snorek presented and further discussed it on March 15th 2018. A unanimous vote was taken in support of VP Snorek’s recommendations, which are:

- 2018-19 Tuition is to remain the same as 2017-18
- 2018-19 Fees are to remain the same as 2017-18 with 2 exceptions.
  - Tech fee will increase $0.25. From $8.00 to $8.25.
  - Student Activity Fee will increase $0.02. From $1.33 to $1.35

The Student Senate was well informed on the consultation process and VP Snorek answered our questions and made herself available for additional questions and comments. We appreciate everything that VP Snorek and President Hensrud have done and continue to do to keep tuition affordable.

Sincerely,

Mark Stodola
NTC Student Senate President

Jake Erickson
NTC Student Senate Vice President

www.NTCmn.edu
Trustees:

I am writing this letter to show what has been done with the budget and the discussions we have had about it at Pine Technical & Community College.

Our President, Joe Mulford, came to our meeting on December 13, 2017 and discussed with the student senate and our club representatives the budget and updates from the fall semester. We all got a copy of the budget and it was explained that while Pine Technical & Community College is growing the budget is stable and there were no tuition or expense increases. We were also shown a master facilities plan describing renovations to the school such as redoing the cafeteria to turn it into more of a comfortable place to sit and hang out for students. As well as redoing some of the hallways around the building.

Our President Joe Mulford came again to a student senate meeting on April 11, 2018. He explained to us that there are no tuition changes and Pine is sitting at the 2nd lowest in the state. We do however have two new programs starting and tuition is being set for those. We have an Automation robotics program that will be $178.15 per credit. The other program is a welding program that will also be $178.15 per credit.

If you have any questions or anything else you would like to know please contact me any time.

Sincerely,

Nick Rompot Student Senate President,

nh4695by@pine.edu
Dear Chair Vekich and Trustees,

As requested by Minnesota State’s student consultation policy, Board Policy 2.3, this letter will outline the tuition consultation process that took place at the Hutchinson campus of Ridgewater College over the 2017-2018 academic year.

Members of our Student Senate met with administration at Ridgewater College to consult various aspects of the FY2019 budget including:

- Budget 101 on October 4th, 2017 with Daniel Holtz, Vice President of Finance and Operations
- Exchange of Views meetings on November 17th, 2017 and April 6th, 2018 with the Ridgewater College President and Deans
- Student Life Activity Committee meeting preparation on April 2nd, 2018 and meeting on April 11th, 2018 with Daniel Holtz and Heidi Olson, Dean of Student Services.

The administration proposed a $0.20 increase per credit to the parking fee, raising it from $2.30 to $2.50, in order to fund maintenance on the parking lot. No other student fee changes were proposed, and the FY2019 tuition rates are frozen with a cap of $161.29 per credit.

The consultation on the budget through the meetings held throughout the 2017-2018 school year was sufficient for the Senate to hold an informed discussion on the FY2019 budget. Daniel Holtz and Heidi Olson made themselves available to the Senate for meetings and questions, and especially because tuition rates are frozen without major changes proposed, the Senate had no difficulty comprehending the budget proposals.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments on Ridgewater College’s tuition consultation process. Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely,

Madilyn Ellis

Student Senate President
Hutchinson Campus, Ridgewater College
EllisMad@go.ridgewater.edu
April 26, 2018
Chair Vekich and Board of Trustees
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
500 Wells Fargo Place
30 East Seventh Street
St. Paul MN 55101

Dear Chair Vekich and Board of Trustees,

This letter is in reference to the tuition consultation process with the college Administration at the Willmar Campus of Ridgewater College during the 2017-2018 academic year.

The Hutchinson and Willmar campus have usually met every month throughout the year at Exchange of Views (EOV) meetings to go over the updates that the administration has for the students. These meetings are a way for the student senators and the administration to discuss any topic on campus. It was decided to keep the budget the same for next year. Dan Holtz had explained to us that with the same budget that we had last year we would be doing okay. The Student Senates had agreed upon this and decided that this was the best for the college. We decided to keep the budget the same for next year’s budget.

We as a senate met with Vice President of Finance and Operations Dan Holtz on April 6th to have a Budget 101 meeting. Dan Holtz presented on how the budget works, budget priorities for the upcoming year, and the fee outlook for FY 19. On April 11th we as a senate met with the Administration to go over the budget for next year.

We feel that the Acting President Betty Strehlow and the Administration did a good job of involving the students on the tuition process. We appreciate the open relationship that we share with them. They have provided us with very well laid out documents to show us the proposed changes for the upcoming year. We appreciate everything that our administration does to help the students out on the campus.

Thank you for allowing the Student Senators to comment on the tuition consultation at Ridgewater College. We appreciate all the work that you do for the students.

Sincerely,
Alena Ave-Lallemant
Student Senate President
Ridgewater College- Willmar Campus
Riverland Community College
Albert Lea Campus Student
Senate
2200 Riverland Dr
Albert Lea MN 56007
Owatonna Campus Student
Senate
965 Alexander Dr SW
Owatonna MN 55060

April 23, 2018

Minnesota State
Board of Trustees
Wells Fargo Place
30th Street East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-7804

RE: Tuition and Fees

Dear Minnesota State Board of Trustees:

Brad Doss, Chief Financial Officer, and Gary Schindler, Dean of Student Affairs, met with the Albert Lea and Owatonna Student Senates on 3/29/18 and 4/09/18. They presented information on the FY-2019 college budget and shared a proposed plan for a FY-2019 tuition and fee freeze. In addition, a $10 dollar increase in differential tuition for the Radiology, Nursing, & The Medical Assistants Programs was proposed.

We support the differential tuition increase and the tuition and fee freeze that was proposed.

Our student senate members feel that the information presented pertaining to the college budget and tuition and fees was very informative. Our questions were answered and the information was detailed and organized. Brad Doss has also made himself accessible to further inquiries that the Senate might have in the future regarding these issues.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
President

James DeHoyos Student Senate President
Riverland - Albert Lea Student Senate
Riverland - Owatonna Student Senate
Riverland Community College  
Austin Campus Student Senate  
1900 8th Avenue NW  
Austin, MN 55912

April 25, 2018

Minnesota State  
Board of Trustees  
Wells Fargo Place  
30th Street East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101-7804

RE: Tuition and Fees

Dear Minnesota State Board of Trustees:

Brad Doss, Chief Financial Officer, and Gary Schindler, Dean of Student Affairs, met with the Austin Student Senate on March 27th and April 17th, 2018. They presented information on the FY-2019 college budget and shared a proposed plan for a FY-2019 tuition and fee freeze. In addition, a $10 increase in differential tuition for Nursing, Medical Assistant, and Radiography programs was proposed by Laura Beasley, Associate Dean of Allied Health/Director of Nursing.

The Austin Student Senate is in support of a differential increase to ensure these programs are provided a quality educational experience with up to date technologies. However, the Student Senate would like to see a smaller increase of $5 per credit to make sure classes remain affordable for students.

Our student senate members feel that the information presented pertaining to the college budget and tuition and fees was very informative. Our questions were answered and the information was detailed and organized. Brad Doss has also made himself accessible to further inquiries that the Senate might have in the future regarding these issues.

Sincerely,

Oballa Oballa, President  
Riverland – Austin Student Senate
Chair Vekich and Trustees:

I am writing this letter to inform you of the administration’s exemplary work in the budget consultation process with the students. From the beginning of my term, the administrative cabinet at Rochester Community and Technical College has met with the student leadership team once a month. The administration in attendance at these meetings included the President’s cabinet: Mary Davenport, Michael Anthony, Steve Schmall, Nate Stoltman, and Greg Mosier. The students in attendance at these meetings included the executive officers of the student senate: Sarah Brakebill-Hacke, Hazel Thorp, Carter Mckenzie, and at times Munira Almire and Steven Henderson. These meetings also included the Student Life Director, Laura Engleman. The administration was extremely open to discussing any concerns of the students and answered all questions. Every meeting the colleges budget was discussed as well as the projected budget based on the FYE.

Beyond these discussion between the president’s cabinet and the student cabinet, Dr. Anthony also came to the Senate meeting to address and inform the entire Senate which was composed of 20-30 students. He spent about an hour going over items such as the FYE and how that effects the students. He answered any and all questions.

Thank you for your time and all that you do.

Regards,

Sarah Brakebill-Hacke
RCTC Student President 2017-2018
April 6th, 2018

Board of Trustees
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
30 7th St. E., Suite 350 Wells Fargo Place
St. Paul, MN 55101-7804

Dear Chancellor Malhotra and Trustees,

In accordance with Minnesota State Policy 2.3, Student Involvement in Decision Making, the students at Saint Paul College have undergone the budget consultation process for fiscal year 2018. The Vice President of Finance and Operations, Scott Wilson, consulted the Student Senate Executive Board and General Assembly on the following dates:

- Wednesday, October 11th, 2017 (General Assembly)
- Thursday, October 12th, 2017 (Executive Board of Student Senate)
- Wednesday, March 21st, 2018 (General Assembly), Joined by Chief Information Officer Najam Saeed and Student Life Director Wendy Roberson
- Wednesday, April 4th, 2018, (General Assembly)
- Friday, April 27th, 2018 (Executive Board of Student Senate)

Items discussed include:

- Upcoming renovations that the college plans to use HEAPR funds on if available
- Changes in enrollment
- System office changes like ISRS replacement and state appropriations
- Increases in personnel costs due to increased staff wages and an increase in staff
  - The introduction of a mental health personnel to address student mental health challenges, which the Student Senate has pushed for
  - The introduction of a scheduling expert, which Student Senate has also pushed for
- Other inflationary increases
- The possibility of program-specific fees for unusually expensive to run programs that are in growth like Culinary Arts and Surgical Technician
- Use of last year’s fee increases in Student Life and in Technology

The PowerPoint used in the General Assembly presentations was provided to senators, including detailed information on FYE predictions, and Scott Wilson was very responsive to our questions. I feel that the budget consultation process has been very smooth and thorough. Scott was very responsive to our needs.

On the account of the student fee increases for the Culinary Arts and Surgical Technician program, although I feel that the students have been adequately consulted under Policy 2.3, to feel comfortable with this kind of fee increase, we, the Senate, would like to see a further consultation through a thorough survey of all current Culinary Students and Surgical Technician students, as, although we the senate agree that such an inflationary increase is likely necessary due to rises in food costs, and the specific high cost of the supplies in the Surgical Technician program, we do not believe the college has adequately taken into account the loss in funds due to the decrease in enrollment from non-FAFSA students being priced out of the program, nor adequately notified Culinary and Surgical Tech students themselves yet, (although Scott Wilson has expressed intent to make sure that these students are notified.) These students are not represented in the population of the Student Senate due to their course schedules conflicting with our General Assembly meeting time (Specifically, students in CULA 1415-01, 1445-01, 1505-01, 1515-01, 1525-01, 1545-01, 1585-01, 1590-01, 2100-01, 2110-01, 2115-01, 2225-01, and 2235-01 as well as SURG 1415-01 were all unable to attend the Spring General Assembly
meeting in which these fee increases were brought up.) Furthermore, because the culinary program is a cohort program, we would like to see current culinary students who graduate with their cohort grandfathered in at the current rate if at all possible, rather than immediately raising the fees for the program. If you have any questions about the budget consultation process, feel free to connect with me.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Amethyst O’Connell
President, Saint Paul College Student Senate
oconnella00@my.saintpaul.edu
Student.Senate@saintpaul.edu
T • 651.403.4084

cc:
Rassoul Dastmozd, PhD, President of Saint Paul College
Scott Wilson, Vice President of Finance and Operations, Saint Paul College
Najam Saeed, Chief Information Officer, Saint Paul College
Marco Lanz, Policy Manager, LeadMN
Chair Vekich and Trustees,

I plan to outline our budget consultation process here at South Central College – Faribault in this letter, as requested by Board Policy 2.3.

Our senate met with our CFO, David Armstrong, to consult on the budget on July 10th, 2017, and April 2nd, 2018. Our president, Dr. Annette Parker, planned to meet with us at the same time but was unable to due to schedule conflicts. While unable to make these two senate meetings, we met with Dr. Parker several times outside of senate meetings, where she was open to any comment or questions. Dr. Parker did attend senate meetings on October 2nd, 2017, where we discussed the “Achieving the Dream” plan, and on December 18th, where she outlined the planned academic calendars for the next three years.

At the end of May of 2017, David proposed raising the tuition by 1%, or $1.50 per credit hour. We reviewed the proposal and supported it by a vote of 3-1. At the July 10th meeting he fielded more questions about the proposal.

During the April 2nd 2018 meeting, David provided us with a detailed spreadsheet with a breakdown of expenses and estimated totals. While the spreadsheet wasn’t well labelled to someone unfamiliar with it, his presentation explaining the breakdown was very informative. He outlined the accounts that have yet to be zeroed out, and why many of them are in their current deficit. He also went over the expected decrease of state funding next year, from 65% to 45%, so we will have to be more fiscally responsible with no plan to change student activity fees.

Overall, we at South Central College – Faribault are reasonably satisfied by David’s consultation of the budget. We did have some initial confusion regarding the accounts not yet zeroed out, but he did a good job explaining what is currently happening and what is expected in the future.

Feel free to contact me or our advisor, Nicole Hamilton, if you have any questions or comments regarding our consultation process at South Central College – Faribault. Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

Isaac Grunnet, Student Senate President
isaac.grunnet@gmail.com

Nicole Hamilton, Student Senate Advisor
nicole.hamilton@southcentral.edu
April 18, 2018

South Central College
1225 3rd St SW
Faribault MN 55021

Re: Health Fee Support Letter

Dear Chair Vekich & Board of Trustees,

In February of 2018 both Faribault and North Mankato Student Senates voted to approve a student-driven health fee to go towards a wellness program that includes hiring a dedicated mental health service provider for South Central College. The result of the vote was unanimous and strongly supported by the students and the student body as a whole. This would add a new $2.50 per credit fee to be used for direct and referral services for students. The new fee would benefit both campuses greatly and aligns with a more holistic approach to student support which has shown to increase retention.

The students of South Central College urge the Board of Trustees approve the addition of this fee, as we recognize and know personally students on campus in need of further mental health services that suffer in their pursuit of their educational goals because of the barriers they face, including but not limited to: lack of mental health services, lack of understanding or knowledge of community resources available, limited transportation options, limited technological resources, etc. With these circumstances considered, the senate voted to form a health advisory committee to be made up of mainly student representatives from both campuses, faculty and staff to determine what the priorities and needs are that ensures the health fees are used to address what our student body actually needs.

Our current faculty counselor, Lisa Schickling, is required to provide academic, career, and wellness counseling. She also serves both campuses and is only on the Faribault campus once a week, so students need to make appointments with her weeks in advance. Because Lisa's time is limited, she is not able to reach out to all the students who are in need of her help. By hiring a dedicated wellness professional, more students would be able to access the help they need without long waits.

We appreciate your consideration in approving this fee, and if you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact us at Cammi.Nordmeyer@my.southcentral.edu.

Sincerely & with gratitude,

Isaac Grunnet, Student Senate President
Leslie Porras, Student Senate Vice President
Cammi Nordmeyer, Student Senate Secretary
South Central College, Faribault Campus
Chair Vekich and Trustees,

I plan to outline our budget consultation process here at South Central College – Faribault in this letter, as requested by Board Policy 2.3.

Our senate met with our CFO, David Armstrong, to consult on the budget on July 10th, 2017, and April 2nd, 2018. Our president, Dr. Annette Parker, planned to meet with us at the same time but was unable to due to schedule conflicts. While unable to make these two senate meetings, we met with Dr. Parker several times outside of senate meetings, where she was open to any comment or questions. Dr. Parker did attend senate meetings on October 2nd, 2017, where we discussed the “Achieving the Dream” plan, and on December 18th, where she outlined the planned academic calendars for the next three years.

At the end of May of 2017, David proposed raising the tuition by 1%, or $1.50 per credit hour. We reviewed the proposal and supported it by a vote of 3-1. At the July 10th meeting he fielded more questions about the proposal.

During the April 2nd 2018 meeting, David provided us with a detailed spreadsheet with a breakdown of expenses and estimated totals. While the spreadsheet wasn’t well labelled to someone unfamiliar with it, his presentation explaining the breakdown was very informative. He outlined the accounts that have yet to be zeroed out, and why many of them are in their current deficit. He also went over the expected decrease of state funding next year, from 65% to 45%, so we will have to be more fiscally responsible with no plan to change student activity fees.

Overall, we at South Central College – Faribault are reasonably satisfied by David’s consultation of the budget. We did have some initial confusion regarding the accounts not yet zeroed out, but he did a good job explaining what is currently happening and what is expected in the future.

Feel free to contact me or our advisor, Nicole Hamilton, if you have any questions or comments regarding our consultation process at South Central College – Faribault. Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

Isaac Grunnet, Student Senate President
isaac.grunnet@gmail.com

Nicole Hamilton, Student Senate Advisor
nicole.hamilton@southcentral.edu
April 20, 2018

Board of Trustees
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
500 Wells Fargo Place 30 East Seventh Street
St. Paul MN 55101

To: Chancellor Devinder Malhota and The Minnesota State Board of Trustees:

This letter details the 2017-2018 academic year budget consultation process for South Central College (SCC, North Mankato campus) with the College President Dr. Annette Parker and College CFO David Armstrong. President Parker was personally involved in this process throughout the year to ensure that the Student Senate understood the rationale for SCC budget implementation.

During our meetings, Dr. Parker and/or David Armstrong explained the general overview of the budget. Dr. Parker also expressed the importance of student involvement and enrollment. The Student Senate felt assured that students were participating in the discussions during the 2017-2018 academic year budget consultation. The Student Senate was satisfied with the interactions and rapport developed with SCC administration this year and we feel that they completed their task of informing students about potential changes to the budget.

On February 28th, 2018, the Student Senate met with the college CFO, David Armstrong, to discuss student activity fees and the General Operating Budget. Additionally, he participated in several more senate meetings in both Fall and Spring semester. He informed the senate that while we were expecting a 4% decrease in enrollment for this Academic Year, our enrollment ended up only decreasing by 1%. He mentioned that this would not have a significant impact on the general operating budget. During our consultation, David updated the Student Senate about furniture improvements in student common spaces. The Student Senate is supportive of the 2018-2019 budget proposal.

Dr. Parker was present at senate meetings at least two additional times to inform the Student Senate about the approved Minnesota State Bonding allocation as well as other collegiate efforts such as institutional enrollment and Achieving The Dream initiative.

Student Senate voted to support the budget as it will benefit students next year. Dr. Annette Parker and CFO David Armstrong were extremely helpful during this process and demonstrated willingness to answer student questions. Overall, the Student Senate felt that the administration worked in concert with the Student Senate in the budget consultation process and that they displayed transparency in their leadership roles.

Sincerely,

Eric Hull, on behalf of the South Central College Student Senate, North Mankato Campus
Student Senate President
April 20, 2018

South Central College
1920 Lee Boulevard
North Mankato, MN 56003

Re: Health Fee Support Letter

Dear Chair Vekich & Board of Trustees,

In February of 2018 both Faribault and North Mankato Student Senates voted to approve a health fee to go towards a wellness program that includes hiring a dedicated, in-person, mental health service provider for both South Central College campuses. The result of the vote was unanimous and strongly supported by the students. This would add a new $2.50 per credit fee to be used for direct and referral services for students. The new fee would benefit both campuses greatly and aligns with a more holistic approach to student support which has been shown to increase retention.

This was student-driven initiative enthusiastically pursued by the Student Senates and we urge the Board of Trustees to approve the addition of this fee. Introducing this fee was a decision not taken lightly, but as student senators, we felt well informed about the fee and possible benefits it would have for our students. We had over three meetings with South Central College administrators to review options that could contribute to student success. In addition, we collected input from the North Mankato student body to understand their opinions on the fee, which was overwhelmingly positive.

As a result, a health advisory committee will be formed mainly of student representatives from both campuses, and will include faculty and staff. This committee will determine the student body's wellness priorities and needs, and provide action items to support student wellness.

Currently, we only have one faculty counselor, who is required to provide academic, career, and wellness counseling to both campuses. We’re concerned that students aren’t receiving enough support for mental health related challenges because of the only counselor’s limited time. By using a health fee, we look forward to bringing in more student wellness support that would give students more access to the help they need.

We appreciate your consideration in approving this fee, and if you have any question please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely & with gratitude,

Eric Hull, on behalf of the South Central College Student Senate, North Mankato Campus
Student Senate President
April 11, 2018

Chancellor Malhotra and Board of Trustees,

Training, budget documents, and strategies were made available for SMSUSA to review. The administration outlines their reasoning and recommendations very well and we received all the information necessary. We were given adequate time to review, ask questions and provide feedback.

Our student senators elected by the student body voted against any fee increases. We do not feel it is necessary to provide more money to services that aren’t growing the campus. We would rather see money go towards retaining people with innovative and engaging spaces and departments that we already have or need to invest in.

The administration proposed solutions for a $3 million deficit that we would have seen based on a decrease in enrollment. We were provided with a solution of program changes to stress efficiencies. Great solutions, but I feel these efficiencies should have been in action years ago. Better late than never, we are excited to see the changes. Our students have been frustrated with the administration based on the fact that we have been trying to support hiring effective professors and change with our departments for years. We believe you need to invest into good people and programs, while searching for ways to be efficient. Many times we have brought up ideas and solutions in the past, only to see this year that they are now moving toward those suggestions. I would like to see our administration make proactive change rather than reactive decisions.

All together, the process and timeline for our university has always been sufficient. We would just hope for better leadership and proactive development.

I am writing the letter as requested by MinnState’s student consultation policy. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Thanks,

Rebeckah Danielson
Southwest Minnesota State University Student Association President
rebekah.danielson@my.smsu.edu
1501 State Street, Marshall, MN 56258

cc: Dr. Connie J. Gores, SMSU President
Scott Crowell, SMSU Associate Vice President of Student Affairs
To: Chancellor Devinder Malhotra
    Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

From: Jack O’Neil-Como
    Student Government President

Date: Friday, April 13, 2018

Subject: Consultation on Banded Fees and Raising Tech Fee

Minnesota State Board Policy 2.3 asks for student involvement in decision-making when it pertains to issues that have significant impact on students and policy 5.11 calls for tuition and fees. This memo outlines the consultation that St. Cloud State Student Government Association received regarding Banded Fees and Raising our Tech Fee for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

The University has had its challenges to overcome a decline in our enrollment, the University Administration has maintained constant communication with the Student Association regarding the Universities plans for Banded Fees and raising our Tech Fee to $10. Our University Interim President, Interim Provost and Deputy Chief Information Officer who is also the Advisor of our Tech Fee Committee have talked with our Senate for questions regarding the future costs that will be placed on students at St. Cloud State University this next fiscal year. Most recently, on April 5th, 2018, Interim President Vaidya and Deputy Chief Information Officer Thorson addressed the current financial state of the institution and plans for our budget for next year. I am confident that the University Administration has the best interest of the students in mind whensetting the banded student fee rates and increasing our Tech Fee to $10. We held a referendum question in our spring term campus wide election that asked students if they were in favor of changing to a banded student fee model and changes in fees per credit. We had an overwhelming amount of support, with over 75% of students who were in favor of banded fees and changes in fees per credit.

Overall, the Student Association at St. Cloud State University is pleased with the level of consultation we have received throughout the entire year regarding the Universities structure on banded fees and Tech Fee. The University Administration has been readily available and willing to answer all questions and concerns we have had regarding fee structures. The Senate appreciated the opportunity to consult on these decisions and is available to provide any additional information. Please feel free to contact me should you have any further questions.

Cc: Laura King, Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer
    Ashish Vaidya, Interim President
Wanda Overland, Vice President of Student Life and Development, Advisor
Phil Thorson, Deputy Chief Information Officer
To: Chancellor Devinder Malhotra  
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

From: Jack O’Neil-Como  
Student Government President

Date: Friday, April 13, 2018

Subject: Consultation on the Residential Hall Room and Board Rates for FY19

Minnesota State Board Policy 2.3 asks for student involvement in decision-making when it pertains to issues that have significant impact on students. This memo outlines the consultation that St. Cloud State Student Government Association received regarding the room and board rates for the Residence Halls at St. Cloud State University.

At the April 5th, 2018 Student Government Senate meeting, Jen Matzke, Associate Dean of Students and Director of Residential Life, presented the new room and board rates for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. The increase in rates for both the housing and meal plans are small and follow Residential Life trends across the state. Director Matzke provided an overview and comparison of current and proposed room rates; additionally, the newly proposed structures for meal plans that are designed to better fit current and future student needs in which our senate unanimously agreed. All the information provided was clear through handouts and PowerPoint slideshow, followed by an opportunity for student representatives to ask questions and provide feedback and comments.

Overall, Student government of St. Cloud State University is pleased with the level of consultation form Residential Life regarding the proposed increases and changes to residential hall room rates and meal plans; the university administration has been readily available and willing to answer all questions and concerns we have had regarding fee structures. The Senate appreciated the opportunity to consult on the decisions and is readily available to provide any additional information. Please feel free to contact me should you have any further questions.

Cc: Laura King, Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer  
Ashish Vaidya, Interim President  
Wanda Overland, Vice President of Student Life and Development, Advisor  
Jen Matzke, Director of Residential Life
To:       Chancellor Devinder Malhotra  
          Minnesota State Colleges and Universities  

From:    Jack O’Neil-Como  
          Student Government President  

Date:     Friday, April 13, 2018  

Subject: Consultation on Student Union Budget  

Minnesota State Board Policy 2.3 asks for student involvement in decision-making when it pertains to issues that have significant impact on students. This memo outlines the consultation that St. Cloud State Student Government Association received regarding the allocated budget for Atwood Memorial Center Student Union at St. Cloud State University.

This year has been unique in challenges and unpredictable events however, Executive Director of Atwood Memorial Center Mitch Karstens, has had constant communication and has built a strong relationship with our Student Association. Mitch and his team created a diverse student perspective group to sit on Atwood Center Council, the council that approved this year’s budget recommendations and new revenue generating ideas that were sent to the Student Fee Allocation Committee. With the current budgetary situation this year, the Fee Allocation committee adopt a different budgeting process this year; Mitch and his staff adapted very quickly. The Atwood Memorial Center leadership continues to collaborate and be supportive of the work the Student Fee Allocation Committee and Student Government has done to create a budget that will allow us to maintain programs and services students need.

Overall, Student government of St. Cloud State University is pleased with the level of consultation from the Atwood Memorial Center Administration and staff regarding the proposed Student Union Budget; the university administration has been readily available and willing to answer all questions and concerns we have had regarding the fee structure and future projects within the Student Union. The Senate appreciated the opportunity to consult on the decisions and is readily available to provide any additional information. Please feel free to contact me should you have any further questions.

Cc:       Laura King, Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer  
          Ashish Vaidya, Interim President  
          Wanda Overland, Vice President of Student Life and Development, Advisor  
          Mitch Karstens, Executive Director of Atwood Memorial Center
To: Chancellor Devinder Malhotra  
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities  

From: Jack O’Neil-Como  
Student Government President  

Date: Friday, April 13, 2018  

Subject: Consultation on University Budget, Tuition, and Fees  

Minnesota State Board Policy 2.3 asks for student involvement in decision-making when it pertains to issues that have significant impact on students and policy 5.11 calls for tuition and fees. This memo outlines the consultation that St. Cloud State Student Government Association received regarding the Tuition and Fees for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

The University has had its challenges to overcome with a decline in enrollment, the University Administration has maintained constant communication with the Student Association regarding the university budget, tuition, and fees. Our University Interim President and Interim Provost have talked with our Senate for questions regarding the future costs that will be placed on students at St. Cloud State University this next fiscal year. Most recently, on April 5th, 2018, Interim President Vaidya and Provost Gregory addressed the current financial state of the institution and plans for budget reductions for next year. I am confident that the University Administration has the best interest of the students in mind when setting the tuition and fee rates.

Overall, the Student Association at St. Cloud State University is pleased with the level of consultation we have received throughout the entire year regarding the university budget, tuition, and fees. The university administration has been readily available and willing to answer all questions and concerns we have had regarding fee structures. The Senate appreciated the opportunity to consult on these decisions and is available to provide any additional information. Please feel free to contact me should you have any further questions.

Cc: Laura King, Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer  
Ashish Vaidya, Interim President  
Wanda Overland, Vice President of Student Life and Development, Advisor
Minnesota State Board of Trustees
30 7th Street East, Suite 250
St. Paul, MN 55101

Chair Vekich and Chancellor Malhotra:

This letter is to inform you and the Minnesota State Board of Trustees that the Student Senate and the administration of St. Cloud Technical & Community College have successfully completed the consultation process. Interim CFO Duane Dahlstrom presented a tuition freeze for 2018-2019 school year. The Student Senate voted in support of a $0.45 raise in our technology fee that is dedicated to student’s technology experience at SCTCC. This includes improving Wireless network on campus and upgrading computers in open labs. The Student Senate has passed a $0.14 raise in Student Activity Fee to help overcome the drop in enrollment.

- The tuition freeze was presented and explained by CFO Duane Dahlstrom December 4th and March 19th. The student senate was also brought up to speed on enrollment projections and outlook for FY19 and how this could affect the college as a whole during the April 2nd meeting. Interim CFO Dahlstrom also indicated that no other changes would be made to other fees for 2018-2019.

- A $0.45 per credit increase in the Student Technology Fee.
  - This was proposed by our Technology Fee Committee, which consists of 8 students and 2 Staff members. The committee met on 2/14/2018 and 3/21/2018 to go over the request along with feedback from the student technology survey. We also had the IT supervisor into Student Senate Meetings in the fall, but this related more towards services than the Student Technology Fee directly. The fee increase is going to be spent on items that were pulled from a campus wide survey, the top results being to improve the wireless infrastructure and update open lab technology. Student’s main desire is the aging computers in open labs and the need to update these.

- A $0.14 increase in the Student Activity Fee.
  - The Student Senate agreed on an increase to the Student Activity Fee to mainly offset the projected decrease in enrollment for 2019. An initial proposal and budget breakdown was presented on 2/26/2018. This was again discussed on the 3/19/2018 and 4/2/2018. The Student Senate voted unanimously in support of the increase.

If you have any questions for us pertaining to our consultation process brought by the St. Cloud Technical & Community College students, feel free to contact me at 320-308-5907.

Sincerely,

Zach Fuecker, Student Senate President
Chancellor Malhotra and Board of Trustees:

In accordance with Minnesota State’s student consultation policy (Board Policy 2.3), I am writing to inform you that the Winona State University Student Senate has been properly consulted on all tuition and fee increases for the upcoming academic year.

In addition, through our “Student Fee Management Committee,” students have been active participants in the process. The “Student Fee Management Committee” (SFMC) is chaired by the Treasurer of the Winona State University Student Senate and consists of students, staff, and administration. SFMC is the first decision-making body to receive tuition and fee requests, and it is typically presented with several options for each request. Upon hearing these requests, SFMC will then propose a recommendation. The Winona State University Student Senate receives these recommendations from SFMC and is able to adopt, amend, or reject the proposals.

During both SMFC and Student Senate meetings, representatives were able to ask questions and were given an adequate amount of time to reach a conclusion. Throughout this process, students’ opinions have been listened to and valued.

The following recommendations were adopted by the Winona State University Student Senate:

- 3.1% increase to the Student Union (Approved on January 24, 2018)
- 0% increase to the Technology Fee (Approved on January 31, 2018)
- 2% increase to the Athletic Department (Approved on February 7, 2018)
- 0% increase to the Health and Service Fee (Approved on February 14, 2018)
- 18% increase to the Wellness Center Fee (Approved on March 14, 2018)
- 1.9% increase to the Student Life Fee (Approved on March 28, 2018)
- 3% increase to the Room & Board/Residence Hall Budget and Fee (Approved on March 28, 2018)
- 0% increase to undergraduate tuition (Approved on March 28, 2018)
- 4% increase to graduate tuition (Approved on March 28, 2018)

By approving these fees, Winona State University students will have a 4% aggregate increase.

At Winona State University, our decision makers recognize that students are increasingly burdened by the cost of postsecondary education. The decision to raise student fees was not
made lightly, and both SFMC and Student Senate worked diligently to ensure that we struck the
correct balance between affordability and a high-quality student experience. I would specifically
note that the 18% increase to the Wellness Center fee was adopted after extensive conversations
with our student body. This fee increase will empower our Counselling and Wellness Services to
hire another mental health counselor and, in turn, decrease wait times for students. Given the
mental health crisis on college campuses, we believed this to be especially important.

As always, I thank you for your service to Winona State University students. It is through your
leadership and commitment that we will continue to advance higher education in Minnesota. If
you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. My contact information can be
found below.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Reimler
President | Winona State University Student Senate
P: (608)397-6501 E: BReimler13@winona.edu