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Ezekiel Riemer, Student Senate President  
Alexandria Technical and Community College  
1601 Jefferson Street  
Alexandria, MN 56308

April 23, 2024

Board of Trustees  
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities  
30 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55101-7804

Dear Trustees,

This letter is to outline the consultation in the Alexandria Technical and Community College Student Senate received from Megan Galarneau, Business Manager and Chief Financial Officer, in regard to the Parking Lot Revenue Fund. The ATCC Student Senate is pleased with the consultation and updates provided.

With the information we were provided, the Senate discussed the parking lot fees and supports the 2% fee increase.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ER', is written over a light gray circular watermark.

Ezekiel Riemer, President  
[ezekiel.riemer@go.minnstate.edu](mailto:ezekiel.riemer@go.minnstate.edu)



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Ezekiel Riemer, Student Senate President  
 Alexandria Technical and Community College  
 1601 Jefferson Street  
 Alexandria, MN 56308

April 23, 2024

Board of Trustees  
 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities  
 30 East 7th Street  
 St. Paul, MN 55101-7804

Dear Trustees,

My name is Ezekiel Riemer, and I serve as the Student Senate President at Alexandria Technical and Community College (ATCC). I am joined in writing this letter by Zander Terwey and Jack Buenger, Student Senate Representatives. We are sending this letter to state our feedback on the College's proposed 2024-2025 tuition and fees.

The members of the ATCC Student Senate have been informed of the Minnesota State system biennial budget request. Megan Galarneau, ATCC Business Manager and Chief Financial Officer, presented information on the college's proposed tuition and fees for the 2024-2025 Academic Year to the Student Senate on April 4 and April 18, 2024. Notice of the meetings were provided in advance and materials were available at the meeting and upon request. Student Senate members had the opportunity to ask questions about budget items, the tuition freeze, and fee increases.

Megan provided a thorough presentation and provided opportunities for Student Senate to ask questions. The conversation was very respectful and all administrators present listened to student input and concerns.

Student Senate is in support of the tuition freeze. Student Senate also concurred that all mandatory fees should be increased by 2% for the upcoming academic year to cover rising costs.

We feel that the Senate has had a successful year and welcome the continuous support of the Minnesota State System. We are excited about the possibility of having a new Transportation Center and Student Center on campus in the future.

We thank the Board of Trustees and the Chancellor for your advocacy and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ezekiel Riemer', written over a white background.

Ezekiel Riemer, President  
 ezekiel.riemer@go.minnstate.edu

Minnesota State Board of Trustees

Anoka Ramsey Community College

May 3rd, 2024

Dear Trustees,

This letter, as requested by the Minnesota State Student Consultation Policy 2.3, is an outline of the budget consultation that the Anoka-Ramsey Community College Director of Budget Planning and Forecasts, David Aune, the Vice President of Finance and Administration, Robert Perez, and the President, Kent Hanson, all presented to the Anoka-Ramsey Coon Rapids and Cambridge campus members attending the 2023-2024 budget consultations including Student Government Association (SGA) Advisor Joyce Traczyk, SGA President, Emily Gangl, and SGA Senators.

The consultations, of which we had three during the year, were promptly scheduled at the beginning of the semester, ensuring we had ample time to notify the SGA senators. We met with David Aune, Kent Hanson, and Robert Perez on November 7th and February 6th to discuss budget updates. Our last consultation took place on April 30th, for which Robert Perez and David Aune were present. Their presentations were very informative, laying out spreadsheets with the projected budgets, breaking down where the current fees stand, and showing increased fees as well. This semester, ARCC passed a referendum to increase the athletic fee from \$3.20 to \$4.95, which is the only fee increase that will happen this year.

David Aune, Kent Hanson, and Robert Perez were great at giving adequate information surrounding the budget and the college, always willing to answer questions and make themselves available to ensure transparency. We appreciate the opportunity to be consulted and to provide feedback on the college's budget.

I want to thank the board for the opportunity to provide student feedback on ARCC's budget consultations. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns!

Sincerely,

*Emily Gangl*

Emily Gangl

President of Student Government at Anoka-Ramsey

[Emily.gangl@my.anokaramsey.edu](mailto:Emily.gangl@my.anokaramsey.edu)

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

Trustees:

As requested, this letter is to verify and address the budget consultations that occurred at the Anoka Technical College campus on Nov. 29, Feb.28, & May 1 of the 2023-2024 school year.

With the great responsibility of the school's budget being transferred to new leadership, we did not know what to expect. However, the Student Senate representatives at these meetings were glad to see what had been prepared for us. It was very clear and filled with lots of detail while keeping the boring long spreadsheets to themselves. The student senate is still in the process of becoming more organized and we hope to continue to grow in numbers and abilities. Sadly, some of us have run the course of their time at the tech and leave it in what they believe are some very capable hands.

The consultation on the budget was sufficient for the senate to discuss the proposal and to make an informed decision. We feel that our views were factored into the administration's budget plan and felt that the consultation process was taken seriously by both students and administration. We are excited to hear about the new program and renovations to our campus.

At the senate meeting that followed the consult, it was agreed that we're happy to accept the college's proposed budget on behalf of the Student Senate and the student body as a whole.

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

Sincerely,  
Symin L. Zerwas  
Student Senate Public Relation Coordinator Anoka Technical College & Sparky Club  
President  
fg9181of@go.minnstate.edu  
763-760-0765



To: Chancellor Scott Olson

From: Sarah Kessler, BSUSA Student Senate President

Date: 5/9/2024

Subject: Student Government Fee Consultation Letter

I am writing on behalf of the Bemidji State University Student Association Student Senate. As President, I speak for BSU Student Senate in approving and supporting the following student fee increases and recognizing our successful consultation with BSU Vice President for Finance and Administration Krisi Fenner.

Our Student Senate worked tirelessly for many weeks to consider placing a referendum on the BSUSA Student Senate Spring Election regarding an increase of the Athletic Fee to its cap of \$6.25 per credit. Over 460 students voted, and the result of this vote was affirmative; the Athletic Fee increase passed and will go into effect.

Following the election outcome, our Student Senate worked in transparent collaboration with Fenner to set fee increases for the 2024-2025 Academic Year, which we support as follows: a 3% increase to the Technology Fee, a 33.8% increase to the Athletic Fee, a 14% increase to the Health Services Fee, and a 2.8% increase to the Sustainability Fee.

Through this process, students constructively examined multiple viewpoints, worked in collaboration with administrators and campus leaders, and made thoughtful, intentional, and significant decisions.

I am proud to recommend our student fee increases as a result of long, thorough, and considerate student decision-making. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sarah Kessler'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah Kessler

BSUSA Student Senate President

**Student Senate**

05/01/2024

Student Senate  
Central Lakes College  
501 West College Drive  
Brainerd, MN 56401

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

Greetings Chancellor Olson, Chair Moe, and Trustees,

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

This academic year, our tuition consultation meetings totaled 6 hours. President Hara Charlier, Vice President of Administrative Services Kari Christiansen, Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs Cheryl Norman, Student Life Director Erich Heppner, and Student Senate members of both campuses attended multiple meetings throughout the fall and spring semesters. An overview of changing fees, the college budget, frozen tuition, differential tuition, and budget assumptions were all discussed at these meetings.

As student leaders, we pride ourselves on being knowledgeable and proficient in the practices of Central Lakes College. We care a great deal about our fellow students and their educational experience. It is clear from our meetings that our college's leadership has similar goals to ours and strives to put students first in their decision-making. From our meetings with the administration, it was evident early on that the college would face a sizable financial deficit next year. While many tough decisions had to be made, we are grateful that we were consulted and asked to provide input on the best path forward. Ultimately, we are pleased to see that this deficit will not lead to faculty and staff layoffs, while we are disappointed to see the closure of two academic programs. That said, the consultation meetings led us to conclude that college leadership was weighing student impact throughout their decisions, and we were impressed by the level of ingenuity they used to balance the budget. We feel fortunate to be members of a college that acts in our best interests and advocates for our success.

Additionally, we recommend that our Technology Fee increase to \$11.40 per credit. The Student Life Committee is recommending that the Athletic Fee increase to \$4.47 per credit and that the Student Activity Fee increase to \$5.86 per credit. We also recommended the Health Services Fee stay at \$2.00 per credit. Upon these meetings' completion, the proposed changes were brought to both campus Student Senates for approval. The students of both the Brainerd and Staples campuses were free to ask questions and express their thoughts about the proposal. Both campuses unanimously approved the proposed changes.

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

Sincerely,

Emily Roberts   
Brainerd Campus Student Senate President



Brianna Adams  
Staples Campus Student Senate President

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

Board of Trustees,

I am writing to you today regarding the 2024-2025 tuition and fee consultation process between the Century College Student Senate (CCSS) and the Administration, as requested in Board Policy 2.3.1.

For the duration of the 2023-2024 academic year, Century College's administration has met with the Student Senate on a regular basis to discuss the financial health and future of the College. CCSS and College Administration have met officially seven times this year since the beginning of the fall 2023 semester, with the dates of those meetings being 27<sup>th</sup> Sept. 25, 2023, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> 2024, Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> 2024, Mar. 24<sup>th</sup> 2024 and April 24<sup>th</sup> 2024. The members of the administration who regularly attended these meetings were President Angelia Millender, Vice-President of Finance A.K Khan, Provost/Vice-President of Student and Academic Affairs Pakou Yang, Vice-President of Information Technology John Rohleder, and Associate Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Rosa Rodriguez. The members of CCSS who regularly attended these meetings were President Juliane Kanda, Vice-President Marissa Torres, Director of Legislation Brian Kayega, Director of Events Marie-Grace Sirima, Director of Public Relations Laila Abdirahim, Treasurer Cynthia Ntaji, Senator-at-large Melvin Naab, Senator-at-large Lotte Peters, Senator-at-large Marie Kulman, Senator-at-large Maryan Yusuf, and our advisor Corey Culver, Sociology Instructor.

A funded tuition freeze for fiscal year 2025 is in place, with no proposed increase in standard tuition rate. Standard tuition per credit rate will remain at \$182.49. We extend our gratitude to the legislature for allocating the funds necessary to implement this freeze, as well as to the board, the system, and the college for their advocacy efforts in securing this support.

The Student Senate also reviewed recommendations from a multitude of committees on campus, including the Student Life, Athletic, and Technology Fee Committees. CCSS has approved the proposed increase in the following fees:

- Technology Fee: FY2024: \$10.75, FY2025: \$11.25 increase of \$0.50
- Student Health Fee: FY2024: \$0.89, FY2025: \$0.89
- Student Life Fee: FY 2024: \$6.40, FY2025: \$6.53 increase of \$0.13
- Athletic Fee: FY 2024: \$1.91, FY2025: \$1.94 increase of \$0.03
- Parking Fee: FY2024: \$3.62, FY2025: \$ 3.67 increase of \$ 0.05

Throughout 2023-2024, the budget consultation process was constant, in-depth, informative, and highly sufficient in terms of informing student leadership on the College's financial health, as well as providing us ample time to discuss and present our opinions on the proposals being made.

I would like to thank the Board of Trustees for the time and dedication that they put in for every student across the state of Minnesota. Please contact me if there are any questions, comments, or concerns in relation to the Century College 2024-2025 budget consultation process.

Best Regards,

Juliane Kanda  
Century College Student Senate President





**DAKOTA COUNTY**  
**TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

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Maximilian Mallory, Student Senate President  
Dakota County Technical College  
1300 145th St E  
Rosemount, MN, 55068

05/08/2024

Board of Trustees  
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities  
30 East 7th Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101-7804

Dear Trustees,

As the Student Senate President and on behalf of the Student Senate, this letter is informing the board of trustees the results of the consultation process and the opinions of the student organization pertinent to Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board policy 2.3.

The following administrators and staff have consulted with the Student Senate this academic year:

<b>Date Attended</b>	<b>Administrator / staff</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Student Stance</b>
09/08/2023	Anne Johnson	Student Affairs Updates, Addressing Marijuana Legalization	It is important to continue to strengthen the mental health services available on campus. It is understood that the Code of Conduct does not change due to the legalization of marijuana
10/06/2023	David Schlosser	Food Service Update (Updated Cafeteria Hours)	Students understand that the low sales numbers on Fridays are due to the lack of traffic because we don't hold classes on Fridays. Students will continue to promote the on-campus food pantry as a continuous alternative for meals.



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10/06/2023 cont.	Kasey Meyer	Basic Needs and Mental Health Funding	<p>Students would like continuous work done on the college website to make resources easier to identify and access, most notably support services. Students have asked that a portion of the one-time funding from the MNSC be used to assist students with transportation and food resources (gift cards for vehicle fuel, transportation assistance, gift cards for groceries).</p> <p>Students would also like to continue the search for campus housing resources in the form of private housing or partnerships with housing developers. Students also want to continue strengthening the financial aid assistance for program related expenses (e.g. auto mechanic or heavy-duty trucking mechanic toolkits).</p>
11/17/2023	Heather Aagesen-Huebner	Finances Update	<p>Students had questions and concerns related to how changes to the bookstore would affect student work. Heather clarified that the physical bookstore would still exist where students could be employed. Students are aligned with the budget information and potential changes to the bookstore model. This new bookstore model will have students order textbooks directly to their place of residence, and physical textbooks will no longer be available for purchase at the DCTC bookstore. The Auxiliary Committee will be working more on adapting the model to DCTC using existing processes from schools that have already implemented this strategy.</p>
02/02/2024	Heather Aagesen-Huebner, Anne Johnson	Campus Safety Event	<p>Students had lacked information on the safety event prior to the meeting. Students were informed that there was a motor vehicle fire on campus that occurred outside of the building. Heather aptly addressed all student concerns without needing to be prompted and was very well prepared. The primary concern from students was the AlertUs system not being triggered during the event.</p> <p>Students requested a copy of the after-action report that was sent to campus staff. Students would also like work done to increase automation on the technologies used to alert students during campus safety events.</p>



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02/02/2024 (cont.)		Student Fee Update	At this time, no concrete discovery had been made on charges made to all students for the Health Fee and Parking Fee.
03/01/2024	Maggie Erickson	Mental Health Updates	Students are appreciative of the microgrants and emergency funding for mental health resources on campus. A new peer-led support group has been doing well. Students would also like to develop more sensory friendly spaces. Students maintain the stance that our strongest needs are transportation, food, and housing support. Students would also like access to safe-sex kits and budget workshops.
	Anne Johnson	Health Services Fee Updates and Consulting	It was determined that the Health Fee and Parking Fee were not being charged to all students. Prior to this discovery, the Student Senate was under the understanding that these fees were being charged to all students to provide equal access to these services for all students. The Senate supports these fees being charged to all students
03/15/2024	David Schlosser, Gary Westerland, Anthony Ross, Heather Agesen-Huebner	Update on Bookstore Model for Direct to Consumer Ordering	<p>Students were initially concerned that this new bookstore model would negatively impact student work in the bookstore and potentially remove the physical location on campus. Administration continued to reiterate that this bookstore model is centered around how students obtain their physical textbooks and that they would no longer need to be stocked in the bookstore.</p> <p>Students also had concerns over technology barriers that would exist with the online model. Admin noted that there would still be textbook professionals available for customer service within the physical bookstore location on campus that could assist students with ordering textbooks directly to their place of residence.</p> <p>Students would like self-service kiosks to be placed in the bookstore so they can still order their books from the physical location on campus should they need assistance from a textbook professional. The Student Senate will continue to promote this launch by word of</p>



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03/15/2024 (cont.)		Update on Bookstore Model (cont.)	<p>mouth, and additional verbiage will be added to tour notes so students can give accurate information on the bookstore ordering process when giving campus tours to new or prospective students.</p> <p>Students have also been informed that financial aid can still be used for textbooks using this model because students still purchase their textbooks from the DCTC bookstore.</p>
	Todd Jagerson, Heather Aagesen- Huebner	Tech Fee and Budget Consultation	<p>Students were informed that an additional \$5,000 has been collected through student fees. The college is working towards achieving as close to 100% wireless as they can. Many of the difficulties come from the concrete building material and density of the building. Wi-Fi coverage and cell boosters are continually being implemented and IT staff routinely assess heat maps of coverage to identify weak spots in the wireless network.</p> <p>Students continue to ask for more coverage and have verbally identified a handful of weak spots. The budget deficit can make this difficult, and an increase in the tech fee is a potential solution as the tuition freeze continues and the school funding from the state remains stagnant.</p>
04/05/2024	Kirsten Nelson, Aria Kronebusch	Feedback on Student Support Services	<p>Students would like continuous updates to be made to the college website, notably the support services page. Metro State and IHCC websites model a format that students feel is visually digestible and easy to navigate. Students also raise concerns over the ability to access these sites through mobile devices due to formatting issues. The idea of a mobile app has also come up previously and would be a potentially valuable resource for college information to be available for enrolled students on a mobile device.</p>
04/12/2024	Maggie Erickson	Feedback on Mental Health Services	<p>Students support that funds continue to be spent on basic needs monetary resources such as gift cards for vehicle fuel and gift cards for groceries at affordable retail locations (e.g. Cub Foods). The current DCTC model for gas</p>



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04/12/2024 (cont.)	Maggie Erickson (cont.)	Feedback on Mental Health Services  (cont.)	<p>cards prevents abuse, so the Senate feels safe increasing the number of students who they get distributed to without anybody taking advantage of the resource.</p> <p>Students have also identified that the Mental Health First-Aid training encapsulated QPR training and that further QPR resources will not be necessary should DCTC continue to provide MHFA training.</p>
	Heather Aagesen-Huebner	Budget Consultation	<p>Students received another portion of a recurring conversation on the FY25 budget process. Students continue to agree that, due to the tuition freeze and lack of additional funding from the State, increasing student fees may be an appropriate route to increase our resource effectiveness on campus.</p> <p>Students understand that Full-Time students will pay \$91.20 more per credit than last year, and Part-Time students will pay \$46.50 more per credit than last year. Students understand that the parking fee will also be increased to afford the parking lot repair that is estimated to cost 5.6 million dollars.</p>
04/26/2024	Michael Berndt	DCTC and Inver Hills Alignment Consultation	<p>Students were informed of the history of ongoing alignments between DCTC and IHCC. Students agree with President Berndt that both campuses are facing challenges, however students believe that DCTC has been setting standards for student engagement and student life activities that could be modeled across both campuses to provide a cohesive experience for students who share time between the campuses.</p> <p>President Berndt addressed the current level of resource sharing that occurs between the two colleges, notably the balance between cost efficiency and resource management. President Berndt also identified multiple programs that would benefit from further alignment between campuses due to program density and career pathway structure (e.g. BSN pathway via Medical Assistant program due to the high volume of BSN applicants and</p>



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<p>04/26/2024 (cont.)</p>	<p>Michael Berndt (cont.)</p>	<p>DCTC and Inver Hills Alignment Consultation (cont.)</p>	<p>low scores on placement tests among a percentage of prospective BSN students).</p> <p>President Berndt also identified potential benefits of sharing advertising between both schools. Students took the opportunity to reiterate the strong community presence attained by DCTC Student Life and agreed that it could be beneficial to market the colleges together by using DCTC as a standard for engagement. Students agree that this could be accompanied by better use of college spaces. In addition to comments made about student life, students also wanted to ensure that students at both campuses could participate in club activities and other student life events across both colleges. At this time, students must be enrolled at a college to be eligible for participation in student life activities. (e.g., a student at DCTC could not participate in the IHCC Choir Club if they are not enrolled in any credits at IHCC despite the current alignment).</p> <p>Student Life was a strong topic during this consultation, and many students had positive thoughts regarding further alignment between the campuses. However, there were notable challenges that were discussed as they were brought up by students. A concern from President Berndt arose over the potential for modifications to staff. Employees are already stretched thin across both campuses, and work must be done to ensure that capacity does not exceed the availability of our resources. Students were concerned with the brand identity and institutional loyalty that could be lost if the two schools became one (e.g., what happens to the validity of a degree from DCTC if the school changes its name?). Students continued to identify potentials for student life activities to be consumed across both campuses, which led to a conversation about transportation access.</p> <p>Students brought forward the idea of a shuttling system between the two campuses, and President Berndt identified previously discovered challenges that would need to be address, most notably the need for rotating employees to maintain a regular schedule for</p>
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<p>04/26/2024 (cont.)</p>	<p>Michael Berndt (cont.)</p>	<p>DCTC and Inver Hills Alignment Consultation (cont.)</p>	<p>transportation services. Along with access to transportation, students identified difficulties with disability access at the IHCC campus. Students with physical disabilities find DCTC more accessible because it is a single building and there is no outdoor travel required to go between classes. This is most challenging for physically disabled students during the winter months because of inclement weather conditions such as snow and ice. There are also a handful of grades (slopes) associated with the outdoor terrain that are challenging for students using mobility assistance devices (wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches). President Berndt addressed the ongoing concern for the disability access at IHCC and made note of an upcoming evaluation on the campus's disability access. Students at DCTC are very prideful of the ongoing work that surrounds disability access and inclusion and would like to aid decision making and provide feedback to any interested parties regarding suggestions and expectations for disability inclusion.</p> <p>Students have also commented on the DCTC's success with high levels of support and inclusion for neurodivergent students and would like to see more of that work done at Inver Hills College.</p> <p>Students suggest that an effort to provide more surveys to students would be a valid route to take. The primary concern of the students regarding how the college obtains feedback is that the emails sent to the student body tend to be quite wordy. The Student Senate continues to reiterate that information delivered to students must be easily digestible and incredibly granular. This ensures that students at all levels of learning can provide feedback and receive high-level information in an appropriate manner. Students would also like to increase the use of QR codes to allow for simplified access to forms and documents. This allows students passing by a flyer to simply scan the code on their phone to gain access to a survey or information resource.</p>
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04/26/2024 (cont.)	Michael Berndt (cont.)	DCTC and Inver Hills Alignment Consultation  (cont.)	Overall, students have a positive outlook on the potential for further alignment between the two colleges. The Student Senate would like to provide continuous feedback to President Berndt as this process develops. The current Student Senate Executive Board suggests that President Berndt meets with the incoming Senate Officers over the summer to increase continuity of information and student-centered decision making.
05/03/2024	Heather Aagesen-Huebner, Todd Jagerson	Final Budget Consultation	Heather’s final presentation revolved around both the parking and technology fee. These two fees will be increased in FY25. The Technology Fee will increase from \$10.60 per credit to \$11.60 per credit, and the Parking Fee will increase from \$2.96 per credit to \$5.00 per credit. The students were concerned that the parking plan estimated to cost 5.6 million dollars was entirely the responsibility of DCTC. Heather aptly explained that it is part of the MN State policy that college campuses are entirely liable for their own parking and that it is up to the school to fund the entire rehabilitation process. As unfortunate as that is, the parking fee increase will help continue this planning process and allow for better accommodation that will be discovered as part of a professional third-party assessment of our college’s parking situation. We also heard from Todd Jagerson about the need for the technology fee and how it affects our students. Todd notes that the technologies are getting more expensive, and the college is trying to increase the depth of their Microsoft bundle to save on other vendors that provide similar software. Todd was also asked about the need for additional technologies for the new bookstore model, which was promptly addressed, and Todd informed the senate that the process of installing those technologies in the bookstore was happening in the week following the meeting. Students left with a better understanding of the long timelines for these processes and gave ample feedback.





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Dakota County Technical College		1960	\$3.50	\$205,800	
		<b>Projected Uncollected Revenue</b>			
		@___% Total Budget	10%	\$20,580.00	
		<b>Total Projected Operating Budget</b>			<b>\$185,220</b>
<b>Yellow Highlighted Cell Denotes Personnel</b>					
<b>Cost Center</b>	<b>Personnel</b>	<b>Change from last FY</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Approved</b>
	1.5 FTE Mental Health Therapist Positions			\$190,000.00	\$ 190,000.00
<b>Total for Category</b>					\$ 190,000.00
<b>Cost Center</b>	<b>Supplies &amp; Materials</b>	<b>Change from last FY</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Approved</b>
	Supplies for First Aid Kits	-\$4000		\$3,000	\$3,000
					\$0
					\$0
<b>Total for Category</b>					<b>\$3,000.00</b>
<b>Cost Center</b>	<b>Health Fee Contingency</b>	<b>Change from last FY</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Approved</b>
	Future Initiatives (e.g., programming, new initiatives, etc)			\$12,800	\$0
<b>Total for Category</b>					<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Cost Center</b>	<b>Annual Budget Item</b>	<b>Total Approved*</b>	<b>Personnel</b>	<b>Non-Personnel</b>	
	Personnel	\$190,000.00	\$190,000.00		
	Supplies & Material	\$3,000.00		\$3,000.00	
	Sub-total	\$193,000.00	\$190,000.00	\$3,000.00	
	Original Budget	\$205,800.00			
	Annual Budget Balance	\$12,800.00			

The above image is a snapshot of the Health Fee budget covered during the 03/01 consultation with Anne Johnson. Students were elated to see that we now have permanent funding for mental health professionals, but there was some confusion about the permanency of the funding. Anne clarified for students that because we were not charging the health fee to all students, there will be more funding as that fee gets distributed across more student accounts. Safe sex kits were also requested as part of the health fee, however due to the removal of the LPN position and distribution of responsibilities across existing positions, we were unsure where access to these kits would be located. The suggestions that came from that discussion were mostly to have the kits available with the mental health resource professionals, so they are in trusted hands.

Sincerely,

*Maximilian Mallory, Student Senate President*  
 maximilian.mallory@go.dctc.edu  
 maximilian.mallory@outlook.com

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 during multiple occasions throughout the year at Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College. Those in Attendance in these meetings included Student Senate President Alicia Kelly, Student Senate Vice President Owen Wherley, Student Senate member Jake Swader, Anishinaabe Student Council member Eric King, Anishinaabe Student Council member Shawntay Brown, Student Life Advisor and Housing Director Jesse Stirewalt, FDLTCC Interim Vice President of Student Services and Enrollment Damien Paulson and FDLTCC Chief Financial Officer Bret Busakowski.

During the Fall and Spring Semester we have been formally briefed multiple times with the College's current and future financial status. We have been experiencing a decrease in enrollment in the 2023-2024 School Year due to the school shutting down our athletic program as it was putting a strain on our resources for what was perceived as truly little gain. We discussed new ways the allocation of athletic money could be used for that would benefit and enhance student life in other ways here at FDLTCC.

It has been a blessing to work for FDLTCC on Student Senate and in many other Endeavors. Our school is a diverse, welcoming, affordable, and helpful environment. This Traits will keep FDLTCC in the forefront of community and tribal colleges for years to come.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

Alicia Kelly

FDLTCC Student Senate President

Fk7315ik@go.minnstate.edu

Chancellor Scott Olson and Board of Trustees May 14, 2024  
Office of the Chancellor, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System  
30 7<sup>th</sup> Street East, Suite 350  
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Chancellor Olson 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 members, on both Eden Prairie and Brooklyn Park, met with HTC administration frequently throughout the spring semester 2024. During these meetings we went over current projects and issues on campus. In these meetings Joe Wightkin- Vice President of Finance and Operations, Stephen Harper- Director of Student Life and Career Development, and Pang Vang- Student Life advisor were present to answer any questions about the current condition and direction of HTC.

On January 31<sup>st</sup>, Stephen Harper spoke before all senate members during the public assembly meeting to discuss the proposal from the Student Life Board to increase the student life fee on February 6<sup>th</sup>. Current total fee was \$19.91 per credit.

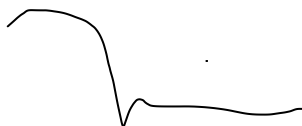
On March 6<sup>th</sup>, Pang Vang explained to all senate members during the public assembly meeting that the student life fee was \$3.40 per credit and covered all spending for the Student Life Center and Career Development, club spending, commencement, and the fitness center. She further stated that any increase over 2% must be voted on by the student body.

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, Joe Wightkin gave an overview of the student life budget with student senate. 81% of budget went to wages and 19% went to supplies/utilities. "HTC will be receiving a 3.5% increase in tuition rate, however next years students will see no change as MN state will cover this. The student life fee is proposed to increase to \$6.50 from \$3.90." Joe Wightkin also mentioned to thank the state for covering the costs of the tuition increase.

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, Pang Vang sent in a message for the student senate stating, "The Student Life Fee Referendum to adjust the Student Life Fee to \$6.50, pursuant to Minn. Stat. §135A.043, was passed and will go into effect in FY25. 77% (23) of students voted to approve, 13% (4) voted in disapproval and 10% (3) were disqualified for being invalid votes. This fee adjustment right-sizes Hennepin Technical College with other technical institutions during our tuition freeze and provides a sustainable level of student support for all student clubs and organizations."

On behalf of the entire student senate executive board, I would like to personally thank you all for freezing tuition costs for our campus. All efforts go towards bettering the lives of our students.

With utmost gratitude,



Michael Engstrom- president of HTC's Brooklyn Park student senate

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees,

Throughout the past school year, the executive board and I have diligently arranged regular meetings with the administration of HTC during our student senate sessions. These meetings have been pivotal in discussing critical updates, budget issues, and the essential consultation processes for tuition. We had the pleasure of engaging with key figures such as Joe Wightkin, Vice President of Finance and Operations, Stephen Harper, Director of Student Life & Career Development, and various dedicated members of the Student Senate.

A cornerstone of our discussions with Joe and Stephen was the remarkable achievement of maintaining a no tuition increase policy, thanks to your steadfast commitment to the Board of Trustees' policies. Additionally, we explored the necessity of a fee increase through a student referendum, a move strongly advocated by the Student Life Board.

This year has been extraordinary, marked by a significant influx of questions from our student body. Our ability to address these inquiries and uphold the no tuition increase policy has been bolstered by previous legislative measures such as the North Star Promise. Furthermore, we deliberated on the implementation of a six-dollar and fifty cent fee per semester, as articulated by Stephen Harper and the Student Life Board.

In our quest to promote affordable education, we have initiated broader discussions, empowering students with more choices supported at both academic and state levels. This initiative aligns with our shared vision of making higher education accessible and financially feasible for all students.

We have also taken proactive steps to communicate with the student body about the fiscal year projections for the upcoming years. By transparently sharing information regarding the new student life budget, we ensure that students are well-informed about these consistent changes, which are poised to positively impact their educational experience.

I am proud to report that there have been no other cost increases for our students, underscoring our collective commitment to their financial well-being.

Your unwavering support and dedication are crucial to our continued success in these endeavors. We look forward to further collaboration in advancing the interests of our student community.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Orozco, Craig Henry

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth Orozco, Craig Henry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.



Debbie Wallen, Student Senate President  
Inver Hills Community College  
2500 80<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076  
May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Board of Trustees  
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities  
30 East 7th Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101-7804

Dear Chair Moe and Board of Trustees,

My name is Debbie Wallen and I am the Student Senate President of Inver Hills Community College. This letter will describe the consultation process our campus Student Senate experienced during the 2023-2024 academic year.

During the Fall of 2023 semester, we had our first Budget Consultation with Vice President Aagesen-Huebner and Mental Health funding consultation with Vice President Rusch-Curl. During the Spring of 2024 semester we had two-budget consultations, technology consultation, textbook consultation, HEDS survey consultation, and a parking lot/fee consultation. All these consultations informed the Student Senate of the fiscal and strategic planning of the college. We had sufficient notice of the time and location of all consultation meetings. Student Senate received materials needed in advance and offered opportunities to ask questions during the consultations. The Student Senate understood the opportunities and constraints facing Inver Hills Community College such as the decision to move to online textbooks rentals and increase of certain student fees, despite the tuition freeze. I believe all of our questions were answered and opportunities for follow-up questions were given even after the meeting was concluded.

All consultations Student Senate was provided were very beneficial and informative. The conversations were respectful and understanding. The administrators listened to our input, questions, and concerns. If it wasn't addressed at that moment, a follow-up was provided at a reasonable time.

I want to thank Vice President of Finance and Operations Heather Aagesen-Huebner, President Michael Berndt, Chief Information Officer Todd Jagerson, Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Jeremy Clark, and Director of Auxiliary Services David Schlosser for their time and commitment to informing student representatives.

I wanted to show my appreciation to Vice President of Student Affairs, Kari Rusch-Curl, who attended a majority of our meetings and addressed student's questions or concerns. She is vital to Student Senate, and is also present, kind, and understanding.

Inver Hills Community College Student Senate does not have a formal vote on any consultations at this time.



INVERHILLS.EDU • 651-450-3000 • 2500 80TH STREET EAST, INVER GROVE HEIGHTS, MN 55076

As outgoing Student Senate President, I'd would like to see Inver Hills Community College add more accessible gender-neutral bathrooms in the College Center, ensure the handicap buttons work and that doors that have handicap buttons, explore to opportunities to provide affordable childcare and the virtual mental health resources, to meet the need for students who can't get to campus or need help after business hours.

In closing, I wish to thank the Trustees for the opportunity to provide information and feedback to represent student voices on our college campuses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Debbie Wallen'.

Debbie Wallen, Student Senate President  
Inver Hills Community College  
Debbie.wallen@go.inverhills.edu/queenbee5528@gmail.com



*A member of Minnesota State*

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

May 1, 2024

Dear Chair and Trustees:

As requested by Minnesota State System's Student Consultation Policy (Board Policy 2.3), this letter will outline the tuition consultation process that recently took place at Lake Superior College (LSC).

LSC Vice President, Nickoel Anderson attended the LSC Student Senate meeting on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, to discuss the school budget with our senators. Eight student senators were present including myself. Wade Gordon, Dean of Students, and Heather Grillo, Student Activities Coordinator, were also present.

On Tuesday, April 16, 2024, members of our Senate met again with VP Anderson to consult on the college budget and the budget challenges for the upcoming academic year. The meeting was attended by nine members of the LSC Student Senate, including myself. Wade Gordon and Heather Grillo were also in attendance.

The consultation visits allowed the LSC Student Senate to ask VP Anderson questions and learn more about the budget process. We feel that our views were appreciated, and that the consultation process was clear, informative, and precise.

Please, feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the consultation process. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kiera Sawinski".

Kiera Sawinski  
Student Senate President  
[kiera.sawinski@lsc.edu](mailto:kiera.sawinski@lsc.edu)

Honorable Chancellor Olson and Board of Trustees,

This letter is regarding the consultation process between the Metropolitan State University Student Association (MSUSA) and our university administration. I want to acknowledge and thank Vice President of Student Success Anderson, Provost Gort, Interim Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and Technology Solland, and Interim Vice President of Finance Reed for attending MSUSA meeting to discuss tuition and fees. The student government is able to have a better understanding of the consultation process thanks to their effort.

We all are still dealing with the uncertainty and instability brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic. For us students, we're dealing with financial hardship, a low employment rate for livable-wage jobs, and remote learning. For the institution, it is dealing with the continued decline in enrollment, converting remote learning back to more traditional learning, and medical safety concerns of the students and admins as the pandemic might be over, COVID-19 is running strong in certain areas. I truly am glad that both sides understand the hardship that both sides of encountering and this understanding goes a long way in supporting each other.

I want to remind both our administration and the System Office that every increase in tuition and fees matters regardless of how low the percentage is, it could result in less food on a student's table or less clothing for a student's child.

With this, I acknowledge that we were consulted about the tuition increase of 3% for graduate programs, the Student Health Services Fee increase of \$1, the Natural Sciences Fee increase of 50%, the tuition decrease of 3% for the Doctor of Business Administration program, and the Technology Fee increase of \$1. We at MSUSA support all those proposals except for the tuition increase of 3% for graduate programs and the Natural Sciences Fee increase of 50%. We suggest no changes to the tuition for graduate programs and the increase of \$2 for the Natural Sciences Fee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lim Chan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lim Chan

President

Metropolitan State University Student Association





**MINNEAPOLIS**  
COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL  
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May 17, 2024

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

Dear Chancellor Olson,

The Student Senate at Minneapolis Community and Technical College, after consultation with President Sharon Pierce and Vice President Chis Rau, approve the recommendations set forth for tuition and fees for the 2024 – 2025 academic year.

The Student Senate approves the following:

- A \$0.10 increase for the Health Services Fee
- A \$0.75 increase for the Technology Fee
- No changes to the Student Center Fee, Student Life Fee, and MSCSA

The Student Life Budget Committee agrees with the need to focus on the mental health of our student body. Data shows that mental health services have a positive impact on student success and has a positive impact on retention. According to Minneapolis College 2024 Basic Needs Survey, 15% of students surveyed have unmet mental health needs. And 45% of student surveyed have experienced a barrier in availability to mental health services. We anticipate hiring a psychologist and will increase the health fee annually as a multi-year commitment.

The Student Life Budget Committee agrees with the need to expand technology infrastructure. This includes but is not limited to improving Wi-Fi, maintaining equipment, purchasing software and equipment, and supporting staff salary. Improving and supporting college technology will provide the student body with enhanced access to information and resources. The above-mentioned resources will provide students with the ability to obtain academic achievement by accessing necessary materials with additional technical support.

Thank you for your time and attention to the student consultation process in regard to tuition and fees.

Sincerely,

Bruk Kassie  
Director of Finance  
Minneapolis College Student Senate

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruk Kassie'.

1501 Hennepin Avenue | Minneapolis, MN 55403 | 612-659-6000 | [minneapolis.edu](http://minneapolis.edu)

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March 28, 2024

Chancellor Olson Board of Trustees

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

Dear Chancellor Olson and Trustees,

The Minnesota North College - Hibbing Campus Student Senate met with President Mike Raich and the Vice President of Finance & Facilities, Stephanie Pope, on March 12, 2024, regarding the tuition rates for the academic year 2024-25. On behalf of the Hibbing Campus Student Senate, please accept this letter as confirmation of this consultation, as required by Minnesota State Board Policy.

Those in attendance were briefed on revenue sources for our college, recent tuition costs and state appropriation. Minnesota North College is developing an FY25 budget based on a state-funded tuition freeze and an increase of 3.5% to tuition and fees that would be paid by students if the tuition freeze does not pass. We also discussed a 2.8% reduction in non-resident tuition.

The increase in tuition would make it harder for students to afford to attend school. We have been thankful for past tuition freezes that made higher education more affordable. Without a permanent increase in state support, tuition will eventually need to be increased so that future students can get the same education that we have been receiving.

We are encouraging the legislature to increase state appropriation to Minnesota State Colleges to fund a tuition freeze. Without this, students will further absorb the high costs of attending college or choose not to attend at all.

Sincerely,

Jessalyn Podlogar

Minnesota North Hibbing Senate President



April 9, 2024

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

Dear Chancellor Olson and Trustees,

The Minnesota North Itasca Campus student senate met with President Mike Raich and Vice President of Finance Stephanie Pope on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in regard to the tuition rates, as well as housing and meal plan rates for the academic year 2024-25. On behalf of the Minnesota North Itasca Campus Student Senate, please accept this letter as confirmation of this consultation meeting, as required by Minnesota State Board Policy.

Those in attendance at this meeting included Brian Molitor (interim student senate president), and senate advisor Kimberly Damiani. Attendees were briefed on revenue sources for our college and current proposals for tuition changes. Attendees were informed and understand the tuition freeze described by VP Pope and any implications this has for the overall college budget.

Another key agenda item was the discussion between keeping the plan to phase out non-resident tuition over the next five years, or if the college should eliminate the non-resident differential. A point was made that Minnesota North is the only two-year school left in the state that charges non-resident tuition rates. The Itasca Senate is in favor of eliminating the nonresident tuition rate starting FY 25. The impact of the overall budget should not outweigh the benefits of potential increased nonresident enrollment.

In addition, Itasca Senate agrees with \$0.25 increase in parking pass fees. This will help to maintain parking lots/roads and help with snow removal. We also agree with the \$0.25 increase in the student activity/life fee. This will help to sustain the campus atmosphere and the overall student experience. Itasca Student Senate also reviewed the housing and meal plan rates. We agree that the prices are reasonable and comparable to the local cost of living, and make sense when considering each campus's unique logistics and resources.

Brian Molitor  
Itasca Student Senate Interim President  
Minnesota North College - Itasca  
[rx7006gb@go.minnstate.edu](mailto:rx7006gb@go.minnstate.edu)

March 29, 2024

Dear Administration,

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, we had an online zoom meeting with the President of Minnesota North, Mike Raich, along with Stephanie Pope and representatives from the other Minnesota North Student Senates to discuss tuition rates for the upcoming fall semester. More specifically, we discussed the issue of out-of-state tuition. Some of the out of state students have already voiced their opinions to President Raich in a meeting this past fall. They were under the understanding that out-of-state tuition would be eliminated for the following year. Coaches had also been told that it was going to be eliminated and that they could use it as a recruiting tool.

Continuing the practice of out-of-state tuition would negatively impact the Mesabi Range Virginia campus. Many of our students here at the Virginia campus are students that come here from out of state for our sports programs. Currently, these students not only have the burden of higher tuition rates, but they also do not qualify for the Minnesota State Grants. That being said, many housing students need to take out the parent plus loans and often still have a balance remaining. This leads to higher insecurities in things such as food, higher stress levels, and less ability to focus on classes. This burden is more than strictly a financial one. It affects the students' attitudes, relationships, health and grades. Out-of-state tuition is not practiced at any other junior colleges in Minnesota and out of

state students feel the process of “phasing it out” is not enough. Out-of-State students are asking only for an equal opportunity to succeed!

April 12th, 2024

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

Dear Chancellor Olson and members of the Board of Trustees,

The Student Senate of the Rainy River Campus of Minnesota North College Senate has met with President Mike Raich and Director of Operations Brad Krasaway throughout the year. During those meetings Administration addressed any questions from the Student Senate in full. Both President Raich and Operations Director Krasaway provided appropriate materials and data and reviewed it with the student senate as well.

We realize that due to the upcoming merger the budget process and allocation will change. We hope that students at each campus keep their voice in the budgeting process and continue to be consulted with on all matters that pertain to student interests.

President Raich reminded students that regular tuition is frozen once again. He also addressed concerns brought by students regarding out of state tuition. He gave the Student Senate two options both of which eventually would eliminate the extra cost. One where it was reduced over time and the other cut it immediately. While we appreciate the elimination completely we also understand the budget concerns that would cause. Therefore, we support the continued measured reduction over the course of 5-10 years in order to eliminate out of state tuition.

Thank you for your continued support of the Rainy River Campus, as it is the only higher education institution within 100 miles. Our community depends on this campus for a quality education close to home, economic development, and personal development.

Sincerely,



Marcus Kriek  
Student Senate President  
Minnesota North College – Rainy River Campus  
[Marcus.Kriek@my.minnesotanorth.edu](mailto:Marcus.Kriek@my.minnesotanorth.edu)

March 28, 2024  
Chancellor Scott Olson Board of Trustees  
Minnesota State  
500 Wells Fargo Place  
30 East Seventh Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Chancellor Olson and Trustees,

The Minnesota North College - Vermilion Campus Student Senate - President along with the other Minnesota North Senate Presidents met with Stephanie Pope, and Mike Raich on March 12, 2024, regarding the tuition rates for the academic year of 2024-25 and discussing on eliminating the difference between resident and non-resident tuition rates. On behalf of the Minnesota North Vermilion Campus Student Senate, please accept this letter as confirmation of this consultation, as required by Minnesota State Board Policy.

Those in attendance at this meeting included Dylan Helman (President), Kris Ryan (Treasurer), Bud Ahrens (Advisor), Mike Raich, and Stephanie Pope.

Those in attendance were briefed on revenue sources for our college and recent tuition costs and state appropriation. Our senate is supporting the tuition freeze for in-state students for the fiscal year 2025. Additionally, we acknowledge the fee changes to housing, meal plans, parking, and student life money increase.

Addressing the non-resident tuition rate reduction, Vermilion Campus Student Senate voted in favor 6-3 of reducing the non-resident tuition rate with the 5-year plan as opposed to the immediate elimination of the difference in rates. We feel that a dramatic decrease in the budget could potentially impact Minnesota North Colleges negatively. We will maintain revenue for the school through the five-year plan, while seeing the student enrollment increase.

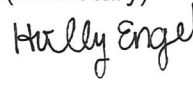
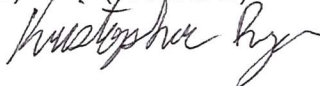
Sincerely,

Dylan Helman  
(President)

Luke Irons  
(Vice President)

Kris Ryan  
(Treasurer)

Holly Engel  
(Secretary)





# StudentSenate

*Grace Horn, Student Senate President*

*Minnesota State College Southeast*

*308 Pioneer Rd*

*Red Wing, MN, 55066*

*Kari Campbell*

*Executive Director*

*Office of the Board of Trustees*

[Kari.Campbell@minnstate.edu](mailto:Kari.Campbell@minnstate.edu)

Dear Trustees,

I am writing to you on behalf of Minnesota State College Southeast in Red Wing as Student Senate President to inform the Board about our budget forecast, future tuition allocations, and suggested fee increases. Our cabinet was presented these topics during our April consultation with Lisa Pozanc, Vice President of Finance and Administration.


Lisa presented a PowerPoint to two of our Red Wing cabinet members: myself, and my Vice President, Allie Haas. In the PowerPoint, Lisa included a comparison graph showing the actual enrollments from the years 2020-2024, and the influence these enrollments have had on our revenue sources, which include appropriation and tuition. Lisa also informed us of a suggested Technology Fee increase from \$12.00 per credit to \$14.00 per credit. This fee increase is intended to be used to invest in better Internet service for our students, improved hardware, updated technology across campus, and to ameliorate technological barriers for students. This fee increase recommendation was unanimously agreed on by both Allie Haas and me. During our consultation, Allie mentioned that the technology fee increase is a great decision to suggest because spotty Internet and outdated computers pose zero benefit to students. *"It is essential for college life to have reliable technology and Internet readily available"* (Allie Haas). For



myself, I represent online students at Southeast. I believe that our proctored exams may pose difficulties if our Internet service is spotty. Without investing in higher Internet speeds and more reliable technology, online students are subjected to detriment in their education. This technology fee increase will help fight any digital inhibitors blocking the path to success for all our students. Another reason Red Wing Student Senate supports a technology fee increase is because we have a large percentage of PSEO students on our campus, of which we do not collect fees from. However, they still use our services. This fee increase would cover the cost of additional technology usage.

I want to thank you for taking the time to read this letter and allowing me to provide information to the board about our budget consultation process here at Minnesota State College Southeast in Red Wing.

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Grace D. Horn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "n".

*Grace D. Horn, 2023-2024 Student Senate President*

[Grace.horn@my.southeastmn.edu](mailto:Grace.horn@my.southeastmn.edu)

[g.dainelle18@gmail.com](mailto:g.dainelle18@gmail.com)



Caledon Johnston, Student Senate President  
Minnesota State College Southeast - Winona  
1250 Homer Rd  
Winona, Minnesota, 55987

April 29, 2024

Board of Trustees  
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities  
30 East 7th Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101-7804

Dear Chancellor Olson and members of the Board of Trustees:

My name is Caledon Johnston and I currently serve as the Student Senate President at Minnesota State College Southeast in Winona. I would like to share about the FY25 tuition and fees consultation experience we had this year as requested by Minnesota State Policy (Board policy 2.3).

This year has been a major transitional period for both the Student Senate and Administration at our college. With new staff and representatives, we had a lot to rebuild in terms of processes and functionality. We were missing some positions on our executive board and had some role changes in the budget office with Lisa Pozanc stepping into the role of Vice President of Finance and Administration after the departure of Amy Schmidt. I've worked closely with Lisa for the past few years, and she has always been easy to contact and quick to respond to any financial questions I had. Our first meeting we had with Lisa was October 2, 2023, to run down our current expenditures and revenue as well as a discussion about previous YMCA contracts and amendments made. We were given material to review for the meeting and then discussed it to ensure we had accurate information to start the year off right with activities and support we wanted to do from the Student Senate. We then had a new Treasurer elected, and he took the responsibility of meeting with the budget office from that point. They met monthly to ensure we had up-to-date information on our cost center and finances.

On March 25, 2024, the Winona Student Senate and the Red Wing Student Senate met with the President Danielson and her administrative team to bring up topics we've heard from our campus body that we wanted to address with administration. Both Student Senates proposed to increase the Technology Fee from \$12.00 per credit to \$14.00 per credit to ensure students will have access to the technology needed to do their class work. This includes adding more access points on both campuses to aid in more stable and faster internet to help students download videos and assignments in a reasonable time, and for newer computers that load faster to ensure the valuable time of students doing their work is kept in mind. The Student Senate also proposed to create a reserve account with the goal of constructing a fitness center on both campuses as a long-term solution to keeping access to physical health resources.

On April 15, 2024, we had our official consultation meeting with Lisa Pozanc about the FY24 budget, the North Star Promise, the Campus Modernization bonding request, and FY25 tuition and fees. We were given sufficient notice of the time and location. Although we were not given any materials ahead of time, Lisa did go through an informative Powerpoint presentation during the meeting and answered any clarifying questions we had. In discussions about the FY25 tuition and fees, we are happy to note that the current tuition rate of \$189.18 will not



be increased due to the tuition freeze that is in place. We also discussed the proposed technology fee increase from \$12/credit to \$14/credit as originally discussed on March 25 with administration. In total, our FY25 tuition per credit will be \$213.28, which includes the proposed \$2/credit increase in the technology fee, the health services fee, the student life/activity fee, the student association fee, and the parking fee. This information is available on the Southeast website (<https://southeastmn.edu>) under Paying For College. The presentation concluded with a tuition and fees comparison with other MN State campuses (RCTC, Riverland, MinnWest, and WSU) so we could see how our tuition and fees stack up against sister institutions.

On April 22, 2024, we presented the tuition and fees Powerpoint presentation to the entire Student Senate body. While we did not have Lisa Pozanc there to present, our advisor and Student Life Coordinator, Tracy Rahim, was available to help clarify and answer any questions the students had. **After the presentation, the Student Senate voted unanimously to support the FY25 tuition and fees as presented.** I then asked for feedback and any thoughts the Student Senate would like to share in this letter:

- “*I feel we have an appropriate tuition cost.*”
- “*The increase in technology fees will help the needs of our students.*”
- “*The additional support with the North Star Promise will be beneficial to our institution and the state overall.*”

Overall, this consultation was done very professionally and I was happy to hear our administration advising us to be public about this information and allow our students to have a voice in these conversations. I was also happy that Lisa created a simplified PowerPoint that broke the big numbers down in an easier way for us to read and understand.

To conclude, I would like to say *Thank You* to the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees for approving the tuition freeze a few years back as it has helped keep college affordable for our two-year institutions and has help in our recruitment and retention efforts after the pandemic. With the North Star Promise, this will also encourage new and returning low-income students to have more financial security in being able to afford to go to college. I once again would like to thank the college and system administration for giving us the opportunity to detail our experience with this year’s consultation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Caledon Johnston'.

Caledon Johnston  
2023-2024 Student Senate President  
Minnesota State College Southeast – Winona  
[caledon.johnston@my.southeastmn.edu](mailto:caledon.johnston@my.southeastmn.edu), [calj0613@aol.com](mailto:calj0613@aol.com)

# Minnesota State

## Community and Technical College

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May 21, 2024

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

Chair, Mr. Roger Moe and Board of Trustees,

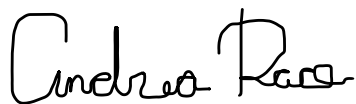
As requested by Minnesota State's student consultation policy board (policy 2.3) this letter will outline the tuition consultation process that has taken place at the Minnesota State Community and Technical College-Detroit Lakes campus.

The Detroit Lakes Student Representatives have discussed the Minnesota State budget with the Chief Financial Officer, Pat Nordick in the Spring 2024 conference.

The Student Representative were presented with an abundance of factual data and informational graphs explaining the current and future budget along with explanations of any changes being made, and the impacts those changes may have on individual campuses.

We appreciate the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on matters which impact our campus and student life as a whole and look forward to seeing this vision come to fruition in the coming academic year.

Sincerely,



Andrea Race  
Student Government President, Detroit Lakes Campus  
Andrea.race@go.minnstate.edu



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# Minnesota State

## Community and Technical College

Minnesota State Board of Trustees

500 Wells Fargo Place  
30 East Seventh Street

St. Paul, MN 55101

May 20, 2024

Chair Moe,

This letter, as requested by the Minnesota State Student Consultation Policy 2.3, is an outline of the budget consultation that Minnesota State Community & Technical College Vice-President of Finance and Facilities Pat Nordick presented to the Fergus Falls and Wadena members attending the 2023-2024 budget consultations including Student Government Association (SGA) Advisor Suzie Lundsten, SGA President, John Runningen, SGA Executive Board, and SGA Senators from Moorhead and Detroit Lakes campuses.

On Wednesday, April 25th, CFO Pat Nordick and President Carrie Brimhall wrapped up their consultation meetings with the Student Government Association over zoom. Mr. Nordick laid out the current state of M State's budget and the different scenarios the college could be facing depending on how the allocation pan out in St. Paul. Through a detailed presentation, he did his best to help us understand the many contributing factors affecting the budget and what can occur from the three different allocation totals.

As always, we appreciate the opportunity to be consulted on the matters that will impact our fellow students through the decisions made about the budget and the separate possible allocations. Rest assured that we had an incredibly positive experience during our consultation meetings and were given adequate time to respond and ask much-needed questions. We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on these decisions and ask that you continue to look out for students' needs. It was an absolutely positive experience and we support the vision that Mr. Nordick and President Brimhall have for M-State.



Student Government President- Fergus Falls and Wadena Campuses  
John Runningen



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and an Equal Opportunity Educator / Employer.

Toll Free: 877.450.3322

[minnesota.edu](http://minnesota.edu)

# Minnesota State

## Community and Technical College

---

May 20, 2024

Chair Moe and the Board of Trustees,

Per the request by the Minnesota State Student Consultation Policy 2.3.1, this letter is an outline of the budget consultation that Minnesota State Community and Technical College's Vice President of Finance and Facilities, Pat Nordick, and President Carrie Brimhall, presented to the M State Moorhead SGA regarding the Fitness Center Budget.

Pat Nordick, Minnesota State Community and Technical Colleges Vice President of Finance and Facilities, met with the Student Government Association on two separate occasions to discuss the college budget and the Fitness Center revenue bond.

The fee for the Fitness Center will continue at the rate of \$6.00. The funds will continue to cover the annual cost of operating the Fitness Center, staff salary, and paying off the revenue bond.

Sincerely,

*Amelia Ebsen*

Amelia Ebsen

M State Moorhead Student Government Association President



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# Minnesota State

## Community and Technical College

---

May 20, 2024

Chair Moe and the Board of Trustees,

Per the request by the Minnesota State Student Consultation Policy 2.3.1, this letter is an outline of the budget consultation that Minnesota State Community and Technical College's Vice President of Finance and Facilities, Pat Nordick and President Carrie Brimhall, presented to the M State Moorhead SGA.

Pat Nordick, Minnesota State Community and Technical Colleges Vice President of Finance and Facilities, met with the Student Government Association on two separate occasions to discuss the college budget. We understand that there is a tuition freeze at this time and are supportive of the freeze.

Sincerely,

*Amelia Ebsen*  
Amelia Ebsen

M State Moorhead Student Government Association President



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## MSUM Student Consultation Letter FY25

**Nora Simondet**  
**Student Body President**  
**05.09.2024**

Chancellor Olson and Members of the Board of Trustees,

In accordance with MN State Board Procedure 2.3.1, I present the following letter regarding the FY25 student consultation on the University budget, student fees, and tuition rates.

**Consultation Process:** This spring, budget managers came to Student Senate and Student Fee Review Committee (SFRC) to present their budget requests. Through this process, students were presented relevant information and context for each fee area, and we believe we have arrived at an informed decision, as detailed below. Several principles guided this year's recommendations. First, a desire to account for inflationary increases and their impacts on fee areas. Finally, continued affordability for students remained a priority, as we view this as an important component of equity and opportunity for all students.

With the above in mind, below are Student Senate's recommendations related to tuition and fees for FY25.

### Recommendations

- I. **Tuition:** Student Senate recognizes there is a tuition freeze. We are appreciative of the freeze in tuition but understand the realities of enrollment impacts and financial constraints and how that impacts overall fees when tuition is frozen.
- II. **Non-Discretionary Fees:** Except for the Athletics fee, Student Senate voted to support the recommendations of the Student Fee Review Committee regarding the following non-discretionary fees, for a total of a 5.85% increase per credit from all fees combined.
  - a. **Athletics Fee**
    - i. Student Senate voted to support a 19% increase to the Athletics Fee, to \$6.13/credit from \$5.15/credit. This increase passed via a student referendum that was held April 10- 17, 2024, in conjunction with Student Senate elections.
  - b. **Comstock Memorial Union (Student Union) Fee**
    - i. Student Senate supports an increase for the Comstock Memorial Union Fee to \$15.34/credit from \$14.75 per credit. While this is not the entire request, we recognize the importance of this space used extensively by students. We believe that they have a healthy reserve that can be used to cover budgetary deficits if needed.
  - c. **Counseling Services/Health Services Fee**
    - i. Student Senate supports maintaining the current fee rate of \$7.00/per credit the Counseling Services/Health Services requested. They didn't ask for an increase because they have a healthy reserve, receive other funds to support mental health, and the committee and Student Senate thought it was a fair amount.





**d. Student Activity Fee**

- i. Student Senate supports increasing the Student Activity Fee to \$8.49/credit from \$8.32/credit. This increase is within the 2% cap and maintains affordability for students.

**e. Student Technology Fee**

- i. Student Senate recommends an increase to \$12.00/credit from \$10.50/credit for the Student Technology Fee. We are not supportive of the full requested increase due to this fee being charged on all credits. Also, we do not support a \$2.00 increase in one year.

**f. Wellness Center Fee**

- i. Student Senate supports maintaining the current fee rate of \$11.65/per credit the Wellness Center requested. We considered the impact of finishing debt payments by FY26 and supported utilizing their healthy reserve to cover projected budgetary deficits if needed.

**g. Sustainability Fee**

- i. Student Senate supports increasing the Sustainability Fee to \$1.60/per credit from \$1.40/per credit. We understand this isn't the full amount they asked for, since it was a new fee established last year, we think it's beneficial to not raise it more than \$0.20. Even though it is a 14.2% increase, the committee thought it was reasonable to continue to support student priorities in regard to sustainability efforts at MSUM.

**III. Commencement**

- a. Student Senate supports a \$3 increase in the Commencement Fee from \$32 to \$35. Our rationale included several key factors. First, we wanted to align with the current US inflation rate. Secondly, we believe it is important to encourage students to walk – students were concerned that increasing the fee significantly would create a barrier for some students. We are aware of available emergency funds for students, but the concern here is more related to students being discouraged to walk due to cost, even if they may be able to technically afford it. We are open to increasing this fee over time as opposed to a \$23.00 increase in a single year. In the spirit of affordability and sustainability, Student Senate also would like to provide the following suggestions for cost reductions in the future:
  - i. Include QR codes on programs for lengthy sections, such as individual graduate information, to use less paper and or when students fill out their graduation forms to add a question on how many they want for their family.
  - ii. Print less programs, the ratio is 5:1 for programs to students.

**IV. International Student Services Fee**

- a. Student Senate supports an increase to the International Student Fee from \$213 to \$215 per semester. We were concerned that the proposed increase would negatively impact international students. Based on budget information provided, the amount of \$215 per semester would leave them a net positive \$1,000 for emergency expenses. Additionally, Student Senate felt the healthy reserve they have can already help with unplanned expenses.

**V. Parking Fee**



- a. Student Senate supports a 5% increase to the Parking Fee for FY25. This is recommended because anything less would put them in a deficit.

**VI. Housing & Residential Life and Learning Communities Fee**

- a. Student Senate supports a 4% increase to room rates with the addition of choosing option 2 for Board rates that would make the Unlimited/\$150 \$3,890, 200 Block/\$100 \$3,594, 120 Block/\$200 \$3,411, and 50 Block/\$150 be \$2,031. We support these increases based on inflationary impacts and accessibility for all students.

**VII. First Year Programs Fee**

- a. Student Senate supports the proposed increase to the First Year Programs Fee from \$150 to \$175. Our discussions with first-year students revealed the value that SOAR is an important time for students to connect to the campus. The Senate recommends that the First Year Programs pay for the students' meals and have the parents/families pay for their own meals.

**Final Thoughts:** In conclusion, Student Senate made informed recommendations this year. The network/Wi-Fi outage affected when budget managers could present their information and created challenges with our timeline however, we were able to still engage in thoughtful consultation. The Senate would like to thank the individual budget managers for their dedication to providing Student Senate with detailed breakdowns and context. The consultation process went smoothly, outside of the condensed timeframe impacted by the network outage.

Sincerely,

Minnesota State University Moorhead Student Body President Nora Simondet

May 2, 2024

Chancellor Olson and the Board of Trustees,

This letter is intended to serve as proof of the student consultation process at Minnesota State University, Mankato, regarding student fees for the 2024-2025 academic year. The Student Government at MNSU approved a 7.22% cumulative increase in student fees with the student body's support. This fee recommendation amounts to a \$3.40 per credit hour increase from \$47.07 to \$50.47 per credit, banded at \$608.08 per term. The 91<sup>st</sup> Student Government worked diligently to ensure that with this sizeable increase, a student wage increase would be feasible without harming the departments, as well as this increase includes minimal withdrawal from the reserves. Each section below outlines the rationale behind the decisions made by Student Government during the FY25 Student Fees process.

### **Student Activity Fee**

During the Student Government election on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, **77.15% of the 1,099** students who participated in referendum voting, voted to **approve** the student government's recommendation of an **11.86% increase** in the Student Activity Fee rate for next academic year. This results in a **\$1.04 increase per credit hour from \$8.77 to \$9.81, banded at \$117.72 per semester**. The amounts listed here also reflect the approval of the Sustainability Fee which will be outlined below.

The Student Allocation Committee (SAC) met weekly to receive budget presentations from all of the Student Activity Fee-funded departments, reviewed their budget requests, and provided recommendations to the Student Government. Their recommendation was followed closely by the Student Government, ensuring that full-time staff salaries and benefits were accounted for, student worker pay sees an increase, and the continued support for the basic needs of our students were all prioritized when considering the SAC recommendation during the Student Governments March 20<sup>th</sup> Budget Hearing.

Although the increase to the Student Activity Fee is striking, it is also necessary. Student Government took into consideration numerous variables that will continue to support the affordability that current, and future, students look for when coming to MNSU. A few of these variables included the continued tuition freeze for our undergraduate students through FY 25, increased campaigning for Open Educational Resources to reduce textbook costs, the North Star Promise, and the approval for the South Dakota Reciprocity Scholarship that will allow MNSU to continue to support college affordability while easing the many frustrations and struggles experienced during the recent FAFSA changes and delays.

### **Intercollegiate Athletic Fee**

During the Student Government election on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, **77.01% of the 1,099 students** who participated in the referendum, voted to **approve** the student government approved recommendation and endorsed a 21.83% increase to the intercollegiate athletics fee. This results in a **\$1.00 increase per credit hour from \$4.58 to \$5.58, banded at \$66.96 per term.**

The Student Government, student body, and student-athletes have representation on the Intercollegiate Athletic Fee Advisory Committee to ensure adequate student consultation and to provide feedback to the department. The Director of Athletics, Kevin Buisman, and Senior Associate Athletic Director, Scott Nelsen, also conducted multiple meetings with the President and Vice President of the Student Government and the Student Athletic Advisory Committee leadership to ensure the student's voice was included in fee discussion.

### **Centennial Student Union Fee**

The Centennial Student Union (CSU) Board proposed decreasing the student union fee by 0.9% or \$0.09 per credit from \$10.52 to \$10.43, banded at \$125.16 per term. The Student Government approved of this decrease after consultation with the CSU Board and the Director of the Student Union, Mark Constantine. The fee decrease follows their mission to be responsible stewards of student dollars. In years prior, they have proposed decreasing their fee to ensure responsible use of student fee dollars. In addition, the Student Government and student body received thorough consultation on the CSU board and public Student Senate meetings.

### **Student Health Services Fee**

Student government approved the increase of 8.00% or \$0.45 per credit from \$5.63 to \$6.08, banded at the maximum of \$72.96 per term. Student Health Services provides healthcare options to the entirety of the student body and has worked diligently to diversify its revenue to keep fee increases low, even at a time of rising healthcare costs. In addition, the Student Health Advisory Board has student involvement opportunities and provides the Student Government with extra consultation and feedback on the fee and center operations. We greatly appreciate the work of Student Health Services to include students in decision-making and provide services and education that are easily accessible to the entire student body.

### **Technology Fee**

Student government approved the increase of 8.3% or \$0.50 per credit from \$12.00 to \$13.00, banded at \$156.00 per term. Student Government representatives have worked closely with the IT department at MSU-Mankato through the Technology Fee Advisory Committee to ensure thorough student consultation and involvement throughout the year. This increase was necessary to combat rising inflation and ensure that IT services meet today's students' needs in a rapidly changing technological world. Beyond consultation and involvement in the Tech fee process, the Student Government has also worked with the IT department to develop goals for the coming

years. The Student Government appreciates the work and partnership of the IT department to support students on campus and their responsible use of student fee dollars.

### **Sustainability Fee**

In the Fall semester, Student Government, after a three-week process that included receiving education by former Vice President Richard Straka, approved establishing the Sustainability Fee. In its inaugural year, this fee will be utilized to support the former Green Fee which made the Mankato Transit System busses free to ride for students. This provides students with the ability to travel across the city while minimizing their carbon footprint. This fee was approved by the Student Government to be set at \$1.44 per credit hour, banded at \$17.28 per semester.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to email me at [sierra.roiger@mnsu.edu](mailto:sierra.roiger@mnsu.edu).

Best,

Sierra Roiger

91st Student Government President

Minnesota State University, Mankato

May 2, 2024

Chancellor Olson and the Board of Trustees,

This letter is intended to serve as proof of the student consultation process at Minnesota State University, Mankato, regarding Residential Life room and board rates for the 2024-2025 academic year. Resident room rates will increase between 1.5% to 2.8%, and meal plan (board) rates will increase between 4.78% and 5.44% for FY25.

The Director of Residential Life, Cindy Janney, conducted multiple meetings with the Student Government President, Vice President, and Senators, along with the Residence Hall Association President and General Assembly, throughout the year and provided additional information as requested by the student leaders of both groups.

The Residence Hall Association (RHA), the student organization made up of elected members from each floor, was heavily involved in the room and board rate process and had the opportunity to vote on recommendations, including front desk supplies and floor amenities. After the Director of Residential Life attended multiple RHA, the advisory association voted to approve the recommended increases.

Following approval from RHA, the Student Government Residential Life Senators were thoroughly consulted at private committee meetings with the Director of Residential Life and attended the weekly meetings to promote student engagement. The Student Government was also consulted at the Student Affairs Committee meeting and the weekly public Student Senate meeting. RHA and the Student Affairs Committee reported adequate consultation about the proposed FY25 Residential Life room and board rates.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to email me at [sierra.roiger@mnsu.edu](mailto:sierra.roiger@mnsu.edu).

Best,

Sierra Roiger

91st Student Government President

Minnesota State University, Mankato

May 2, 2024

Chancellor Olson and the Board of Trustees,

This letter is intended to serve as proof of the student consultation process at Minnesota State University, Mankato, regarding undergraduate and graduate tuition rates for the 2024-2025 academic year. The administration of MNSU has informed Student Government leadership that the undergraduate tuition rate will continue to be frozen due to state funding support during the previous legislative session, but the graduate tuition rate would increase by 3.9%.

As the official voice of students at Minnesota State University, Mankato, the Student Government, specifically the President, Vice President, and Executive cabinet, was thoroughly consulted on the proposed increases to tuition rates for the next academic year. Since the start of the year, there have been numerous consultations and meetings held, including monthly meet and confer meetings, University budget sub-meet and confers. Numerous meetings were held at the request of student government leadership with the former Vice President of Finance and Administration, Rick Straka, the new Vice President of Finance and Facilities, Anne Gillespie, the Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Dr. David Jones, and President Inch.

The 91<sup>st</sup> Student Government at Minnesota State University, Mankato, understands the necessity of the proposed 3.9% increase in the graduate tuition rate. Student Government will continue to work, in partnership with University Administration, to pursue avenues to lower the burden rising tuition rates have on our graduate students. The Minnesota State University, Mankato Student Government also looks forward to continuing to support the Minnesota State budget requests in any way we can.

Additionally, the Student Government is excited to continue exploring numerous ways to support our graduate students as they have undertaken numerous tuition increases. These increases have happened without seeing an increase to the graduate assistantship stipends. We look forward to the continued conversations surrounding such crucial aspects of what makes MNSU the school of choice for so many.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at [sierra.roiger@mnsu.edu](mailto:sierra.roiger@mnsu.edu).

Best,

Sierra Roiger

91<sup>st</sup> Student Government President

Minnesota State University, Mankato



"Prepares learners for a lifetime of success."

May 1, 2024

Board of Trustees  
 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities  
 500 Wells Fargo Place  
 30 7<sup>th</sup> St. E – Suite 350  
 St Paul, MN 55101

Dear Board of Trustees,

This letter is to inform you the Minnesota West, Canby Campus, Student Senate has completed and has participated in our duty in the Student Budget Consultation process. Our Student Senate has gone over the financials presented by the Director of Financial Services, Diana Fliss, Vice President of Finance, Matthew Kibbon, and Dean of Equity, Inclusion, and Student on May 1, 2024 at 12:00 PM.

Our Student Senate understands how tuition and fees are established and how they are factored each year. We appreciate the efforts of the administration and we are grateful for the time spent explaining the tuition and fees information presented to us.

Sincerely,

Anthony Johnson  
 Student Senate President, Canby Campus



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4/9/2024

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

Dear Board of Trustees,

My fellow students and I from the Granite Falls campus, would like to thank everyone who attended and participated in this year's budget consultation meeting. During this meeting, we discussed our school's financial situation. We learned about Minnesota West's budget, tuition, and how they are calculated and dispersed. This data is important to all students to help us better understand our school and other schools in the state. This information was beneficial not only to the students who attended, but also especially for those of us in the student senate. We, the student senate, now have more relevant data and information on how our system works. This in turn will help us use and disperse funds more effectively. Diana Fliss led this meeting and made sure there was open and clear communication. Questions were taken and answered thoughtfully, so we the students felt heard. Once more, a sincere thank you to the Board of Trustees and everyone who contributed to this meeting.

Sincerely,  
Samantha Youngs

Dear Chancellor and whom it may concern,

On behalf of the student body, I would like to thank Diana Fliss for hosting the meeting to discuss the tuition consultation. The response I received from other students tells me everyone was well informed and appreciated the effort of all the individuals it took to put the presentation together. This presentation helps us, as students, to understand the finances of 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 at every option possible to help keep Minnesota West growing strong in a financial position and yet sustain where we are currently.

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

Owen Grant

Student Senate President

Minnesota West Community & Technical College

Jackson, Minnesota 56143

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

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 and budget consultation process at Minnesota West Community and Technical College—Pipestone Campus.

The consultation was held with the student senate officers and any students who wanted to attend April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, with Diana Fliss and Matthew Kibbon presenting a detailed power point outlining the information regarding tuition, the financial health and planning, enrollment and allocation history, and a better understanding of the reserves and fund balances.

After the consultation meeting, students had 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 an affordable education and the best education possible.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding Minnesota West Community and Technical College student consultation process. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Nathalia Quilantan, Student Senate President, [nathalia.quilantan@live.mnwest.edu](mailto:nathalia.quilantan@live.mnwest.edu)



April 18, 2024  
 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 at Minnesota West Community and Technical College- Luverne Center.

The consultation was held with students on April 8, 2024, with Diana Fliss, Director of Financial Operations, presenting a detailed power point outlining the information regarding tuition, the financial health and planning, enrollment and allocation history, and a better understanding of the reserves and fund balances. Dr. Arthur Brown, College Provost, and Matthew Kibbon, Vice President of Finance & Facilities, were also present to answer any questions.

After the consultation meeting, students had 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 an affordable education and the best education possible.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding Minnesota West Community and Technical College student consultation process. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brynn Peterson  
 Student Senate President  
[brynn.peterson@live.mnwest.edu](mailto:brynn.peterson@live.mnwest.edu)



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Board of Trustees  
 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities  
 500 Wells Fargo Place  
 30 7<sup>th</sup> Street East- Suite 350  
 St. Paul, MN 55101-7804

Dear Board of Trustees:

This letter is to inform you that the Minnesota West student senates has gotten participated and completed their duty in the consultation process. Our student senate met as a group on Wednesday April 17th, 2024 and went over the financial information that was supplied to the Worthington Student Senate. We also had our president participate in the student senate consultation zoom call held on Wednesday April, 19<sup>th</sup>. Diana Fliss presented information to Student senate advisors and students at the April 17th meeting.

The Minnesota west student body understands how the tuition rates and fees are established and how they are factored each year. Minnesota West also appreciates the efforts put forth by the current administration and appreciates the time spent explaining the process in detail.

Sincerely,

Courtney Moser  
 Minnesota West Community & Technical College  
 Worthington Campus  
 Student Senate President



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Chancellor Scott Olson  
 Office of the Chancellor  
 Minnesota State College & Universities  
 30 7th Street East, Suite 350  
 Saint Paul, MN 55101

*Chancellor Scott Olson:*

*As per the directive outlined in Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board policy 2.3, which delineates the engagement of students in decision-making processes, this communication delineates the recent budget consultation undertaken both virtually and in person for Normandale Community College (NCC) located in Bloomington, Minnesota.*

*The consultation session convened with our esteemed college President, Dr. Joyce Ester, on April 1st, spanning from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. Present at this pivotal gathering were eminent student leaders representing the Student Senate: Hope Durenberger, Leandro Idiarte, Tenzin Gyaldatsang, Miriam Zedania, Kenia Reyes, and Mohamed Ali. Alongside them, key figures including Jill Boldenow – Vice President of Administration, Dara Hagen – Vice President of Student Affairs, Kristina Keller – Vice President of Academic Affairs, Telly Mamayek – Vice President of Advancement, Leah Brink – Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, Colleen Cahill – Director of Student Life, Jordan Shoulders – Student Senate Advisor, and Genavieve Lawler – Student Senate Advisor.*

*During the deliberations, Jill Boldenow furnished an overview of the budgetary proceedings for the fiscal year 2024-2025. It was discerned that the administration opted against augmenting student fees, instead planning to initiate a referendum in the subsequent year to strategically allocate resources to cater to the evolving fiscal requisites within the realm of student life. Of notable significance, the student leaders expressed their enthusiasm upon learning about forthcoming renovations slated for the library and science departments, which encompass enhancements such as new IT facilities and classrooms, alongside advancements in dental and nursing programs.*

*In essence, this gathering served as a platform to address queries and concerns, fostering an environment conducive to refining services for the student body. We extend an open invitation for any inquiries or feedback pertaining to this correspondence or the consultation process with Normandale Community College (NCC) and its student representatives.*

*Warmest Regards,*



**Hope Durenberger**

Student Senate President  
 Department of Student Life  
 Normandale Community College  
<https://rb.gy/kdmh7>





## STUDENT FEES AND BUDGET CONSULTATION LETTER

May 10, 2024

Dear Chancellor Olson and Trustees,

As requested by Minnesota State'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. The Student Senate felt that the various leaders and committees who presented and engaged with us about the budget and college plans were informative. We appreciated being able to ask questions and also to provide feedback and input on next year's budget and the plans for using student fees as well.

Our Student Senate is pleased overall with the budget consultation process on campus and in the following budget areas this year.

As a Student Senate, we state:

- We as a Student Senate brought forth the ask to consider the increase of the Student Life Fee. In consultation with College Administrators, the Student Senate and the Student Life Budget Committee, a proposal was submitted, voted on and approved on our campus for a two-year Student Life fee increase of 2% each year. We recognize there have been inflation costs and costs for services and food are rising, and we wanted to meet those needs. The areas we would like to see the fee increases be focused on are more direct support to student-led groups and activities, so there is more funding for student participation and engagement. The students on the committee overall were very happy with the experience participating and felt they learned a lot about the campus, the budget needs, and how they can help all student groups understand spending and planning more.
- The Health Fee Committee presented the proposed budget and we support the plans presented. We continue to support the use of the health fee to fund mental health and basic needs positions, and we are excited to see the fee expanded with the ideas of supporting more physical health needs as proposed to benefit the well-being of students on campus.
- The Technology Fee presentation was helpful and informative in the ways the fee is used and what technology uses it supports on campus. We want to continue to see funding of student-facing technology, such as the mobile app for all students to utilize.
- The College Budget updates were provided two times, once each semester. We felt like they were clear and understandable. We did not have any concerns and appreciate all that was shared about our financial health as a college and all the updates throughout the year with software changes (Workday) and more plans that are impacting these areas. In addition, last year we asked for the college to focus more on providing increased professional tutoring support and academic supports for students. We were pleased to see that the College did hire an additional position in the tutoring area to help address science and math needs. We hope to see continued investment in academic supports and on the areas below we have identified as our priorities for the college.

We would like to see the following things in the future:

- Food Service has been a topic for a few years now. We appreciate the coffee shop coming back to campus and highly encourage the college to work towards getting a food service provider back in the Campus Center.
- We would like to see the college to continue looking for ways to support affordable housing for students, transportation options such as subsidized bus passes or other transportation supports, and childcare services or childcare partnerships. We see these as major barriers to ourselves and our peers.
- This year, we have enjoyed seeing student engagement start to increase and enrollment getting better. We hope the college can continue both of these things and do more events like Pathways Day to have full campus engagement. These events bring students together and provide opportunities for us to see ways to get involved and provides a reason to care about connecting to campus.
- We appreciate the contributions of Phi Theta Kappa as an active student organization. After this has come up on the Student Life Budget Committee as a topic in ongoing ways, we would suggest that the College explore how to fund the program with less student fee dollars and more from the college budget so students are not put in a predicament where it feels like students versus students to fund the rising cost of maintaining a five-star chapter status and supporting other student organization requests.

Thank you for continuing to ask for Student Senate's opinion on the College Budget Consultation and related processes. We appreciate sharing the student voice and perspective. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

*Sylvester Jah &  
the NHCC Student Senate*

Sylvester Jah  
2023-2024 Student Senate President  
[SenatePresident@nhcc.edu](mailto:SenatePresident@nhcc.edu)





**East Grand Forks Campus**  
2022 Central Avenue NE  
East Grand Forks, MN 56721  
Phone: 218.793.2800

**Thief River Falls Campus**  
1101 Highway One East  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701  
Phone: 218.683.8800

Katelynn Kovarik, East Grand Forks Student Senate  
Northland Community and Technical College  
2022 Central Ave NE  
East Grand Forks, MN 56721

April 22, 2024

Board of Trustees  
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities  
30 East 7th Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101-7804

Dear Trustees,

My name is Katelynn Kovarik, and I am the East Grand Forks campus student senate representative from Northland Community and Technical College. In this letter, I have outlined the consultation process for the 2024/2025 school year.

The East Grand Forks student senate had the opportunity to consult with President Dr. Sandy Kiddoo and Kalen Wiseth on April 29<sup>th</sup> 2024, and April 8th 2024. These consultations occurred during our regularly schedule meetings and prior notice was provided to senate members. Additionally, calendar invites were sent to senate members confirming the date, time, and location. All of our questions were clearly answered, and materials were provided for our review. The student senate was aware of the current financial strain of the college and had the opportunity to follow up with Dr. Kiddoo at the second meeting.

The materials provided during the consultation guided our conversation and provided a quality foundation for the discussion. The conversation was open, welcoming, and respectful.

The East Grand Forks student senate supports the college's need to increase fees and is hopeful for support from the Minnesota legislature to meet funding needs. The student senate voted in favor of fee increases and took no formal position on a tuition increase. The senate members would prefer not to have a tuition increase, however; are realistic about the increasing costs and the potential necessity for an increase.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide information regarding the consultation process at Northland Community and Technical College and to serve as President of the East Grand Forks Student Senate.

Sincerely,

Katelynn Kovarik, East Grand Forks Student Senate  
Tu5281oq@go.minnstate.edu

**A MEMBER OF MINNESOTA STATE**

1.800.959.6282 | northlandcollege.edu

**NORTHLAND**  
COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE**East Grand Forks Campus**  
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Phone: 218.793.2800**Thief River Falls Campus**  
1101 Highway One East  
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Phone: 218.683.8800

Caleb Mitton, Thief River Falls Student Senate  
Northland Community and Technical College  
1101 Highway One East  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701

April 4, 2024

Board of Trustees  
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities  
30 East 7th Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101-7804

Dear Trustees,

My name is Caleb Mitton, and I am the Thief River Falls campus student senate representative from Northland Community and Technical College. In this letter, I have outlined the consultation process for the 2024/2025 school year.

The Thief River Falls student senate had the opportunity to consult with President Dr. Sandy Kiddoo and Kalen Wiseth on March 19, 2024, and April 23, 2024. These consultations occurred during our regularly scheduled meetings and prior notice was provided to senate members. Additionally, calendar invites were sent to senate members confirming the date, time, and location. All of our questions were clearly answered, and materials were provided for our review. The student senate was aware of the current financial strain of the college and had the opportunity to follow up with Dr. Kiddoo at the second meeting.

The materials provided during the consultation guided our conversation and provided a quality foundation for the discussion. The conversation was open, welcoming, and respectful.

The Thief River Falls student senate supports the college's need to increase fees and is hopeful for support from the Minnesota legislature to meet funding needs. The student senate voted in favor of fee increases and took no formal position on a tuition increase. The senate members would prefer not to have a tuition increase, however; are realistic about the increasing costs and the potential necessity for an increase.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide information regarding the consultation process at Northland Community and Technical College and to serve as President of the Thief River Falls Student Senate.

*Caleb Mitton*

Sincerely,  
Caleb Mitton, East Grand Forks Student Senate  
caleb.mitton@go.northlandcollege.edu

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Board of Trustees

5-3-2024

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

30 E 7th St #350

St Paul, MN 55101

As requested by Minnesota State Board Policy 2.3 (Student Consultation), VP for Finance and Administration Krisi Fenner came to Northwest Technical College on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to talk about the budget for the upcoming 2024-2025 academic school year for Minnesota State Colleges & Universities. This letter serves as acknowledgment that consultation of tuition and fees has occurred at Northwest Technical College.

Vice President for Finance and Administration, Krisi Fenner, met with the NTC Student Senate on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and returned to the NTC Student Senate on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 to answer any further questions. Much discussion took place about the budget, possible tuition hikes or freezes, and the current standing on the government negotiations taking place within the House and Senate and Governor. The NTC Student Senate voted to increase the NTC Student Activity fee by \$0.03. This took place after much discussion and a formal vote with the Student Senate Advisor Melissa Heglund present.

The NTC Student Senate feels very informed by VP Krisi Fenner and she has been very helpful in answering our questions and making herself available for any more information or questions. Northwest Technical College Student Senate would like to thank VP Krisi Fenner for answering all questions and providing us with information.

Sincerely,

NTC Student Senate President: Elle Wilkerson





04/10/2024

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

Dear Chair Moe,

As requested by System Procedure 2.3.1: Minnesota State Student Involvement in Decision-Making, this letter will outline the budget consultation process that recently took place at Pine Technical & Community College.

The consultation meeting took place on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, where I met with our Campus Finance Officer, Janis Wegner, and our VP of Administration, Frank Christopherson.

Firstly, I would like to bring to your attention the approved increase in the student life fee. After Leadership proposed the increase, student senate educated the campus and had a referendum vote. We have implemented a \$2 increase, raising the fee from \$3.40 to \$5.40. This adjustment was undertaken with the aim of enriching the student experience and enhancing campus amenities.

We discussed our college budget and I was provided detailed documentation on where funds were allocated. We then went into further discussion on proposed increases of fees and differentials. Ms. Wegner and Mr. Christopherson proposed adjustments to parking fees. As you are aware, these fees are crucial for financing essential services such as snow plowing and maintenance of parking facilities. They proposed a 3.1% increase, equating to a \$0.13 increase from \$4.22 to \$4.35. This adjustment is necessary to ensure the continued upkeep and safety of our parking infrastructure.

There are 2 areas in which they are requesting a differential increase: Cyber Security and Network Administration. These requests are made due to program cost increases, primarily due to inflation of supplies and materials. Technology is constantly evolving and our program costs must keep up.

I trust that this overview provides you with a comprehensive understanding of the recent budget considerations within our institution. If you need any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joshua Rike".

Joshua Rike  
Student Senate President  
Pine Technical & Community College  
[joshua.rike@pine.edu](mailto:joshua.rike@pine.edu)

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

April 12th, 2024

Chancellor Olson and Trustees,

My name is Isabel Schultz, I am the Student Senate President at the Hutchinson Campus of Ridgewater College. As requested by Minnesota State's Student Consultation Policy (Board policy 2.3), this letter will outline the budget consultation process that recently took place at Ridgewater College Hutchinson during the 2023-2024 academic year.

Below are listed all of the meetings that the Student Senate has participated in to discuss the college's budget:

Monthly	EOV Meeting	Exchange of Views meetings with administration
03-12-24	Budget 101 Meeting	General college budget discussion
03-14-24	Student Life Budget Meeting	Discussed allocation of Student Life Fee dollars
03-21-24	Student Life Budget Meeting	Discussed allocation of Student Life Fee dollars

For the Budget 101 meeting, we, the Student Senate, thank Judy Tebben, Vice President of Finance and Operations, for organizing the meeting and the presentation that informed us about the college's finances. Ridgewater College will not be increasing its tuition in the coming school year.

In our EOV meetings where the Senate meets with administration, students were able to ask questions about various topics, and Judy Tebben brought up budget information when applicable. The members of the Hutchinson Student Senate are in agreement that Judy and the staff informed us in detail on the budget and were open and willing to answer any questions or concerns we had.

In our Student Life budget meetings, we discussed how the theatre would be getting 50% of its costs paid for by the Student Life budget and 50% paid by the general fund. Additionally, we discussed how athletics impacted the Student Life budget and how the general fund covers costs that exceed \$225,000. Everything else remained the same with the Student Life budget and student, staff, and faculty members on the committee agreed to move forward with a similar budget as the previous year. We were able to review the detailed budget spreadsheet on where the Student Life funds were allocated to. We feel that where the money was going made sense and any concerns we had were resolved through talking with the committee.

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

Sincerely,

Isabel Schultz  
Student Senate President  
Ridgewater College, Hutchinson Campus  
isabel.schultz@ridgewater.edu

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[www.ridgewater.edu](http://www.ridgewater.edu)

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

April 12, 2024

Chancellor Olson and Trustees,

As requested by the Minnesota State's student consultation policy, this letter will give an overview of the budget consultation process that took place at Willmar Ridgewater College and when the Student Senate met with administration over the academic year of 2023-2024.

The Willmar Student Senate first met with Judy Tebben, Vice President of Finance and Operations, for a Budget 101 meeting on February 28, 2024. During this meeting, she informed Senators about the upcoming Student Life budget meetings, as well as an overview of the budget and how the process works. After our Student Life Budget 101 meeting, we started our Student Life Budget meetings. During these meetings, we talked about both the Theatre and Athletic Department Budgets. The Senators wanted to keep the budget the same from last year as status quo. The committee supported our decision, and we approved a memo to Dr. Johnson.

In attendance at these budget meetings were William Baumann, Heather Marcus, Todd Thorstad, Heidi Olson, Angela Haas, and all Student Senators from both campuses. Judy Tebben gave us scenarios on what the general budget would look like if enrolment increased or decreased or stayed the same.

The Willmar Student Senate has met with the administration several times this past fall and current spring semester. These meetings are called exchange of views (EOV), where the Student Senate and administration come together to update one another on current events and other important information. The EOV meetings took place on October 16, November 2, January 25, March 1, and March 28.

In conclusion, the Student Life Budget Committee proposed the FY25 Student Life Budget to Dr. Johnson which has been approved. Willmar Student Senate feels well included, informed, and heard during the budget processes for Ridgewater College.

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

Sincerely,  
Abusufyan Harbi  
Student Senate President  
Ridgewater College Willmar  
[Abusufyan.Harbi@Go.Ridgewater.edu](mailto:Abusufyan.Harbi@Go.Ridgewater.edu)

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**To:** Board of Trustees- Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

**From:** Student Senate President, Eser Riewe

**Date:** 5/9/2024

**Subject:** Austin Tuition consultation Letter

Dear Chancellor:

As requested by the student consultation policy (Board policy 2.3), this letter will outline the tuition consultation process that recently took place at Riverland Community and Technical College-Austin campus.

Our Senate met with Riverland Community College administration to consult on the college budget on January 26, February 7, March 3, April 7, and April 22 of 2024. [Currently, the Albert Lea and Owatonna Campus do not have a Student Senate president, so the Austin Student Senate represented them during the 2024-2025 academic year.] These meetings were attended by The Dean of Students, Oscar González; Vice President of Finance and Operations, Brad Doss; Director of Athletics and Student Life, Logan Mann, and the Senate's executive board.

Background materials were provided by Brad Doss to the Senate, which included detailed spreadsheets illustrating the school budget.

No increases in tuition rates were proposed. The Administration proposed an increase in the Health Services fee by 50 cents to cover increase cost of Mental Health Counseling paid by college for students and a 15 cents increase in the Student Life fee to cover graduation expenses for students.

The consultation on the budget was sufficient for the Senate to have a lengthy discussion about the proposal and to make an informed decision.

Our Senate voted to increase the Health Services fee, and the Student Life fee. In addition to that, Senate also approved an increase in the amount that a student can pay for the Student Life fee from \$112.50 to \$114.75 per semester. We believe that the increase in these fees proposed by the Administration is worth it and will benefit the college in the future.

CFO Doss made himself available at any time for comments. Our views were factored into the Administration's budget plan, and both students and the Administration took the consultation process seriously.

Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments regarding Riverland Community and Technical College-Austin's tuition consultation process. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eser Riewe, Student Senate President

5/9/2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eser', enclosed within a large, loopy oval scribble.

April 28th, 2024



Dear Chancellor Olson,

It is with great honor that I inform you our President, Jeffery Boyd, and his cabinet have consistently met with the Executive Officers of Rochester Community and Technical College's Student Senate all throughout the 2023-2024 school year. These meetings between the President's Cabinet and that of Student Senate's showed how dedicated he and his cabinet are to the constant hearing of the concerns of the students of RCTC. In the same token, the college administrators did well to share what was currently being done to help students.

Each meeting gave us more than ample time to express the needs and suggestions from everyday students which in turn allowed us to work hand in hand with cabinet members in order to create feasible solutions to the concerns of students. Whatever questions we came up with were readily answered. We always felt not just listened to, but truly heard by each cabinet member. Cabinet members lead discussions about committees, budgeting, FYE and any other agenda items that required student consultations and would, when needed, suggest alternate paths and solutions to items within the Student Senate. The budget in particular was thoroughly explained to us by our Vice President of Finance and Facilities during Student Senate meetings with the inclusion of presentations.

It was amazing working with President Boyd and his cabinet and a great learning experience being Student Body President this year. A good and knowing work relationship with each member helped make the experience even better.

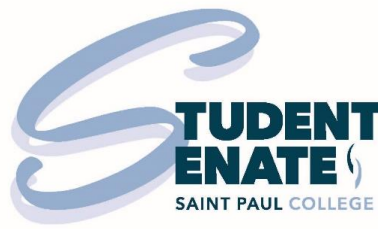
On behalf of the students of Rochester Community and Technical college, I would like to extend a big thank you for making our school the great one it is and for all the good work you do.

Best Regards,

*Lexine Adade*

Lexine Adade  
RCTC Student Body President 2023-2024





May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

Board of Trustees

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

30 7th St. E., Suite 350 Wells Fargo Place

St. Paul, MN 55101-7804

Dear Board of Trustees,

As the outgoing Senate President for the 2023-2024 student senate term, I was in attendance of some of the budget consultation meetings with the student senate and read minutes of the budget consultations I missed. 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 2025. The Vice President of Finance and Operations, Scott Wilson, consulted the Student Senate Executive Board and general student body throughout the spring of 2024, specifically March 6<sup>th</sup> and April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Additionally, the Senate Executive Board was consulted on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March and the 8<sup>th</sup> of May.

At these meetings we discussed:

- **Detailed information about enrollment projections for 2024-2025 and its effect on tuition rate**
- **Loss of the One-Time fund from the government and its impact on the biennial budget.**
- **The biennial budget deficit and how it can be absorbed through the college surplus and reserve funds.**
- **Tech Fee to remain the same at \$11 per student FYE, depending on changes in the needs of students.**

- **No intention to reduce services, especially technology services, in hopes that projected increase in enrollment will even the funds for the department.**
- **The approved bonding bill towards renovation of the school's facilities, especially on the ground floor.**
- **Other inflationary increases**

The presentation materials with detailed budget information used in the General Assembly and Student Senate Executive Board meetings were sent to me as President, and later distributed to the rest of the team. Scott Wilson was very responsive to feedback and meeting our needs throughout the process.

Sincerely,

Rejoice Udochukwu

President, Saint Paul College Student Senate

cc:

Scott Wilson, Vice President of Finance and Operations, Saint Paul College

Rebecca Kaarbo, Student Life Director, Saint Paul College

May 6th, 2024  
Board of Trustees  
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities  
500 Wells Fargo Place 30 East Seventh Street  
St. Paul MN 55101

To: Chancellor Scott Olson and The Minnesota State Board of Trustees:

Throughout the academic year, Roxy Traxler, Vice President of Finances & Operations through March of 2024, engaged with the Faribault and North Mankato Student Senate multiple times. Initially, in the Fall Semester, she addressed each Senate individually to discuss the MN State Bonding project and Student Support with the legislature. In March, Ms. Traxler and other representatives revisited both campuses to delve into strategic planning regarding the college's financial status and the change in the allocation of funds for maintaining financial stability in the college. They emphasized the impact it will have on the students and welcomed questions following her presentations, demonstrating a commitment to how it will impact the students.

We were shown how the school needed to cut and reallocate funds following the conclusion of the Covid relief funding. We were shown how the funds were being managed to drive the school on the correct course of actions for the future. Student input on fund management was solicited, with Roxy and other representatives attending multiple meetings throughout the semester to address inquiries. We are proud of the strengthening enrollment numbers at the school and the growth we are predicting in the future.

Dr. Parker and her administration's prioritization of student interests underscores their dedication to fostering an environment where student voices are valued. As student leaders, we extend gratitude to the board for facilitating opportunities to contribute feedback on campus operations, encouraging further dialogue through the Student Senate channels for any inquiries. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to either Student Senate.

Austin Knopik  
Student Senate President Faribault

Cassy Doyle  
Student Senate President North Mankato



DATE: February 2, 2024  
TO: Patrick Call, Executive Director of Residential Life  
FR: Arslan Malik, President of The Student Government Association  
SUB: Response to Housing & Dining Rates Proposal Presentation

Dear PC,

I trust this message finds you well. I want to extend our gratitude for your presence at the Student Government Association meeting and your comprehensive presentation on the proposed housing and dining rates for the upcoming academic year. Your efforts in elucidating the details and addressing the Senate's inquiries were greatly appreciated

After thorough deliberation during our scheduled Senate meeting held yesterday at 5:00 PM in the Atwood Alumni room, the Senate adopted a motion to vote on the proposed rates. I am pleased to inform you that, following the vote, **the Senate unanimously approved the proposed housing and dining rates**. This decision aligns with our commitment to meeting the diverse needs of students living on campus

Your collaboration in this matter has been invaluable, and we believe that the approved rates will contribute positively to the student experience. We are now in the process of drafting the letter of consultation for submission to the system office

Once again, thank you for your dedication to this important matter, and we look forward to continued collaboration in the future.

With deepest respect and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arslan Malik".

Arslan Malik  
President  
Student Government Association



**Student Government Association**  
720 4th Ave S, St. Cloud, MN 56301-4498  
T 320.308.3751

To: Chancellor Scott Olson  
Bill Maki, Vice Chancellor of Finance and Facilities,  
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

From: Arslan Malik, Student Government President

Date: Monday, May 20, 2024

Subject: Consultation Letter on Student Fees Budgets for FY25

[Minnesota State Board Policy 2.3](#) calls for student involvement in decision-making when issues have a significant impact on students. Within the letter is the consultation that the St. Cloud State University Student Government received regarding student activity fees and technology fees for FY25.

The Student Government Association at St. Cloud State University believes that student experience through the different student services department is critical for student success. There were multiple discussions that took place during our Senate meetings in which the committee presented budget plans for FY25.

Between April 7th and April 10th, during the SGA annual general elections, the Student Government hosted a referendum question regarding an increase of \$1.99 to the athletic fee, raising it to \$8.21 per credit for up to 9 credits for the Academic Year 2024-2025. The referendum question passed, approving the proposed increase.

At the April 18, 2024, Student Government meeting, Student Fee Committee presented their budgets for FY25. On April 25, 2024 in Student Government meeting, Student Fee Allocation Committee, the chairs and advisors of these committees presented the budget together highlighting the adjustments to the declining enrollment. The Senate asked questions about the allocations and chairs and advisors answered all questions and concerns of the student body. The Senate favored the proposed increases. They highlighted the importance of keeping cost of attendance affordable. Student Government Association appreciates and recognizes the consultation from the University Administration.

The Student Association at St. Cloud State University is satisfied with the level of consultation for FY25 student fees and budgets. The Student Association looks forward to the continued relationship among the students and administration in the future. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you have.

Cc: Larry k. Lee, Acting President  
Dan Dolombiecki, AVP for Finance and Administration  
Dr. Katrina Rodriguez Vice President of Division of Student Affairs and Student Government Advisor  
Dr. Jason Woods, Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management





A member of Minnesota State

Dear Chancellor:

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 budgetary consultation process. Vice President of Administration Jeff Wagner presented a number of scenarios for our institutional budget related to the 2024-2025 school year.

The SCTCC Student Senate was presented with an overview of the college budget as it relates to our tuition dollars. With tuition frozen for the 2024-2025 academic year, we had conversations about what that means for future budgets, how that compares to previous tuition cycles, how it pairs with funding cycles, and how our current and future tuition money will be used within the SCTCC budget. These conversations were helpful and informative in showing how the SCTCC budget comes together and where our tuition goes. We felt very comfortable with how the SCTCC administration makes these plans and felt our input was valued and appreciated.

Our Senate was also presented with proposals for increasing some of our student fees. Here is an overview of those discussions and the Senate's consultation meetings:

- Vice President of Administration Jeff Wagner presented on 2-28-24, 3-13-24, and 4-10-24 regarding SCTCC's budget, tuition, and our Parking Fee. There was a proposal to make an increase to the Parking Fee by \$0.25 to help facilitate re-paving and work on our parking lots. The Senate was in favor of this increase given it had not been increased in a long time and the necessity of improving our parking lots. Our discussions on tuition and the SCTCC budget were covered above.
- Campus Life Director Shaun Keeley presented the Student Activity fee on 3-13-24. There was a proposal to increase the Student Activity Fee to help cover increasing athletics costs, increasing our non-academic programming, and providing additional support for our student clubs. The Senate was in favor of this increase given all the new possibilities and options that will be available for students.



A member of Minnesota State

- Campus Life Director Shaun Keeley presented the Health Sciences Fee on 4-24-24. There was a proposal to increase this fee by a small amount to continue to be able to provide services in our Wellness Resources area and to further close the gap between expenses and income for this particular budget. The Senate was in favor of the increase to the fee to cover the gap so we can continue to have these services.
- College Information Officer Denise DeJuliannie presented the Technology fee on 4-10-24. There was a proposal to increase our Student Tech Fee to assist with upgrades to computer labs, classroom technology, and provide more student support through personnel. The Senate was in favor of this increase given the growing importance of technology to our success in the classroom.

Throughout the consultation process of discussing tuition and fees, the Senate was very satisfied. We felt those who presented from SCTCC and our SCTCC leadership were open to questions and input throughout the process. They were also clear about the cap on what these increases could entail in total, so even without exact figures for the fee increases, we feel the plan laid out for fees will benefit students directly and are in favor of the college moving forward with these plans. There was good conversation about the budget, the services we receive and where our money is currently going, along with where the increases will show direct impact and what students can expect in return.

Sincerely,

Tristan Lahn  
SCTCC Student Senate Representative

CC: SCTCC Student Senate





May 2, 2024  
 Chancellor Scott Olson  
 Minnesota State  
 500 Wells Fargo Place 30 East Seventh Street  
 St. Paul, MN 55101

Chancellor Olson,

I am writing to inform you of the consultation process that took place at Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU) this past academic year. I am deeply honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve as student body president and collaborate with the administration of Southwest Minnesota State University. Student involvement and advocacy are very important to me, and our administration ensured that students were involved in the decision-making process.

The Student Association at Southwest Minnesota State University were involved in the administrative processes. SMSU Student Association members were also involved in strategic planning, budget sessions, and position searches. We were consulted for feedback on tuition, room and board fees, and other fees. We also had voting student representatives on campus-wide committees. Jeremy Reed, the Associate Vice-President of Enrollment Management and Student Engagement, attended all of our meetings this past academic year.

President Kumara Jayasuriya held several All-University discussions on the University's current and future state. Students were given the opportunity to participate in these discussions, and their perspectives were considered carefully. As president of the student body, I met with the University President monthly to discuss university matters.

Southwest Minnesota State University students are extremely important to the institution. This is reflected in the University's ongoing efforts to provide students with a safe, diverse, and inclusive environment while also providing high-quality education.

Sincerely,

Samuel Lund

Southwest Minnesota State University Student Association President

CC: Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya, SMSU President  
 Mr. Jeremy Reed, the Associate Vice-President of Enrollment Management and Student Engagement



Chancellor Olson and Board of Trustees,

I am pleased to inform the Board of Trustees and the Chancellor that Winona State University Student Senate has been properly consulted on the increases regarding tuition and fees for the 2024-2025 academic year. This was done in accordance with the Minnesota State's student consultation policy (Board Policy 2.3).

The administration has gone through the proper processes put in place at Winona State University to ensure that all students have been informed and consulted. The first step taken was having student representation on the SFMC (Student Fee Management Committee). This committee consisted of four non-Student Senators, four Student Senators, the Student Senate Treasurer, and different university bargaining units. Each of the fee recommendations were put through the committee, and the committee then recommended an amount to the Student Senate.

The Winona State University Student Senate then could adopt, amend, or reject the proposals put forward by the SFMC. In each of the processes there was at least a week-long waiting period before voting on the proposal. This gave adequate time seek feedback from constituents on the proposals, as well as get enough information to make an informed decision.

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

- 5.9 % increase to the Health Services Fee (Approved on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024.)
- 10.06 % increase to the Athletics Fee (Approved on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.)
- 8.04 % increase to the Student Union Fee (Approved on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.)
- 5.53 % increase to the Wellness Center Fee (Approved on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024.)
- 0 % increase for Housing, a 2.75% increase to the 14 meal plan, and 10.67% increase to the anytime meal plan. (Approved on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024.)
- 5.03 % increase to the Technology Fee (Approved on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024.)
- 1.94 % increase to the Student Life Fee (Approved on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024.)
- 0 % increase to the undergraduate tuition (Approved on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024.)
- 3.5 % increase to the graduate tuition (Approved on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024.)

The conversations to get to these recommendations were lengthy and thoughtful. I am proud that our Student Senators took a copious amount of time to gather opinions from their constituents. The burden of the cost of post-secondary education is difficult on students, and these increased fees were not made lightly. If you have further questions please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for the work you do on behalf of students. It does not go unnoticed.

Always,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alizabelle Carman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alizabelle Carman ·  
President | Winona State University  
Student Senate  
[alizabelle.carman@go.winona.edu](mailto:alizabelle.carman@go.winona.edu)