Memo to: MCSA Forum Members
From: MCSA Executive Committee

The Forum will meet on Monday at 6:00 pm in Imholte 109 and Zoom.

Zoom link: z.umn.edu/MCSAForum. Please mute yourself when not speaking or voting.

Reminder that only current voting members are allowed to vote, make motions, and make seconds. However, all are encouraged to participate in discussions. Click here to check your voting eligibility in Forum.

MCSA core documents like the Constitution, Bylaws, and guide to Robert’s Rules can be found here.

This meeting came to order 6:00pm on Dec 6, 2021

I. Approve Agenda
   1) Kendra DeRosa
   2) Julia Scovil
   3) This motion passes

II. State of the Organization presented by President Julia Scovil

   Attendance is mandatory at meetings, part of being an elected representative is being present. If you have to be gone email ummmcsa@morris.umn.edu, and if it’s a committee week let your committee chair know as well.

   Academic Affairs has focused on the First Year Experience course by creating a survey and beginning discussions about revising the course and also discussed Gen Ed changes. The course is supposed to shape students academic experience at Morris, so it’s important to develop a good course. During the Spring semester they’ll get feedback on the First Year Experience course and decide on a Gen Ed plan that MCSA will support to get the process moving a bit quicker.

   Campus Relations has made advertisements for open positions and the Sustainability forum. They’ve started to plan for Prairie Gala. During the Spring Semester they will advertise
for 2022-23 elections (happening right before Spring Break), putting together Prairie Gala (reaching out to alumni and others who help with the event), and advertising for Tech Fee applications.

Resources and Operations put on the Sustainability Forum and began planning for the menstrual product referendum and tech fee. During the spring semester they will push the menstrual product referendum to get it put in place by the end of the year (letting student body know about it) and running tech fee.

Student Services has written a memo (Cal Mergendahl wrote the memo) about the public safety advisory committee, worked with sodexo about food concerns, and worked on MRX updates (elevator accessibility and signage). They will continue to work on the public safety advisory committee, MRC accessibility work, possibly pushing for lower food plan costs, and work on the tuition waiver video.

All University has worked on infrastructure by talking with Brayn Hermann about funding advocation and sending out the infrastructure survey ot the student body. They had sent the NATPP resolution to campus assembly and it is going through the University Senate.

The First Year Council is working on sustainability. They are working on reducing food waste with TRIO and Lily Sugimura by packing extra food and selling it/giving it to the food shelf. In April they will be doing a sustainability month with education and volunteering opportunities.

MCSA has also revised the Facebook forum guidelines, created Discord guideline creation, sent letters about Anti-Racism, Chauvin verdict, Native American Tuition Promise Program (NATPP), and SMHC (Sexual Misconduct Hearing Committee).

III. Approve Minutes: 11.29.21
1) Cal Mergendahl
2) John Barber
3) This motion passes

IV. Committee Reports

MCSA Committees

Academic Affairs

Vanessa: Encouraging those in the first year experience course to take the survey.

Campus Relations
Shelby: Brainstorming questions for the spring engagement survey Dave and Simon are working on.

Resources and Operations
Noelle: Everyone did great working on the sustainability forum. Noelle will be sending out a campus wide email about tech fee soon.

Student Services
Dylan: Drafted a letter to Rob Velde and Liz Thomson about the public safety advisory committee asking about the purpose/focus of the committee.

Executive Committee
Julia: Started planning for next semester. It will be discussed later in the forum.

First-Year Council
Ethan: Will meet and discussing Sodexo stuff and sustainability month after forum today.

All University
Dylan: Can access the survey through the university registrar newspaper and it will be posted on social media later this week. The survey will be used to determine what infrastructure problems should be focused on.

Campus Assembly Committees
    Membership
    Curriculum
John: Talked about Gen Eds and WLA. There is a subcommittee meeting tomorrow.

Finance
Shelby: Trying to work on changing the committee to focus on more general financial information instead of specific information so that the committee can working on advising solutions.

V. Organization Reports
    Black Student Union (BSU)
Naeem: Planning the International Fashion show and ??? dinner for the Spring Semester. Will let MCSA know if they need anything and can help with MCSA stuff as well.
Circle of Nations Indigenous Association (CNIA)
Jade: Planning Powwow
Morris Queer Student Initiative for Equality (MoQSIE)
Sloane: Planning for next semester and for the Drag Show
Students for a Democratic Society (SDS)
Cal: May be getting a new discord server soon

VI. Old Business

For Information

1) Memo on Public Safety Advisory Committee from the Student Services Committee.
liz: We’re in still in the early stages of the committee, so any assertion or communication is welcome, and we’re looking forward to great things in the Spring. We’re looking for more student participation in the committee, so look out for outreach efforts in early Spring.

MCSA was very vocal about academic stuff (S/N grading, classes over zoom, general academic flexibility, etc) during the pandemic, and a lot of students have said we’re not out of the pandemic. Surprised/concerned that there is not continued work around academic support surrounding the pandemic. This might be something that could be worked on during the Spring semester.

Dylan: This letter will shape our action around our work on the Public Safety Advisory Committee in the Spring. Will give an update when we hear back from liz thomson and Rob Velde.

2) Sustainability Forum Debrief
Noelle: The forum had way more people attend than expected. Thank you to the resources and ops committee and everyone else who helped out and showed up. Want to give out press release information about the forum to share with those who couldn’t come. Posting about the forum will also make sure everyone knows its an annual event.

Shelby: The forum was great. Keep track of how much was spent, and bump up the budget for next years.
Kenra: Going to put a note in the budget spreadsheet about uping the budget for next year
Cal: Have a more formal way to take attendance next year. If there’s as many people as there was this year let’s try to get Oyate.
Julia: It was cool to have community members come in and present.
Robert: On the exit survey there are only a few responses, but so far people have said they want a bigger space and to have more stuff. Should up the budget to be able to do that
Kenra: Can probably estimate attendance from the pictures
Shelby: Could send out a survey asking if people were at the forum to get an idea of attendance
Grace: There were at least more than 40 people because Grace handed out 40 pieces of paper
Noelle: Oyate or multiple spaces/bigger space would be good for next year. Planning to use the same survey from this year next year.
Dylan: Thank you everyone for the hard work put into this event

3) Fall Semester Debrief
Julia: Agree with liz that we could be doing more with covid, but it seemed like it was a hard semester because everyone thought we would be back to normal. Haven’t heard of anyone having a hard time because pandemic accommodations were overturned, but if you’ve heard any of that happening and negatively effecting students please share it

Cal: The main topic for the board of regents report will probably be the effects of covid, so this is a system wide priority

Henry: How serious is the omicron variant?

Griffin: Sounds like it could spread as easy as the common cold, but is less severe according to the Star Tribune. There’s a variation on the spike protein making it easier to spread, but symptoms seem similar to the common cold. Not as serious as other variants

Noelle: Was the build back better idea of keeping things that worked well during covid being worked on? There was the idea that flexibility and accessibility during covid should be kept up, don’t know if anyone is working on that.
Gabby: Looks like the Omicron variant is less concerning than Delta

Kenra: Some faculty aren’t using zoom anymore. When Kendra was quarantined she was unable to attend classes because some faculty didn’t give a zoom option. Should push for faculty to give that zoom option.

Shelby: Some people like that our campus has a lot of stuff in person, but there are also people in quarantine. There also is a need to help support faculty with technology because they are also struggling too.

Biz: When Biz had covid one of their professors never responded and some professors didn’t help with stuff.

Gabby: Had a professor be very flexible while she was in quarantine

Vanessa: Some professors suggested she still come to class while having a close contact through a roommate. There isn’t a clear way to prove that a roommate or close contact has covid so that students aren’t expected to come to class when they have a close contact.

Delaney: Professors should not be able to require attendance based on someone having a close contact because of HERPA violations

Julia: MDH said that if you have a close contact but are vaccinated you can still go to class, so the University goes on that policy and has shot down allowing students to not go to class if they have a close contact. Our discussions about this could be brought up next semester.

VI. New Business

For Information

1) Spring Semester Planning
2) Spring Transitions presented by the Executive Committee.
Dylan: We will have 3 vacancies in the executive committee. Julia, Shelby, and Noelle will be leaving MCSA after this semester. They have been very transparent and helped with planning, so there will be a smooth transition. Secretaries are chosen through interviews by the president and vice president. The vice president will become president, so Dylan will be the student body president next semester.

Julia: Will be in DC doing a political internship. Dylan has known about this for awhile, so everyone’s prepared for the transition. Julia will occasionally attend forum, and still be accessible through her school email and discord. It’s been really fun being a part of MCSA, and she’s really glad to see everyone tonight. Thanks everyone for being here in person.

Shelby: Will also be in DC doing a program through the national student exchange and working at a lobbying firm for Minnesota constituents. If you know anyone who’s good at planning events, encourage them to apply for the Campus Relations secretary position because they will be planning prairie gala. Will be back next year

Noelle: Will be leaving early March to go to Costa Rica for study abroad. Will be around if anyone has questions.

Dylan: Thank you Julia for all the work you’ve done the past four years and thank you all for the updates. We’ll be filling the secretary seats by having an application, then doing interviews with the president and vice president, and then will get the chosen applications approved by the forum. Prefers that the vice president is someone who can smoothly and quickly transition into the role and would be good in this role, so Grace Hiltner will be the new vice president.

Kenra: Will Grace be parliamentarian?
Dylan: No, we’ll have a new parliamentarian
Julia: Feel bad telling everyone late in the semester, but decided to wait so we could focus on the Sustainability Forum. Feel free to bring any concerns to Julia and Dylan.

IX.  **Announcements**

Cal: Orchestra Concert is 8pm today at the recital hall for free.
Vanessa: Need help for food packaging tomorrow at 5:30pm in the dining hall kitchen and need help distributing food this Wednesday at 7pm. Talk to Vanessa if you’d like to sign up. Link to sign up:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1KPRW4cfSrGfl74QnUJ76M-dzh0hWwAknWT
HHgfjPT-w/edit?usp=sharing

X. Adjournment