

# The Insider

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October 9, 2011



MINNESOTA  
STUDENT ASSOCIATION

## *Editor's Note*

This is the second edition of the internal MSA newsletter for the 2011-2012 year, published via email biweekly on Sunday or Monday. This newsletter is edited by the Director of Strategic Communication, Laura Smith. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact her at [smit5982@umn.edu](mailto:smit5982@umn.edu).

## :: PRESIDENT'S OFFICE ::

Lizzy Shay [[msaprez@umn.edu](mailto:msaprez@umn.edu)]

Hello Everyone,

I hope you are enjoying your week and are excited for committees this week. I just have a few announcements:

### **Exec Meeting Friday, October 6th @ 2.30PM**

Please submit any agenda items for Exec to me by Friday at 10.00 AM. As a reminder, this is an open meeting and all are welcome to attend.

### **Save the Date! - MSA Leadership Reception**

The MSA Leadership Reception will be November 19th, more details to follow soon.

### **MSA Interns**

It is my distinct pleasure to introduce our 3 MSA Interns: Alyssa Kong, Kevin Kitchen, and Chloe Philion. They will be helping the MSA Leadership with new initiatives and projects.

### **MSA Bylaw Revisions**

Attached to this week's *Insider* you will see Revisions to the MSA Bylaws. Please look them over and send me any commentary you would like Exec. to receive before we present them as a slate of changes to Forum on the 18th.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have about MSA and the U.

Thanks for all your hard work and commitment to student government, and have a great week!

## **:: VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE ::**

Colin Burke [colin.m.burke@gmail.com]

Steering Committee had a productive and enjoyable first meeting, discussing the jurisdiction of each committee, steering some choice issues to different committees, and approving just under \$5000 in Event and Operational Budget Grants. With the committee directors we currently have, you can all expect a very action-oriented year for the committees, gaining some services, policies, and outreach for MSA that we've never seen before.

If any member of Forum has any ideas or suggestions for a policy and service, e.g. requiring that faculty post syllabi three weeks before the semester begins, please tell your committee director or me, and we'll get to work on it.

If any member of Forum is interested in spray chalking those orange, "Safety Is Easy, The Pavement Is Hard" notices, please talk to Taylor Williams so he can set you up.

Hope everyone has a safe, fun week!

## **:: SPEAKER OF FORUM ::**

Drew Horwood [drewhorwood@gmail.com]

Just two short updates for this week:

- 1) All members of MSA who are not yet assigned to a committee, please show up 10 minutes early this Tuesday and we can find a committee for you.
- 2) We are always looking to expand our membership, and would love for all student groups to be represented in forum. If you are a member of any student groups not yet present at forum, please bring it up with your leadership! You need only 15 signatures (proof of enough members to count as a significant constituency) and the applications are in the MSA office above the mailboxes.

Drew Horwood  
Speaker of the Forum

## **:: EXECUTIVE BOARD ::**

Jilian Koski (At-Large Representative) [koski178@umn.edu]

For my first project, I am trying to increase underclassmen awareness in MSA. To do this, I am getting in touch with the Pioneer dining hall staff to schedule a MSA sponsored dinner. Our goal is to expose MSA to more underclassmen so they know what we can do to help them. Even though our University is so large, everyone can have a voice. Through MSA your voice can be heard. The dinner time will be posted at a later date. We hope to see you all there.

## **:: LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS ::**

Colter Heirigs [heir0014@umn.edu]

Nothing to report.

## **:: FACILITIES, TRANSIT & HOUSING ::**

Phil Kelly [kelly761@umn.edu]

The U of M Bike Center in the Oak St. Parking Ramp is now open so go check it out! Bike Pasture funding request is not until November 4th (as that is when Lizzy and Colin meet with Kaler). Parking and Transportation Services hopes to finalize a GPS Bus Tracker contract this week, with the goal of being operational by the beginning of spring semester. Our committee is still looking into off-campus housing zoning codes, representation of MSA members to neighborhood associations, and is newly investigating the rising price of the U-Pass as well as recreational equipment to be borrowed out of CMU for students to use on the Northrop Mall! If you want to get involved in any of these initiatives, or have something new to bring up, contact me at kelly761@umn.edu!

## **:: GRANTS ::**

Wes Halseth [halse023@umn.edu]

Here we go: Several grants have been approved. Please check out the MSA Upcoming Events calendar on the website and see if there are any events that you would like to attend!

## **:: CAMPUS RELATIONS ::**

Taylor Williams [will3513@umn.edu]

### **Walk with MSA in the Homecoming Parade**

The 2011 Homecoming Parade is Friday October 21st. MSA will be walking in the parade alongside a float or 'sweet car'. Staging begins at 5:30pm and volunteers will finish early enough to attend the Atmosphere Concert. We will hand out candy, buttons and information to students. We will need many members to participate, so please contact me if you are interested!

### **Committee Update**

Our first meeting was simply awesome. We discussed a handful of project ideas including: sponsoring a freshman dinner, the campus safety campaign, creating an international student career fair and implementing a campus readership program. As a committee, we feel it is important to create tangible benefits and services that students will directly identify as MSA creations. This seems to be the best solution for increasing student awareness and participation and we will emphasize this belief as our main priority.

## **:: ACADEMICS & SERVICES ::**

Matt Forstie [forst121@umn.edu]

This week, Academics and Services will be researching and developing action items on some issues that we discussed at our last meeting. These issues include University library hours, teacher evaluations, and the University's allocation of the additional \$50 million dollars from this summer's special legislative session. We'll also work on planning and setting a date for the Student Concerns Forum, which is an event that will allow students to engage in dialogue with University administrators. As always, if you are interested in getting involved with Academics and Services, or if you have issues or concerns that you'd like us to address, please contact Matt Forstie at forst121@umn.edu.

## **:: BOARD OF REGENTS ::**

Chantal Wilson (Ranking Representative) [wils0912@umn.edu]

Nothing to report.

Kristen Kranzler (Student Representative) [kranz058@umn.edu]

Nothing to report.

**:: MINNESOTA STUDENT LEGISLATIVE COALITION ::**

Christopher Tastad [ctastad@gmail.com]

The MSLC has seen a highly anticipated week in the form of presenting the final language that would guide its establishment in MSA. Similar efforts are also being coordinated with our coalition members in order to expedite endorsement by all student associations. The outlook for MSA is that we will hear these founding bylaws again at the upcoming forum for approval by the assembly.

Work within the MSLC central committee has revolved around establishing due process for screening issues and effectively managing the workload. Discussion has already begun about developments for the student lobby day and the course of action that will be necessary to make that a success. With that focus, we have begun to evaluate ways to optimize outreach to students and potential program development initiatives that we could leverage to better engage students in the legislative process. These things will hopefully take effect immediately following the completion of the Advocacy Corps training program.

Also, the selection of MSA's student legislative advocates and government relations officer are currently being finalized. Our first meeting and training session will be held this coming Tuesday following committees.

**:: TEDxUMN ::**

Dustin Huibregste [dustin.huibregste@gmail.com]

Our first event will be on November 5th (you may register for invitation selections at TEDxUMN.com). This event will be focused on 7 speakers that share ideas worth spreading around our central theme "Constructive Disruption: What is the upcoming generation of innovators, inventors, entrepreneurs, and thinkers doing to disrupt the world we live in?" This will be an incredible first event!