



**MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING
MINUTES FOR
Tuesday, March 5, 2013 2:15 PM, Forum 3-130**

Student Senators:

Media Senator Savarese
Residence Hall Senator Walters
At-Large Senator Halloran
At-Large Senator Williams

President:

Shanel Montalvo

Speaker:

Rabbil Jackson-Harris

Deputy Speaker:

Kyle Savarese

SL&LD Advisor:

Elizabeth Stewart

Faculty Advisor:

Joseph McCauley

SL&LD Advisor:

Rebecca Herzog-absent

SA Secretary

Elizabeth Flanagan

Visitors: Suzanne Fava, WMCC, The Fuse; Dan Steiner, Mini Baja Club; Johnathan Davis, SAE Baja; Eric Billington, SAE Baja; Christopher Johnson, MCC Veterans' Club; David Ellwanger, MCC Veterans' Club; Sari Best, MCC Veterans' Club; Tommy Clemeno, MCC Veterans' Club; Lori Bantha, Veterans' Services; Mike Bates, Veterans' Services; Scott Blue II, Student; Charles Hibner, Student; Nelson Clark, Student; Eric Wheeler, Veterans' Services; Taine Vinci, Counseling and International Veterans Services Office; Mark White, Student; AJ Horton, Student

I. CALL TO ORDER (2:15 pm)

A. Roll Call

(See attendance above)

B. Approval of February 26, 2013 Minutes

Speaker Jackson-Harris called for a motion to approve the minutes of February 26, 2013.

Senator Walters so moved, seconded by Senator Halloran.

There was no discussion

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Student Government Association unanimously approves the February 26, 2013 minutes as written.

II. SPEAK TO THE SENATE

No one approached the Senate at this time.

III. REPORTS

President Montalvo

The past two weeks have been very busy for me and all with student government. I have been working on the following:

Veteran's Club/ ATC

Address issues of veterans students at ATC

Coffee Pots, Veteran information packets, etc.

Possible Liaison for Veteran's Club of Damon and ATC

SVA Chapter

Elections

Approved 2013-2014 Elections Packets

The Fuse addition

New Elections Commissioner, Christopher Sweeney

Meeting about elections with Betty and Christopher @ 3/5/13 11:15am

Voting Booth at ATC

Green Week

Planning started 3/1/13 at Directorate Meeting

Plan on contacting an Outdoor Activities Unlimited representative to attend my next directorate meeting on 3/15/13.

Go over price, events, prizes, etc. for some time in April

Tobacco Free Policy

Working with Monroe Doctrine to get valid information for a potential article

Contacted David Blackburn, Head of Safety & Hazard Prevention, who directed me to Janet Ekis on the Tobacco Free Committee.

Their meeting was 3/1/2012

Follow up email this afternoon

Senator Savarese

The Cabbages and Kings Magazine now has a website. It is: cabbagesandkingsmag.com. Also, WMCC, The Fuse, has redecorated their office. They expect to have a new sign for their office in the near future.

Speaker Jackson-Harris

Last Monday, I met with Nick Wymble to discuss SGA's desire to see the Engineering Leadership Council form into an organization. Nick, along with several officers and members, plan to attend the March 12 meeting to voice their desires and goals. Last Friday, I met with Rich Buchholz, Coach of the Mini Baja team, and we had a very long discussion about the state of engineering programs and activities at MCC. Rich believes that this field is largely overlooked, and feels that expansion of facilities and more available courses in the field would benefit students and MCC as a whole. A follow-up meeting to elaborate on his ideas and discuss implementation of these is pending.

SGA President Montalvo with fellow SGA members, and Outdoor Activities Unlimited (OAU) are beginning preparations for the second annual Green Week event. Green Week is a week-long event to raise sustainability awareness and provide green alternatives for many everyday items and engagements. As Social Club Senator during the 2011-2012 academic year, I worked with Will Barker, former OAU President, and the club to plan and successfully implement Green Week. The huge success of last year's event created the resolve to make it a recurring event. Equipped with knowledge from the previous year, my history with the club, and professional chemistry with the very dedicated and committed President Montalvo, I believe that SGA and OAU will successfully plan and implement a second Green Week that will trump the first. We believe this year's Green Week will set the standard for excellence as an annual event for years to come.

Advisor Stewart

Thanks to all for attending OrgSync training. Senator Halloran is a great champion of OrgSync so a special thanks to him. All will be trained over time, and this promises to be a very helpful tool. The websites for all clubs and organizations will be accessible through OrgSync.

Advisor Herzog

The Enough is Enough Campaign is turning out very well and is a huge success. We are very excited about the Love Justice event this evening in the theatre at 7:00 PM, which speaks to the problem of human trafficking. Tomorrow, the Peer Mentor Research Fair will take place, and as a theft-prevention measure, you can get personal items tagged for tracking. Also, CAB will hold their event next week in the main dining area.

Advisor McCauley

Study. It really helps.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

V. NEW BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS (Items requiring a Senate Vote)

a. Resolution to approve Cory Halloran to the Constitution Committee of the Brighton Campus Student Government Association

Speaker Jackson-Harris called for a motion for this resolution. Senator Walters so moved and it was seconded by Senator Savarese.

Senator Savarese expressed his positive feelings for this motion, and indicated he would very much appreciate Senator Halloran's assistance.

A vote was taken.

Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approves the appointment of Cory Halloran to the Constitution Committee.

b. Resolution to approve the funding of \$3055.77 to Mini Baja

Speaker Jackson-Harris called for a motion for this resolution. Senator Savarese so moved. A second was not required as the motion came from committee.

Dan Steiner, representative of Mini Baja, approached the Senate to elucidate the need for funding. Senator Savarese asked what benefits the club provides. Dan indicated that a document had been submitted detailing the benefits the club offers to not only students directly involved, but all MCC students. Speaker Jackson-Harris asked what types of events are held. Dan responded that there has been involvement with the County Fair, and activities that bring new students to the club. He added that the Baja Club turns out parts with the Applied Technology Center (ATC), and all involved are productive and well-rounded.

A vote was taken.

Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate gives consent for the funding of \$3055.77 to Mini Baja to sponsor the event entitled, Tennessee SAE competition.

c. Resolution to approve members of the Presidential Cabinet

Speaker Jackson-Harris called for a motion for this resolution. Senator Halloran so moved and it was seconded by Senator Walters.

President Montalvo expressed her feeling that Alanna is very talented and skilled with taking minutes. She would be very glad to work with Alanna.

A vote was taken.

Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approves the appointment of Alanna Kords as Cabinet Secretary for the 2012-2013 Academic Year.

d. Resolution to approve the petition for charter for Student Veterans of America

Speaker Jackson-Harris called for a motion for this resolution. Senator Williams so moved. No second was required as the motion came from committee.

Nelson Clark approached the Senate, and expressed how glad he is that the Senate supports the veterans of MCC. President Montalvo asked what his goals are for the club. Nelson replied that he wants a membership drive for future members, and to apply for a national charter. He wants to use social networking as a means of information dissemination. He plans to hold elections, and elect officers. He identifies himself as an agent to get the ball rolling. Senator Williams asked Nelson how

his potential club would be different from the existing Veterans' Club. Nelson expressed his feeling that the existing club has an off-campus focus, whereas Nelson's potential club has an on-campus focus. He connected his focus with that of the Mission Statement. Senator Halloran asked Nelson what he has in place to get a charter. Nelson mentioned that he went to SEGA and explained his case. Dr. Humphrey of SEGA indicated that he would be happy to serve as advisor for this cause on the Damon Campus. Nelson also expressed his feeling that there is a need for outreach to veterans while they are experiencing distress, and as they are traveling from Point A to Point B during the course of the school day. He added his feeling that there is currently a lack of communication, and a need for improvement in that area. Senator Walters mentioned the similarity between the existing club and the potential club, and asked if the two clubs would work together in the future. Nelson indicated that they would.

Senator Williams mentioned that he had been approached by the existing Veterans' Club, and was asked by them about his well-being, and how he was being treated as a veteran. He raised his concern about how his experience differed from the perception of others, and suggested that they think about how to work with the club that already exists. If this suggestion would not be accepted, Senator Williams asked what the need would be for a separate Veterans' Club. Nelson reiterated his thought about a focus on better communication to reach more veterans currently at MCC. Senator Savarese asked if constitutional requirements for a club had been met, and about scholarship considerations. Nelson replied that potential donors would need to access resources that would not be available before a charter. President Montalvo asked if they could get a charter from the VA Students of America, and Nelson indicated they likely could. Senator Walters asked what their plans would be in the event they could not get a charter. Nelson indicated that they would create a social network here at MCC. Speaker Jackson-Harris welcomed all to verbalize pro and con perspectives.

Christopher Johnson, President of the Veterans' Club, approached the Senate. He provided details of how the current Veterans' Club is of service: They tailor services to the needs of veterans; they reach out to DCC and the ATC; they honor their mission of serving veterans both on and off campus; they work with Richard's House; they advocate for MCC to veterans off-campus while serving veterans regardless of student status. He mentioned work with the STARS Program, which helps educate professors in understanding veterans' issues and coping mechanisms. He indicated that he and Eric Wheeler work together in fundraising efforts. Christopher added his feeling that two clubs would divide rather than unite and impede the ability to help veterans.

Senator Savarese asked Christopher about scholarships for veterans. Christopher indicated that they work off the Thompson Scholarship Model, and require essays from applicants. They are seeking supporters, and mentioned that fifteen \$1,000 scholarships, particularly aimed for the ATC, are in the works.

Senator Walters asked Christopher why he felt two clubs would create a division. Christopher indicated that veterans would be better served in working together with the existing club with a shared mission.

Senator Walters raised a question regarding a charter for the club. Christopher mentioned that they started the club from scratch, have done the work, and have submitted a request for a charter. He feels it would help everyone.

Senator Williams asked if the SVA would give a charter to the potential new club, or the existing club. Christopher indicated that the SVA would weigh the factors to see who deserves it. He mentioned that he and other members have had to answer many questions related to this, and they hold two meetings per week.

Mark White, veteran student, approached the Senate. He mentioned that he spoke with Shirley Batistta-Provost, who expressed that it seemed like one club was overtaking the other. Mark expressed the need to seek out and find veterans who are in need, and to get information about services to them. He said he met with Dr. Humphreys of SEGA, who is on board with the idea.

President Montalvo asked Mark if he and others advocating his argument had been offered officer positions with the existing Veterans' Club. He indicated that he had been extended such an offer, and added that he is doing outreach here at MCC. He indicated that he does not want to be told how to do things. He feels he has a different direction regarding dissemination of information regarding services for veterans.

Speaker Jackson-Harris reminded all present to avoid negativity, and to keep it informational.

Senator Walters shared that some veterans feel that they are being served while others do not feel accommodated. President Montalvo then asked Mark what he plans to do beyond what the current club is doing. Mark responded that he plans to mix with the school population. Speaker Jackson-Harris asked what would be done in the event of two clubs existence. He specifically asked Mark what his club's members would do to distinguish themselves. Mark reiterated that he and other members would go into the community of the college to disseminate information. He indicated that face-to-face interaction is essential.

A vote was taken.

Resolved that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate does not approve the charter for Student Veterans of America.

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Charlie Hibner, Veteran and Student, approached the Senate. He expressed his hope that the current club will work with the ATC and DCC. He indicated how important it is for all veterans of MCC to be looked after and cared for. He shared his experience of frustration in not knowing how to register, and not knowing there was a club. As such, he recommended that the Veterans' Club be better publicized, and improve standards for dissemination of information. He added that the club needs to connect with veterans already here at MCC.

Speaker Jackson-Harris shared his vision for the working of the club through a metaphor of seeds and dirt coming together to nurture growth. He emphasized the life-giving effect of unity, and the stagnation of separateness. He encouraged all to consider this idea of coming together. The goal of serving veterans and improving their lives is the shared basis for such unity.

Nelson Clark approached the Senate. He said that the full right to vote was the issue. All members should be able to vote for their leaders.

Christopher Johnson then approached the Senate. He said that if people do not attend meetings or respond to e-mails that is beyond his control. He indicated that he needs to hear back from people with their votes.

Senator Walters raised a new issue, and reminded everyone that there will be a Blood Drive on March 11th from 2:00 PM until 7:00 PM in the lobby of Canal Hall.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

At 3:55 PM, Speaker Jackson-Harris called for a motion to adjourn. Senator Walters so moved, seconded by Senator Wynn. The Senate meeting was adjourned.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth V. Flanagan
SA Secretary