



## Senate Meeting Minutes

May 16th, 2023

2:15 pm – Forum, 3-130

### **Student Senators**

Senator Raymond  
Senator Krieger  
Senator Tran  
Senator Allen  
Senator Murdock  
Senator Leichtner  
Senator Nguyen

### **Election Coordinator**

Angelo Romero

### **President**

Paula Barlow

### **Vice President of Governance**

Dalianne Millet

### **Vice President of Programming**

Rasa Barmak

### **Vice President of Downtown**

Mandie McGinnis

### **Chief of Staff**

Jason Sager

### **Treasurer**

Zeynep Guney

### **Secretary of Governance**

Ana Santos

### **Office of Student Life Advisor**

Jodi Oriel

### **Faculty Advisor**

Mark Sample

Visitors: Ginny Geer-Mentry – MCCA, Melissa Gue – Student Life, Denee Martin – Student Life, Laura Johnson – MCCA, Teri Best – MCCA, Nick Tran – Student, Dana Williams – Student.

### ***Call to Order (2:15 pm)***

#### A. Roll Call

Vice President of Governance Millet called for a roll call to start the senate meeting

#### B. Land Acknowledgement

#### C. Approval of Minutes

- i. Vice President of Governance Millet called for a motion to approve the May 9th, 2023, Student Government Association minutes.
- ii. Senator Allen so moved, seconded by Senator Raymond.
- iii. A vote was taken.
- iv. Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Student Government Association approves the May 9th, 2023 minutes as written.

## *Speak to the Senate*

- A. There was no one to speak to the senate

## *Reports*

- A. President Barlow

President Barlow attended the Spring Fling on the Brighton Campus on May 10th.

As President Barlow reflects on this past year as the President of SGA, she has come to realize that we are all human. We all make mistakes. What matters is that we learn from them. Actually, let's not call them mistakes. Let us call them learning experiences. Every single one of my team has supported everyone in one way or another. This is why when I email you, I refer to you as a TEAM. We have successfully grown this current SGA body to it's largest it has been in 16 years. We have successfully supported all the clubs and organizations and attended as many of their events as possible.

I saw my friend Isabella DeRuebis, MCC's SGA President for 2 years. She inspired me to run for President this year. All of you have helped me grow as a student leader and individual. You supported me when I needed the support, and you were always there to help with any project that I needed to delegate. I don't think of being President of SGA makes me any more important than my TEAM. It is my hope that we can stay in touch and start an SGA reunion. I love and care about all of you. I hope you all succeed. Keep your dreams and goals alive. Never stop dreaming. Your dreams will keep your light shining bright. Just like you all shine bright right now. So I will end with my favorite quote: "If I have seen further, it is because I stand on the shoulders of giants."- Sir Isaac Newton- This year's SGA Team was my giant!

- B. Vice President Millet

I want to thank those people that made SGA great. Andy Eggleston, Mike Lane and Nambe for setting up the room for our meeting and helping in the behind-the-scenes of every SGA event on campus. At Pam Hutton for creating the posters, and t-shirt designs, and helping with the programs. At Ginny Geer for making sure all SGA understood how we can help the college and by teaching us everything we needed to know about the budget. At Teri Best, Laura Johnson, and Gloria Colon for taking care of all the Association bills, and checks, and helping us in the purchases. At Robin Cunningham for helping set up the events on the terrace, atrium, and forum. Finally but not less important Mark Sample and Jodi Oriel for always having our backs, for giving us advice even when we thought there was nothing we could do to help with something, and for being the best advisors I have ever met.

- C. Vice President of Programming Barmak

During my time as a Vice President of Programming I plan many events with the help of SGA and the Office of Student Life and Leadership Development.

We had many fun events and bonded with each other throughout the events. I want to thank everyone and SGA for all the time we had together. I'm going to miss everyone, but I hope you all best wishes for the rest of your life. I also want to thank the office of student life and everyone else who is not in the office like Pam.

When I came to MCC I was very shy and quiet, but throughout the years with the help of this team I became very confident, and I want to thank all of you again.

- D. Vice President of Downtown McGinnis

Vice President McGinnis has learned that you must have a plan from "A to Z," Jodi Oriel, and today Vice President McGinnis is at plan "W." Vice President McGinnis would like to say, "there are people in this world who make things better wherever they go," thank you for being a part of my story.

Vice President McGinnis legacy, "Hi, I am Mandie McGinnis, and I am kindness in action."

#### E. Secretary of Governance Santos

Hello everyone,

What a semester, it has had its highs and lows; but all of them have been sweet because they brought growth.

I will never forget this SGA team. We have had a lot of fun and have worked so hard this semester. I am so proud of all you accomplish, and I can't wait to see the bright futures I'm sure you all are going to have. I am going to miss the ones that are leaving us this semester (Dalianne, Rasa, Kenny, Jason, Phoung, and Mia); and I'm excited to still work with the ones that are staying for the next. Let's keep doing great things together!

Thank you to our advisors, Mark Sample and Jodi Oriel for all your help and guidance. You guys are great!

My biggest legacy for SGA are the minutes, not only because I ended all of them with a 'respectfully submitted, Ana Santos', but also because future SGA members are going to look at them and see how amazing the 2022-2023 SGA was.

Now for my report from the past week:

On Tuesday May 9, Secretary Santos attended the Emerging Leaders Social in which students interested in a club/org leadership position were invited. Santos got to speak with some of the upcoming leaders and told them about what is like to be involve on campus.

On Wednesday May 10, Secretary Santos attended this year's very successful Spring Fling in which she got to enjoy things such as the inflatables, food and good company from other MCC students. Great job Rasa and Student Life office!

Las week, Secretary of Governance Santos worked in the last week Senate Meeting Minutes.

Also, I would like to thank everyone that voted in the elections, and for trusting me with the Student Trustee position. Let's work hard for all we are!

Furthermore, I would like to remind all of you about our Election Party that is going to be today from 4 to 5 on the forum.

#### F. Chief of Staff Sager

Chief of Staff Sager gave a report to the President on 5/8 about the rebuilding of the SGA and building a foundation for the future. On 5/10 Chief of Staff Sager attended the Spring Fling event. Chief of Staff Sager is graduating after this semester, and will miss the friends they have made here. Chief of Staff Sager learned how important this community was to their academic success this semester, and will be carrying this lesson forward for my academic career.

#### G. Treasurer Guney

I met my co-worker Ava at the peer advising office where I just started working. She was talking about SGA, of which she is a member; she said we could apply if we wanted to. At first, I thought it was early to be a member of a group where I was new. Although I love politics, management, and leadership, I needed time to get used to the environment. Then, one day in Public Speaking class, I listened to my friend Val's incredible speech. She recommended that the way to make friends and groups is by joining clubs or organizations and that we should join a group. That's when Ava asked if we wanted to join SGA again, and I said I wanted to. I was extremely relieved and excited after going through and passing the interview at first.

During this time, I have learned many more things than I expected. Other ideas and opinions are welcomed and taken into account; everyone is connected with love in the warmth of family; the relationships do not affect business confidentiality; From the minor job to the significant tasks, every task is done with the same devotion; the decisions are taken following the joint and consultation

decision; each team member acts as a puzzle piece and completes the other; where one is happy with the success of the other, and when sad and hurt, the others share their sadness, in the SGA.

I witnessed that our advisors, Jodi Oriel and Mark Sample, with their parental warmth and experiences from the past to the present, shed light on our present and that the group always takes its steps forward for success. The fact that our President Paula Barlow acted as a glue/joiner by keeping the team as a whole ensured a coordinated group. All remaining SGA members; Dalianne Millet, Rasa Barmak, Mandie McGinnis, Jason Sager, Ana Santos, Angelo Romero, Eric Raymond, Liam Krigger, Kenny Tran, Ava Allen, Makyle Murdock, Joeseeph Leichtner, Phuong Nguyen sticking to their work and having an embracing heart created the best SGA group for this year. My friends, who will not be here next semester due to their transfer, taught me a lot this semester. Although I am sad that we will not be able to be together in the upcoming period, I am happy and wish the best for them. My only goal is to do justice to the position of Treasurer, to arrange the budget appropriately, and to be the voice of the students. I believe that my team will support me on this path. I am twenty years old, and I have always been a foreigner somewhere for twelve years; this semester, for the first time with SGA, as a foreigner, I felt "belonged" somewhere. Thank you, SGA.

#### H. Health and Wellness Senator Raymond

Hello everyone, this is our last senate meeting for the school year, and it's certainly been an adventure. this past week, senator Raymond spoke with students about election results, and has been working on final projects for class.

I think I can confidently say that the legacy I am leaving behind is behind the energetic dynamo of this year's SGA, as well as the undisputed chess lord and master of bike falls. I also believe that I've showcased the importance of interacting with the student body and clubs.

I have also learned that I myself enjoy and Excell in professional environments, and that being able to go to Albany to advocate for education funding showed me what I want to eventually be able to do in my career. Thank you to all of you for being part of this awesome team and for helping me grow into the person I want to become!

#### I. Club and Organizations Senator Nguyen

Senator Nguyen is graduating this semester and she wants to thank everyone in SGA for making her last semester at MCC unforgettable. She will miss the friends that she made in SGA, but she wishes everyone the best in their future endeavors. She can now tell everyone that SGA isn't all about politics and business, it's about the good time we spent together laughing and teasing each other. And we also grow as a person by learning from one another too.

#### J. Veterans Senator Krieger

##### 1.) Legacy.

To help create an environment that is both productive and fun, to help incentivize others to challenge their abilities, and more,

##### 2.) What you have learned.

I have learned how to become more introspective, and open to the possibility of other viewpoints, as well as learning to be part of not just an organization but a family.

#### K. Diversity Senator Tran

On May 8th, in support of Asian Pacific American Month, Senator Tran participated and helped plan out a traditional Vietnamese Lion Dance. The event involved traditional Vietnamese food, a brief introduction of the event and the significance of it spoken by Senator Tran, and of course, the performance. He was amazed with the amount of students and friends that supported the event, along with the warm reception from his peers. It was an honor to showcase not only Senator Tran's culture, but bring light to the cultural heritage month. In addition, Senator Tran attended the Spring Fling event.

Senator Tran enjoyed the vibrant atmosphere and live music in addition to the food offered. He was happy to see such a large turnout and would like to thank fellow VP of Programming Rasa Barmak for such a large scale and wonderful event.

As this is Senator Tran's last semester at MCC, he wonders what legacy he has left behind. Although the awards, ceremonies, and so on validate him academically, he can't stress enough the value of being a dependable friend and offering good companionship. He hopes that when people look back at him when he moves on and transfers to another college, people see him as someone reliable, kind, and always there for a good laugh.

In addition, Senator Tran cannot express how influential being put in a leadership role, specifically involved in SGA, is to him. Whereas the experience overall boosted his confidence, Senator Tran can not express how much being in the role gave him a voice. Senator Tran realized that by entering his role in SGA, he could have a platform that allowed him to express his opinions and offer himself a choice, something that mattered overall. Senator Tran would like to thank everyone in SGA for making him feel like his voice mattered, and that he could be heard.

#### L. Student Relations Senator Allen

Senator Allen attended Senator Trans Lion dance on the 8th, which was beautiful thank you Kenny for showing us a piece of your culture.

Senator Allen and other SGA members also attended Spring Fling where there was delicious food, games, informational booths, and other great activities like the bounce house race.

During my time as the Student Relations Senator, I helped many students with any problems they had, whether I was personally helping them, or connecting them to the people who can help and guide them. During my time in Student Government, I've learned a lot. The most important thing I've learned is how to be outspoken, not shy away from things or situations that make me feel uncomfortable, and how to speak up for myself and fellow peers.

#### M. Public Relations Senator Murdock

Senator Murdock would like to thank everyone in the SGA.

#### N. Club and Organizations Senator Leichtner

This Week Senator Leichtner completed his Lead Certificate, as well as won a hard-fought election for president, in which he was the only candidate. Senator Leichtner also attended the last Sustainability Club meeting on May 15th, in which they elected the next officers.

#### O. Election Coordinator Romero

On Monday May 8th Election Coordinator Romero Attended the Asian Pacific heritage event hosted by his best buddy Diversity Senator Kenny Trans event, in which he performed a lion dance with his group.

On Wednesday May 10th Election Coordinator Romero attended the Spring Fling event where he helped get students to vote in their SGA elections by holding a booth and passing out papers which would help you vote. He had fun with the event, especially with the inflatable races. He congratulates and thanks Vice President Of Programming Rasa Barmak on the awesome event and planning. Elections wrapped up on May 11th, and the candidates' announced congratulations to all of them, and he hopes those who lost stay involved with student life and SGA. He wants to thank a few people. First one being Melissa Gue, who was a great partner. She did so much such as planning election workshops, Meet The candidates, communicating with student life and the IT people for voting, communicating with candidates, helping keep tracked. She was awesome. I would like to thank Ryan Messenger who was awesome with emailing students for signing up for SGA and encouraging students to vote. He truly lives up to the name. Also, Jodi and the student life office for helping out with encouraging to vote, and with flyers. Thank you to those who put up the flyers in all buildings. Thank you, Makyle, for all the flyers and poster designs for encouraging students to run for SGA and vote. Thank you to the election

commission consisting of Diversity Senator Kenny Tran, Vice President of programming Rasa Barmak and Student Trustee Mia Li. They helped out a ton, and he thanked Rasa, Melissa and Chloe for helping with the election party on Tuesday May 16th. One last thanks you to all SGA members who helped out with elections and being there for me when he was stressed.

Election Coordinator hoped he left his fun and goofy behavior making his SGA Family happy, while also taking his position seriously as a part of his legacy.

Election Coordinator Romero also learned a lot in his first year at MCC. One of them was learning to become a leader and getting better at communicating and working together with others. He is glad he was given the opportunity to join SGA as it changed his life for good. He sees SGA as a second family to him, and he wishes good luck to all those who are leaving, and he will miss them all.

### ***New Business***

- A. There was no new business

### ***Discussion Items***

- A. There were no discussion items

### ***Old Business***

- A. There was no old business

### ***Questions and Comments***

- A. There were no questions or comments

### ***Adjournment***

- A. Vice President Millet called for a motion for adjournment
- B. Meeting was adjourned at 2:48 pm

### ***Executive Session***

Respectfully submitted,

Ana Santos  
Secretary of Governance