



**MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING
MINUTES FOR
Tuesday, October 27, 2009
2:15 p.m. – Forum (3-130)**

Student Senators:

Academic Clubs Senator Rahul Raja
At-Large Senator Blum
At-Large Senator Cohen
Interdisciplinary Senator Blair
Service Clubs Senator Monroe
Social Clubs Senator Mac

President:

Qasim Ijaz

Vice President:

Jason Childers

Speaker/At-Large Senator

Ted Carey

Deputy Speaker/ Science, Health & Business Senator

Simon Ruhindi

Campus Center Advisor:

Elizabeth Stewart

Faculty Advisor:

Joseph McCauley

Visitors: Annette Agness, Director, MCC Association; Lisa Armstrong, Director of Evening and Adult Student Affairs; Richard Ryther, Associate Vice President, Student Services; Dr. Susan Salvador, Vice President, Student Services; Hezekiah Simmons, Vice President, Administrative Services; Justin Young, Co-Director, Campus Activities Board; Catherine Higgins, Secretary.

I. CALL TO ORDER (2:15 p.m.)

A. Roll Call

(See attendance above)

B. Approval of September 29, 2009 minutes

Speaker Carey called for a motion to approve the minutes for the September 29, 2009 Senate meeting.

Senator Ruhindi so moved, seconded by Senator Cohen.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves the minutes for September 29, 2009 as written.

II. SPEAK TO THE SENATE

Lisa Armstrong stated that the American Association of Women in Community Colleges is holding a Fall Clothing Drive to be held Tuesday through Thursday from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm and on Friday from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm in 3-113. They are looking for working wardrobes to assist people in need. Gently-used men and women's clothes would be appreciated.

Dr. Salvador began by explaining that she will be speaking on two topics. The parking rate increase and China 200. Parking Rate Increase - In 1988 the college drew up an agreement with the County for a parking fee for the Brighton Campus. It is important to know that this is a County program. There will be a change in the parking fee effective June 1, 2010. Also, due to new ownership of St. Joseph's Garage, Damon Campus will also experience a parking increase. Dr. Salvador wanted to bring this information to the SGA and discuss ways in which we can get the word out, particularly to those students currently enrolled. There is a Monroe Doctrine article planned, but any other suggestions would be helpful.

Mr. Simmons indicated that the current parking rates are \$30.00 for full-time students, \$20.00 for part-time students. We have not increased these fees since the inception of the program. The County has decided that there will be one \$75.00 full-time fee and one \$50.00 summer fee, eliminating the part-time fee. There will also be an increase in fines. Currently, if you receive a fine for no permit, it costs \$5.00. The new fine will be \$25.00. For parking in a reserved space, it currently costs \$15.00. The new fine will be \$45.00. For parking in a handicapped space, it currently costs

\$25.00. The new fine will be \$75.00. If you have your car booted, it currently costs \$10.00. The new fee will be \$50.00. Parking management is done by Public Safety. They haven't been able to collect parking fees sufficiently to offset costs for snowplowing and maintenance of the roads and parking lots. This fee increase will help us to better maintain them.

Dr. Salvador clarified that parking permit monies go to the County, but parking fines go to the college to maintain the roads and parking areas. There will also be a carpooling permit available for \$50.00 per car. That will be an advantage for those who can share rides.

Speaker Carey indicated that Senator Cohen has voiced his concern many times in the past that the County has not paid their fair share of the operating costs of the college. Mr. Simmons agreed that the County is below expectations, but even with this increase, our cost is still lower for students than at other community colleges.

Some suggestions on ways to inform students about the rate increase included utilizing both WMCC and the MCC website's front page, and the SGA Facebook page.

Senator Blair indicated that if students feel they are getting something for the financial increase, it might be easier to absorb. Perhaps listing service costs, so students can see why there needs to be an increase in parking fees.

Senator Ruhindi asked if the County might propose an increase again in the future. Mr. Simmons stated that that was not his expectation.

Dr. Salvador said that the Residence Hall fee will also be raised. The Association will be making a recommendation to their Board for a rate increase.

Senator Mac asked for clarification on the prices for the St. Joseph's Garage. Rates will be \$80.00 per semester plus a \$10.00 refundable deposit. These rates were raised due to the Garage having new owners.

Senator Blum asked if the increase is expected to decrease the amount of commuters on Campus. Dr. Salvador said that it may increase RTS commuters or free up parking spaces. We will not know until it happens.

Senator Monroe suggested holding informational sessions on the rate increase. Dr. Salvador thought that was a good idea, and suggested they could be sponsored by the SGA. There could be multiple open forums held for the student community.

Senator Cohen asked if the college is continuing to lobby the County against this increase. On one hand, he feels it is reasonable, but on the other hand, he feels it is like taxing the students twice. Dr. Salvador stated that the decision has been made by the County and there is no lobbying being done on the part of the College to change it.

China 200 - Dr. Salvador stated that last year, the SUNY system hosted 150 Chinese students who were displaced due to the earthquake. Three of those students spent the year at MCC. In August, she spent 13 days in China as part of a delegation of representatives from 22 SUNY colleges. She wanted to share with us that the Chinese Government felt that this was a most humanitarian effort on the part of the participating colleges. They appreciated that we reached out to them and thanked us for that. Dr. Salvador was pleased to announce that in order to reciprocate, from December 27, 2009 to January 11, 2010, the Chinese Government will host four MCC students. Two students from the Brighton Campus and two from the Damon Campus. She then shared some experiences of her visit to China.

Professor Wadach spoke to the Senate regarding concerns about parking issues. He feels that the parking and parking enforcement creates more ill will among students than any other issue on Campus. At the beginning of the semester, when there was a record enrollment, there was insufficient parking. Students received tickets for parking on the grass when in some instances, they were told to park there. He suggested discretion be used in the issue of ticketing. Perhaps starting with a warning ticket for a first offense. Professor Wadach said that there needs to be a discussion about the lack of respect toward students when they get a ticket, when they go to the Public Safety office and when they go through the appeals process. Students feel that they are being denigrated and talked down to. Parking violations are being used for revenue generation, as opposed to public safety. He feels there may be dissension among students when they find out about the increase. He encouraged all students to voice their opinions about the increase.

Senator Blair stated that in regard to Public Safety, he feels that there is a denigration and disrespect to students, which takes away from the educational experience.

Speaker Carey proposed inviting Public Safety to the next meeting and inviting Professor Wadach to return for a discussion at that time.

Advisor Stewart suggested contacting the Director of Public Safety as you become aware of things you feel should be changed. She suggested inviting Mr. Struble to a meeting to talk about any concerns.

Advisor McCauley recommended putting together an ad hoc committee to gather information and then talk to Public Safety. It is important to have facts, witnesses, testimony and evidence. Public Safety will address the issues if they know that there is contention. Gather your information and carry it forward.

President Ijaz thanked Professor Wadach for supporting students, but he also feels that the students have a responsibility to be informed as to what the parking rules are.

III. REPORTS

A. Deputy Speaker

Deputy Speaker Ruhindi...

- ✓ Books That Make a Difference Project – he is working closely with the Library Student Advisory Committee and will be going to different Departments and asking for faculty participation, along with asking them to pass the word along to students.
- ✓ President's Program for Students – he is looking forward to attending this Friday and is excited to meet other student leaders from FLCC and GCC. It will be a wonderful opportunity to network and make new friends.

B. Vice President

Vice President Childers...

- ✓ The Cabinet has finally filled all positions. There are 14 Directors and one Assistant Director.
- ✓ Last Monday, Speaker Carey, President Ijaz, Deputy Speaker Ruhindi and Vice President Childers attended a luncheon with President Kress where he discussed his idea of implementing support for MAC use on campus. President Kress was very receptive.
- ✓ He attended the SUNY Student Association Conference this past weekend. He watched the process of resolutions being passed through the Assembly. After one school was expelled from the meeting, he witnessed the magic Senator Cohen created by untwisting the boondoggle that the school caused with the Roberts' Rules. He salutes Senator Cohen.

C. Senators

Senator Cohen...

- ✓ Last Tuesday, he departed for Troy, NY to serve on the Chancellor's Group of 200. He would like to thank Secretary Brennan and Campus Center Advisor Stewart, as well as the MCC Association, for their hard work in ensuring that he could attend this conversation. His trip would not have been possible without their assistance.
- ✓ The Group of 200 will assist in formulating a five year Strategic Plan for the 64 school SUNY network. The first of seven meetings was on Wednesday, held at Hudson Valley Community College, recently visited by President Obama. Our meetings will rotate around the state, and each will be open to the public. When they meet at UB next month, or Upstate Medical in February, He encourages anyone who is interested, and has the time free, to attend. Dr. Kress, Dr. Goode, and Senator Cohen are the three people serving in the Group of 200 from MCC. If anyone is interested in learning more about this Group, and its mission, visit www.suny.edu/strategicplan.
- ✓ They discussed Big Hairy Audacious Goals (BHAGs) and how they could apply them to SUNY. Among others, they heard from Carol Coletta, CEO of CEOs for Cities, who gave a very interesting keynote address on the economic impact of colleges both on the local and statewide level. He was thrilled to have the opportunity for a brief one on one chat with Chancellor Nancy Zimpher on her process for developing SUNY's new Strategic Plan.
- ✓ Senator Cohen represents Monroe and four other Community Colleges on the Executive Committee of SUNY Student Assembly. He had an opportunity to visit three of the other four schools he represents on his way back to Rochester. He met with Hudson Valley's delegation to SUNY's Fall Conference in Binghamton. They went over the agenda and he answered questions. He visited Schenectady and

Mohawk Valley Community Colleges on his return trip, briefing them on what would be going on at Fall Conference. Although neither was able to attend, he had productive discussions with each one, and is hopeful that both will be able to make it to conference in the Spring. Unfortunately, He was unable to set a meeting with Herkimer County Community College, but will try to meet with them the next time at FIT in Long Island on December 1st.

- ✓ The Fall Conference was held this past weekend in Binghamton, NY. He had a great time representing Monroe, and the other 3 schools that he represents, but could not make it to conference. He was thrilled to see Hudson Valley there, and hoped everyone got a chance to meet their president, Clifton Dixon. He was honored to be given a chance to preside over the business meeting for a few minutes, and he successfully navigated the Assembly out of a procedural mess that had been unintentionally created before returning the chair to President Melody Mercedes. He was again honored to be asked to officially join the team of Parliamentarians helping President Mercedes to run the meeting.
- ✓ The Spring Conference for SUNY Student Assembly will be April 16-18, 2010, in Saratoga, NY. He is looking forward to it.
- ✓ The first meeting of the Rules Committee is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 29th, at 3 pm. Currently on the agenda are the Radiology and Men's Volleyball Constitutions, as well as discussion of rewriting the club constitution template, and planning for the year, including changes to the By-Laws and Election Rules. If you have something that you would like the committee to discuss, please mention it to Senator Cohen, President Ijaz, or Director of Legislative Affairs Idris. They are also looking to expand the committee, and membership would be open to all interested parties, irrespective of whether they hold a position in SGA. If you are interested in joining them this year, please speak with any of the people already mentioned or Speaker Carey.

Senator Monroe...

- ✓ Last Thursday Senator Monroe was able to help out with Sustainability Day. Phi Theta Kappa put this event on and did an amazing job. They had tables set up and even had a trash monster. There were representatives from Aramark and the maintenance crew at MCC who showed students green paper products and cleaning supplies. There was also a lightbulb exchange to upgrade an old bulb to a more efficient one. There was a poster showing green food products and also how to have a green Christmas. Sustainability Day was very educational and she was happy to be a part of it.
- ✓ Senator Monroe attended the All Faculty Senate Meeting where they discussed how to further enforce the smoking policy at school and whether or not it was successful. They also talked about curriculum changes. She was glad to be able to attend and found it very interesting.
- ✓ She is helping the ASL club plan a silent dinner. The date is tentatively November 20th and will be held in the Forum. They are also working with the Hospitality club on helping with the food. More details will come soon and its going to be a great event!

D. Campus Center Advisor

Campus Center Advisor Stewart...

- ✓ SUNY Student Assembly Conference – Advisor Stewart explained that she and Advisor McCauley experience different degrees of learning and satisfaction with the Conference from year to year, but the one constant is how proud she is of the MCC students who attend. She is glad to be associated with the group of individuals who were there this weekend. She heard wonderful things about their contributions to this conference.

IV. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Senator Cohen reminded the Senate that elections for next year's SUNY Student Assembly Executive Board positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, plus six community college representatives, will be held at the April Spring Conference. You do not have to be a voting delegate to run. He encouraged his peers to think about running.

Senator Carey feels that community colleges should be elected to the Executive Board and hopefully they will be more respected by SUNY. He also stated that he will report on the Washington, D.C. trip at the next meeting. It was a great experience and he learned a lot.

Justin Young, Co-Director of the Campus Activities Board informed the Senate that there will be a Ghost Hunters event next Thursday from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in the gym. It is free, and there will be a raffle to win tickets for a concert to Maroon 5.

There will also be a Sex Therapy lecture on November 11th during college hour and on November 17th, author Mitch Albom will be in the gym from 7:30 p.m. to approximately 9:30 p.m. They are also working on Breakfast with Santa, to be held in December.

V. ADJOURNMENT

At 3:45 p.m. Speaker Carey called for a motion to adjourn. Senator Ruhindi so moved, seconded by Senator Blair. The Senate meeting was adjourned.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Higgins
Secretary