



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

Student Senators:

Academic Clubs Senator Acosta
At-Large Senator Carey
Media Senator Gordon
Residence Hall Senator Rice
Science, Health & Business Senator Ruhindi
Service Clubs Senator Malin
Social Clubs Senator Bauman

President:

Daniel Elliott

Vice President:

Sarah Robinson

Speaker/At-Large Senator

Stephen Darrow

Deputy Speaker/At-Large Senator

Matt Lawson

Campus Center Advisor:

Elizabeth Stewart - **Absent**

Faculty Advisor:

Joseph McCauley

Visitors: Dick Ryther, Student Services; Devin Lynch, Student Trustee; Tony DiFabio, Peer Mentor; Malcolm Cohen, Presidential Cabinet; Bethany Peris, Student; Donna Brennan, Secretary.

I. CALL TO ORDER (2:16 p.m.)

A. Roll Call

(See attendance above)

B. Approval of December 9, 2008 minutes

Speaker Darrow called for a motion to approve the minutes for the December 9, 2008 Senate meeting.

Senator Rice so moved, seconded by Senator Carey.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves the minutes for December 9, 2008 as written.

II. SPEAK TO THE SENATE

There was no one to speak to the Senate.

III. REPORTS

A. Speaker

Speaker Darrow...

- **Projects** – he asked the government to keep in mind that there are only 14 weeks left in the semester when planning project; if it is a project that cannot be completed before the end of the semester he asked that it be set up so that next year's government will be able to take it over.

B. Deputy Speaker

Deputy Speaker Lawson...

- **Rock the Vote** – thank you to everyone who helped setup for President Obama's Inauguration event; your support made this event very successful. The committee will continue its great work by planning a community service project.
- **Unity Day** – a day to bring the Damon and Brighton Campuses together is being planned; SEGA President, Nia Jones, has asked the Brighton Government to work with them on the planning of a barbecue this semester.

C. President

President Elliott...

- **Rochester Intercollegiate Council** - A group is being formed by local college student government presidents called the Rochester Intercollegiate Council (RIC). The RIC will have a few objectives for the following couple months. The biggest objective is making the council sustainable; others include intercollegiate events in Rochester, connecting students to Rochester resources and events, and advocacy of the Rochester student voice. The Council is currently made up of student government presidents and vice presidents. The Damon government has been contacted about the Council; he & Devon Woodward represent the Brighton Campus and are enthusiastic about the outcomes. More information will come following the next couple of meetings.
- **Cabinet Report** – the Cabinet is looking forward to some positive membership changes that require Senate approval; with these additions/changes they are looking forward to a promising year. A resolution will be brought forward next week to make a cabinet member change of position. Malcolm Cohen has been asked to change to the role of Director of Legislative Affairs. This position will aid the college in lobbying affairs for students, as well as work with the Senate on passing promising resolutions to help MCC students through a financially tough time in this state.
- **Polar Plunge** - thank you to the senate for jumping on board the polar plunge for the Special Olympics. He also thanked Devyn Merritt for taking the initiative on getting this going. The plunge is February 8th.

D. Vice President

Vice President Robinson...

- **Cabinet Report** – a committee is being put together to work on sustainability issues at the college. The sustainability plans put forward last semester are still in effect, thanks to Campus Environment Coordinator Amy Battaglia and they are looking forward to more events and are very hopeful for the results that will come from their efforts.
The finance committee has been working hard to allocate the funds they have been put in charge of. There have been several requests for funds and they are looking forward to more clubs/organizations looking to go on trips and putting on events this semester.
Reconstruction of the web-site will start soon, so start looking for the changes.

E. Senators

Senator Acosta...

- **Interfaith Discussion** – he is working towards the goal of increased interfaith discussion on the MCC campus. He would like to organize a luncheon and has contacted a local interfaith group to see if they would be interested in sending religious leaders of various faiths who represent some of the student body at MCC.
- **Bible Study Group** - the Catholic Bible Study Group will be starting again and he is hoping to bring in some more students to work as a committee for interfaith dialogue.

Senator Carey...

- **RTS** did not add any service to or from MCC in the new schedule that is dated January 5th. Their explanation was that even though some buses on the route are filled to capacity, other routes are too and there are not enough buses to go around. They are willing to come to MCC to meet with him and Advisor Stewart to formulate a survey for bus riders to see what can be done. They are still interested in having a Transit Day here at MCC.

F. Faculty Advisor

Faculty Advisor McCauley...

- **Projects** – he stated that he was disappointed that he hadn't heard much from anyone about the projects that were talked about at training.
- **Lobbying Campaign** – he has read many articles about the cuts in financial aid and the increasing amount of loans students have to take on to be a student even at MCC where the cost is relatively inexpensive by comparison to other colleges. He strongly encouraged the government to think about and work on a lobbying campaign, correlating it through publicity with Cynthia Cooper's office. Big changes are being talked about.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. ACTION ITEMS (Items requiring a Senate vote)

a. Resolution to approve Ellie Kuhn as Promotions Coordinator in the Presidential Cabinet.

Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approve Ellie Kuhn as Promotions Coordinator in the Presidential Cabinet for the remainder of the 2008-2009 Academic Year.

Senator Darrow called for a motion to approve Ellie Kuhn as Promotions Coordinator.

Senator Lawson so moved, seconded by Senator Ruhindi.

Discussion:

President Elliott stated that due to a change in her schedule, Ellie could not continue with the senate. Ellie will be working on the web-site and other promotions for the government.

Speaker Darrow stated that Ellie is a good person and will be a pretty persuasive promotions coordinator; it is a good fit.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves Ellie Kuhn as Promotions Coordinator in the Presidential Cabinet for the remainder of the 2008-2009 Academic Year.

b. Resolution to approve Bethany Peris as Roundtable Coordinator in the Presidential Cabinet.

Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approve Bethany Peris as Roundtable Coordinator in the Presidential Cabinet for the remainder of the 2008-2009 Academic Year.

Senator Darrow called for a motion to approve Bethany Peris as Roundtable Coordinator.

Senator Rice so moved, seconded by Senator Bauman.

Discussion:

President Elliott stated that Bethany is a student representative on the MCC Association Board of Directors, an athlete, a resident hall student and has participated in other clubs and organizations on campus. In her role as Roundtable Coordinator she will be responsible for connecting with and bringing all of the clubs and organizations together.

Bethany stated that she is very excited about this position.

Senator Rice stated that Bethany is a very stand-up person; when she says something she means it. We have high hopes for her.

Senator Acosta asked Bethany how many Roundtable meetings she had attended.

Bethany stated that she attended Roundtable when she was involved in CASA.

President Elliott added that they are hoping for some positive changes to Roundtable; Bethany will also be responsible for putting Roundtable information on the web-site.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves Bethany Peris as Roundtable Coordinator in the Presidential Cabinet for the remainder of the 2008-2009 Academic Year.

V. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Senator Carey mentioned that he would like Senator Rice to attend the meeting with RTS because he is in touch with the needs of the Res. Hall students and his input would be important.

Student Trustee Devin Lynch informed the Senate that it is inevitable that there will be cuts in MCC's state funding. Also, the Governor has proposed a 90/10 tuition split. This means that 90% of any tuition increase will go back to the state and 10% will be retained by the college. He will be sending an email to everyone regarding a letter the SUNY Executive Committee is drafting to send to local representatives who, hopefully, will strongly oppose this movement. He also stated that Maggie Brooks and Senator Schumer have decided to go head with the Ren. Square project minus the Performing Arts Center, which they are still working on getting funding for. The bus terminal and MCC Campus look like a go.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

At 2:36 p.m. Speaker Darrow called for a motion to adjourn.

Senator Carey so moved, seconded by Senator Bauman. The Senate meeting was adjourned.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Brennan, SA Secretary