



**MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING
MINUTES FOR
Tuesday October 29th, 2013 2:15 PM-Forum (3-130)**

Student Senators:

Academic Clubs Senator Jopson
At-Large Senator Poloznik
Senator Richards
Foundation Senator White
Science, Health & Business Senator Wyble
Service Club Senator Schollnick
Social Clubs Senator Williams
Senator Miner
Senator Jackson

President:

Nelson Clark

Vice-President:

Mark White

Speaker of the Senate:

Adrian Hale

Deputy Speaker:

Alexandria Cassidy

SL&LD Advisor:

Elizabeth Stewart

SL&LD Advisor:

Rebecca Herzog

SA Secretary:

Lisa Truman

Visitors: Ameen Smith, WMCC; Glenn Rapp, SGA; Corina Neelin, Student Trustee; Andy Binder, MCC student; Morgan Shoff, Celtic Society; Dan Steiner, Mini BAJA; David Croter, Mini BAJA; Shirley Provost, Office of Student Life and Leadership Development; Brian Steele, SGA; Matt Lawson, Office of Student Life and Leadership Development.

I. CALL TO ORDER (2:17pm)

A. Roll Call (See attendance above)

B. Approval of the October 22nd Minutes

Speaker Hale called for a motion to approve the October 22nd minutes.

Senator Williams so moved, Senator White seconded.

Discussion:

Senator Wyble asks for an amendment to the minutes to change the October 22nd minutes to read "Speaker Hale calls for a motion" on page 2, to replace "Speaker Hale makes a motion".

A vote was taken.

The October 22nd minutes will now read "Speaker Hale calls for a motion" on page 2, to replace "Speaker Hale makes a motion". SA Secretary Truman states she will amend.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Student Government Association unanimously approves the October 22th minutes as amended.

II. SPEAK TO THE SENATE

Matt Lawson from the Office of Student Life and Leadership approaches the Senate to discuss the new Tobacco Policy that will take effect in January 2014. He is a member of the committee developing the policy. He asks the Senate and all students to participate and offer ideas on how to implement and inform everyone of the new policy so as to best make the transition to a completely tobacco free campus. He would like any and all ideas. There has been and will continue to be information on OrgSync with information on the Tobacco Policy and initiatives that are taking place regarding the policy. Students are also encouraged to email Matt if they have interest in sitting with him on the committee that is working on the policy. The objective of the policy is to have a tobacco-free campus and to help students transition into workplaces that are no longer allowing tobacco on site. MCC is also offering assistance and will make resources available to anyone looking to quit tobacco use. Several visitors present and members of the Senate ask if electronic cigarettes will be banned, and Mr. Lawson responds 'yes'. The reason being the F.D.A has no research or statistics as to whether these products are in fact harmful, and it will be difficult for MCC to enforce this policy if they confuse electronic cigarettes with real cigarettes since they look similar from a distance. A lively discussion ensues challenging if electronic cigarettes are in fact harmful and several members of the Senate disagree with banning them.

Matt Lawson tells all that speaker Ty Patterson, who is the Director of the National Center for Tobacco Policy, spoke at MCC. Ty Patterson leads and assists colleges in campus-wide, tobacco-free initiative and has all the latest research and findings regarding tobacco use. Mr. Patterson told all at the meeting at MCC that the electronic cigarettes have not been found to be harmless, and there has simply just not been enough research done on these products as of yet.

An MCC student asks Matt Lawson if you can smoke in your cars, and is told yes. Cars are considered personal property and if you choose to smoke in your car, you may do so. Senator Wyble asks how MCC plans to enforce the smoking ban and what exactly the repercussions will be for being caught smoking. Senator Schollnick states she is interested in this as well. Matt states they are working on how to enforce and how to handle individuals who are using tobacco on campus and are in violation of the policy. They are also working on how MCC student should handle a situation if they see anyone violating the policy and whom they should notify. Mr. Lawson states this is going to happen in January 2014, so the more on board and aware of the policy, the better for all. Please check OrgSync for updates and dates of meetings.

Ameen Smith, a representative of WMCC/ The Fuse, approached the Senate asking for assistance regarding the MCC zoned sound system. It appears WMCC cannot be heard in certain areas of the campus and Ameen has not been able to find anyone who can assist and isolate the problem so it can be corrected. Advisor Stewart offers to help to find a contact point of either the college or the Association who would be able to look into this issue and asks if a Senator would work with her and Ameen to get this resolved. Senator Wyble offers his assistance. Speaker Hale asks that the specifics be discussed after the meeting. Ameen also asks for thoughts and suggestions as to how WMCC can be a conduit of information to the students. He offers the services of WMCC to do interviews, live sessions, or pre-recorded information sessions that can be run over the airwaves to reach a large audience. Speaker Hale agrees and thinks this is an excellent suggestion.

Vice-President White takes the floor and reminds that all the Senators represent the rights of all students at MCC. He suggests finding a “common ground” and perhaps putting up a shelter for smokers in the parking lots which are not MCC property.

Speaker Hale announces there is a new template for any resolution that a Senator represents. This will be distributed today. He reminds all to use only this new resolution template going forward. Speaker Hale recommends each Senator presents a report each week. It is a way to get what they have been working on out to all.

III. REPORTS

President Clark

The radio station is still working on getting the speakers in the hallways working. The problem seems to be a software issue and will be investigated by ETS. President Clark hopes they are soon on the airwaves at MCC. President Clark has noticed MCC has many artistic students and his promotion coordinator has encouraged these students to be more visible on campus as to enrich a creative environment for all. The election packets are nearly ready and he would like the Senate to be aware it will be coming to them as soon as dates confirmed. It will be presented for approval soon. JaysWay has been our vendor for four (4) days this week and the fundraising has been a success and will continue with Jays Ways in the future. The committee appointments are as follows: Library Student Advisory Committee – Student Service Coordinator -Melanie Seeley, Faculty Senate Planning-Senator Sean Jopson, Faculty Senate Curriculum – Senator Steven Poloznik, Faculty Senate Academic Policies-Nicholas Wyble, Parking Appeals – Senator Douglas Williams, Senator Alex Cassidy.

A topic that President Clark is hearing a lot of buzz about is the impending smoking /tobacco ban that will be in place on campus. The people speaking the loudest about this have been the people promoting the ban. The students and staff that have been affected by this ban are the smokers. They have been mostly silent or seemingly ignored. They understand they are living in a state that has decided to financially discourage smoking and then ban it from public buildings. However, this new direction that SUNY has taken to ban smoking from all campuses is a very big step and I cannot say that I personally support such a move. The new ban has a very discriminatory undertone to its policy. It now states that we want smokers to not only go outside and stand in the cold and rain to exercise their right to smoke, now that is not good enough. The new policy says that we now don't want to see them. Either these people are not good enough to stand in the cold and rain where we can see them or what they are doing is so vile in nature that they do not deserve the right the smoke where anyone can see them. Now that MCC has removed the ashtrays from campus, President Clark has noticed the ever growing population of cigarette butts on our sidewalks. He makes the suggestion that we return the ashtrays until the college allocates the sufficient number of public safety officers to provide the personnel to enforce this smoking policy. President Clark has noticed and been so advised there are a large number of students who do not have access to a computer at home. He felt the thought of a candidate to look into this and perhaps provide a service for the students would be a great asset. President Clark has been approached by students who have had ideas that any computers that are being recycled by MCC could be refurbished by students and distributed to students in need at no cost. The student who initially presented this to President Clark is still developing this idea and would like to hear any suggestions brought to the Senate floor.

Senator Miner

Senator Miner has been discussing the concerns of several clubs and individuals here at MCC. He speaks first on behalf of the BAJA Club. It has come to his attention that the BAJA Club's work area has been discontinued. They were previously located at the ATC location, an area in the rear of the building which had a power supply. They were recently relocated to the front of the ATC parking lot, where there is no access to a power supply. Senator Miner and the club members fear if a new work-space is not found, the club will have to be disbanded. He is looking for a space for them to store their work trailer which will supply power. The trailer has been moved to an area with no power. The BAJA team is capable of using the trailer as their main working area, however, without a power-supply, the trailer as a main working area is not an option. He is looking into all possible options for them. He has spoken with MCC's Auto Club about possible working space at the Brighton Campus and Senator Miner followed-up with an email again regarding the space. He has not heard back as of yet. Senator Miner has been working with students of the Engineering Leadership Council (ELC). They voiced concern regarding work space. They are approaching the Spring ENR section of the design project and this requires many hours of work and design. Their work space becomes extremely packed as engineers race to complete their robot. Senator Miner is looking into additional work space, possibly room 9-155, which would serve as a good area for the ELC students. He is looking into and considering all possibilities at this time.

Senator Jopson

Senator Sean Jopson opened his report by announcing that the Planning committee did meet on Monday October 28. He goes on to explain that at the meeting that The Planning Committee picked up where they left off on the academies initiative, but this time they kept the discussion internal to the committee. Senator Jopson stated they talked and each of them gave their own input and ideas which they used in developing an outline of questions and concerns that they have as a committee. He is still compiling a list of students that will be passed on to the Steering Committee for Academies. Senator Jopson explains that the students input can mean a great deal in how MCC goes about implementing these academies. Although he cannot guarantee every student will be contacted, he is confident that some of them will be. The Senator then announces that if helping with the implementation of Academies interests the listeners or anyone they know, to see him after the public meeting. He reported that the finance committee met and approved another Travel Contingency request. Senator Jopson concludes that no other "report worthy" events have occurred since last Tuesday and he thanked all those who attended the meeting.

Deputy Speaker Cassidy

She has created two major projects. For the first project, Deputy Speaker Cassidy has teamed up with Professor Little of the Geoscience Department to make a trail map of the extensive trails on MCC's property. MCC has beautiful and extensive nature trails facing the expressway. They are currently unmarked and unmapped. She frequents the trails and would like to make all aware of these trails and has a goal to create a pamphlet that contains information on them as well as maps. She is also planning signs to map the trails and to have a copy of the information pamphlet on MCC's website. Her second project is Voter Information Day to be held on Monday November 4th in the Terrace from 12pm-3pm. This is the day before many local elections in Rochester.

Senator Williams

Senator Williams met with Dan from the Baja Club, concerning status of building space for their car & this academic school year's club budget. On Thursday he met with the Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Project, concerning the size of their office. Their present office is small, and with the high capacity of an active agenda, they might find it easier to accomplish their goals in a larger office. He is looking for any empty office at this time. The Travel Contingency Committee met & passed the upcoming Engineering Leadership Council Organization's trip to Clarkson College. He had a discussion with a fellow MCC student and after she shared two concerns, he asked her to please address these issues with the Student Government President, via email. In school spirit, Senator Williams attended the Anime' Club's second annual Masquerade Ball. In talking with the Club's president, they were looking at a very nice turnout and the ball was considered a success. He went as an old cowboy with dementia. On Friday he presented a proposal of a student's idea to the Student Government Association's Pre-Agenda meeting. He also sent three proposals to the Student Government Association's secretary, Advisor Stewart, President Clark, Speaker Hale and the Senators of the Student Government to be addressed at the Friday, November 1st, 2013 Pre-Agenda.

Advisor Stewart

She met with Shirley Provost, Professor Gamory, Ginny Geer-Mentry, and Dan Steiner regarding the Mini BAJA working space issue. It appeared they do have some items they can work on at the current time, but all are looking for a new space for the club. They also discussed the budget and the amount of money they have to work with. The college is adopting a “green” initiative and she would like the SGA to sign the same pledge that the Office of Student Life and Leadership signed. She hopes all will be on board, and will bring the paperwork to the Executive Session for review. This initiative focuses on what you can directly control and would love to see these policies adopted by all. She notifies all there is a winter Student Leadership Retreat on January 13, 2014. There will be leadership exercises and workshops in the morning and a speaker in the afternoon. Breakfast, lunch, and ice cream will be provided.

Advisor Herzog

Wants all to know the Psychic Fair held in the Atrium was a huge success! There will be a hypnotist on November 6th, who will do both an audience and individual hypnotic show. This will be held in the main dining area from 12pm-1pm. Facilities have been collecting trash from the terrace areas and will be presenting its findings during the “trash or treat” display on October 30th. This was put together by CAB teaming up with the Civility Committee when it was noticed there was an abundance of people not utilizing the waste receptacles. CAB is re-writing its By-Laws to be cohesive with the SGA’s proposed changes and will present them shortly. CAB is finalizing the spring semester’s events and will begin to then work on the Fall 2014 schedule.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Action Items (items requiring a Senate vote)

a. Resolution to approve amended By-Laws by removing duplicate By-Laws.

Resolved, that the MCC Student Government Association Senate approves the removal of the following duplicate By-Laws: 4.3.1.1 & 4.3.1.2 which appear in section 8. The By-Laws will be amended with removal of said duplicates.

Speaker Hale called for a motion to vote on the resolution.

Senator Williams so moved, seconded by Senator Jackson.

Discussion: Speaker Hale recites the specific above mentioned By-Laws. Senator Jopson states it is regarding two separate topics with the same wording. The first topic is vacancy and the second is appointment. Speaker Hale agrees with that statement. Senator Wyble states the different By-Laws make sense and are necessary for two possible situations. Senator Miner agrees with Senator Wyble.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Student Government Association Senate has not approved the resolution to amend said By-Laws by majority vote.

V. QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Vice-President White approaches the Senate and asks all to look out the window. He brings attention to an area directly outside the building where a couple is smoking. He does this in response to the previous discussion on the new MCC tobacco-free policy and asks how the college can stop all of this type of behavior on campus. He feels you cannot.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Speaker Hale called for a motion for adjournment. Senator Wyble so moved, with a second from Senator Poloznik.

A vote was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25pm.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Truman
SA Secretary