



**MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING
MINUTES FOR
Tuesday, February 24, 2009
2:15 p.m. – Forum (3-130)**

Student Senators:

Academic Clubs Senator Acosta
At-Large Senator Carey
CASA Senator Brown
Media Senator Gordon
Residence Hall Senator Rice
Science, Health & Business Senator Ruhindi
Service Clubs Senator Malin-**Absent**
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

Faculty Advisor:

Joseph McCauley

Visitors: Malcolm Cohen, Director of Legislative Affairs; Frederick Johnson; Richard Ryther, Associate Vice President , Student Services; Catherine Higgins, Secretary.

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

A. Roll Call

(See attendance above)

B. Approval of February 10, 2009 minutes

Speaker Darrow called for a motion to approve the minutes for the February 10, 2009 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 February 10, 2009 as written.

II. SPEAK TO THE SENATE

Fred Johnson spoke to the Senate regarding his wish to start a club for minority students in the field of engineering, which would be affiliated with the National Society for Black Engineers. He understood that the Senate had questions regarding this club's constitution.

Senator Lawson and Senator Bauman both raised concerns that there is already an Engineering Leadership Council on Campus and asked if Mr. Johnson had spoken to them about the possibility of being a part of that club.

Mr. Johnson indicated that his goal is to start his own club which would represent minorities in this field. Both R.I.T. and U. of R. have their own chapters. He would like this club to be separate from the Engineering Leadership Council.

Senator Bauman raised funding concerns. The Engineering Leadership Council is sent to both the State and National competitions. He suggested Mr. Johnson could consider being a sub-group of the Engineering Leadership Council. Senator Bauman would not want the new club to take anything away from the ELC, an award-winning club.

Mr. Johnson indicated that his club would not focus on competition, but on networking and employment opportunities for people in this field.

Speaker Darrow suggested setting up a private meeting to discuss this further and to settle on a date and time after this meeting. Mr. Johnson agreed.

Amy Battaglia, Chairperson for the Sustainability Sub-Committee, informed the Senate that they had a table in the Atrium this morning to educate the MCC Community on issues regarding bottled water. They distributed information on the bottled water industry and its impact on our environment. They held a blind taste test and most participants could not tell the difference between tap and bottled water. The committee is planning more education tables throughout the semester. She has designed a poster to recruit new members, which will be going up soon.

Ms. Battaglia has published an article in the Monroe Doctrine regarding sustainability issues and invited other members of the sub-committee to submit articles regarding this issue. The search is on for a person to write a grant proposal. Through online research Ms. Battaglia discovered that the Environmental Protection Agency is offering a

grant for a group that wants to improve their sustainability practices. She hopes to get the grant proposal written and submitted for consideration.

Ms. Battaglia is currently expanding on Clay Munning's efforts to get Facilities to provide more plastic recycling bins distributed throughout the campus.

III. REPORTS

A. Senators

Senator Acosta...

- **Interfaith Roundtable** – He is pleased to report that he is in communication with faith groups on campus. Senator Acosta will be submitting paperwork to request a venue for an interfaith roundtable to present different viewpoints. He is setting up a framework for future forums and projects. The Catholic Bible Study Group will be starting up in the next few weeks.

Senator Brown...

- **Forum Session** – Senator Brown indicated that since he last spoke with Advisor Stewart, he is moving forward with plans to create a Forum/Question and Answer session regarding many issues surrounding the African-American community, as well as the community at large. Information on this event is not yet solidified, however, the Empire Room has been reserved for April 21, 2009.

Senator Carey...

- **Transit Day** – Senator Carey began by saying he hoped everyone had a good February break. Plans are set into motion for the Transit Day that Student Government and RTS will be having on Monday, April 13, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., in the Terrace Lounge. Representatives from RTS will be here to answer any questions and to address issues that anyone may have. Daily bus passes will be given away and there may be a remote radio broadcast. Senator Carey will keep everyone updated as the time grows nearer. He would also like to have a Transit Day in the Fall. The Campus Service Desk still has tickets for MCC Night at the Knighthawks game on Saturday, March 14, 2009. Tickets are \$10.

Senator Ruhindi...

- **Non-Violence Rally** – Senator Ruhindi indicated that he hoped everyone had a relaxing break. He has written letters to people he hopes will speak and/or attend the non-violence rally scheduled for April 3, 2009. He had Advisor Stewart look over the letters. She loved them and said they gave her that “good tingle” sensation. They should be sent out by the end of this week. Senator Ruhindi will attend a Library Committee meeting on Friday at 10:00 a.m. and will be discussing the “Books That Make a Difference” Project and a magazine feedback project along with other announcements and updates. He is working with Senator Brown on the Men of Excellence Club that will be starting up soon.

B. Campus Center Advisor

Campus Center Advisor Stewart...

- She stated that it sounds as if everyone has their work cut out for them in the coming weeks and encouraged anyone who may want to start a project to meet with her first. It will save time and work.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. ACTION ITEMS (Items requiring a Senate vote)

a. Resolution to approve the Brighton Campus Student Government Association 2009-2010 Elections Packets.

Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approves the 2009-2010 Elections Packets.

Speaker Darrow called for a motion to approve the resolution to approve the Brighton Campus Student Government Association 2009-2010 Elections Packets.

Senator Lawson so moved, seconded by **Senator Carey**.

Discussion:

Malcolm Cohen, Director of Legislative Affairs, stated that last year's Elections Packet, specifically, page 4, Section 3-A, states that personal communication is not allowed before the official start of campaigning. If this is true, how do potential candidates obtain signatures for their ballots?

Senator Lawson stated that he and Advisor Stewart have met regarding this issue and they agree that wording should be specified to reflect that obtaining signatures is not considered campaigning.

Mr. Cohen asked if any type of verbal or personal communication not be considered campaigning before the official start date or would that be limited to just the signatures?

Advisor McCauley suggested that he was reading it too literally. Soliciting signatures is not necessarily considered campaigning. The packet talks about campaigning being after the signatures have been submitted.

Advisor Stewart clarified that you are not campaigning until you become a candidate.

Senator Acosta suggested striking this item if it causes so much confusion.

Advisor McCauley stated that you have two separate things going on. One is obtaining the signatures to become a candidate and the second is becoming a candidate and campaigning. If you try to specify everything in the rules, it can lead to more problems. You have to leave some things open to interpretation and this is one of those items.

Mr. Cohen stated that in last year's Election Packet, there was no mention of Facebook. He wondered if it would be allowed this year.

Senator Lawson indicated that he spoke to Advisor Stewart regarding this matter and it was agreed that the Elections Commission would have to discuss this further. It is an issue that has not been dealt with before. They will be meeting on this in the coming week.

Mr. Cohen asked that if Facebook is allowed this year, can the group be created before the official start of the campaign and how do you submit the campaign material to the Elections Commission as required under the current election rules?

Senator Lawson indicated that these questions will have to be discussed. It could be that all candidates might share a Facebook page under the control of Election Commission.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves the 2009-2010 Elections Packets.

b. Resolution to approve Daniella Insalaco, Rachel King, Robert Otero, Taylor Malin, Steve Darrow, Amy Battaglia, Ted Carey, Sarah Robinson and Andy Bauman to the Sustainability Committee.

Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approves Daniella Insalaco, Rachel King, Robert Otero, Taylor Malin, Steve Darrow, Amy Battaglia, Ted Carey, Sarah Robinson and Andy Bauman to the Sustainability Committee.

Speaker Darrow called for a motion to approve Daniella Insalaco, Rachel King, Robert Otero, Taylor Malin, Steve Darrow, Amy Battaglia, Ted Carey, Sarah Robinson and Andy Bauman to the Sustainability Committee.

Senator Carey so moved, seconded by **Senator Bauman**.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves the appointment of Daniella Insalaco, Rachel King, Robert Otero, Taylor Malin, Steve Darrow, Amy Battaglia, Ted Carey, Sarah Robinson and Andy Bauman to the Sustainability Committee.

V. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Senator Acosta stated that he has been talking to clubs on campus about setting up a roundtable forum. He doesn't have a topic yet. He informed the Senate of the location and time of the Catholic Bible Study Group.

Senator Lawson indicated that the M.S. Walk is coming up on Sunday, May 3, 2009 in Genesee Valley Park. SGA is in competition with Global Union. Global Union is currently leading 56 to 30. Lisa Armstrong gave a large donation. Senator Lawson encouraged others to make a donation.

There will be a Euchre Tournament to benefit the Child Care Center on Wednesday, March 4th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Forum. Pizza and soda will be provided. Tickets are \$10.00 and are available at the Campus Center Service Desk. Walk-ins are \$15.00.

On Wednesday, April 1st, there will be a Spaghetti Dinner in Monroe A and B at 5:00 p.m. This will also benefit the Child Care Center.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

At 2:46 p.m. Speaker Darrow called for a motion to adjourn. Senator Rice so moved, seconded by Senator Bauman. The Senate meeting was adjourned.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Higgins