



**MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING MINUTES FOR
Tuesday, March 29, 2011
2:15 p.m. – Forum (3-130)**

Student Senators:

Interdisciplinary Studies Senator Wassel-Saxe
Liberal Arts Senator Hale
Media Senator Moore-**Absent**
Science, Health & Business Senator Snyder
Social Clubs Senator Yost

President:

Jason Childers

Vice President

Christopher Hollander

Speaker/At-Large Senator

Jack Hills

Deputy Speaker/At-Large Senator

Michael Gray

Campus Center Advisor:

Elizabeth Stewart-**Absent**

Faculty Advisor:

Joseph McCauley

Campus Center Advisor:

Rebecca Herzog

Visitors: Dr. Kress; Heze Simmons, Administrative Services; Annette Agness, MCC Association; Eddie Visagie, Student Trustee; Tamara Hillabush Walker, Andrew Hammond, WMCC; Valarie Avalone, Lynn Rivers, Planning; David Shaw, VaPA; Megan Scott, Kelly Bynes, Michael Snyder, Presidential Cabinet; Jonathan Muniz, CAB; Donna Brennan, SA Secretary.

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

A. Roll Call

(See attendance above)

B. Approval of March 22, 2011 Senate Meeting minutes.

Speaker Hills called for a motion to approve the March 22, 2011 Senate meeting minutes.

Deputy Speaker Gray so moved; seconded by Senator Yost.

There was no discussion.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves the March 22, 2011 Senate meeting minutes as written.

II. SPEAK TO THE SENATE

There was no one to speak to the Senate.

III. REPORTS

A. Deputy Speaker

Deputy Speaker Gray...

- SUNY Palooza – several MCC students traveled to Albany to lobby against the proposed cuts to SUNY by Governor Cuomo. The group he was with met with Representative Bill Reilich who made them aware of a new piece of legislation that he will be creating in the near the future that provides a set tuition once a student enters the SUNY system. They also met with Senator Joe Robach who explained the SUNY system and how cuts should be made and also how cuts should be allocated at the k-12 level. He will be following up with Representative Reilich and Senator Robach over spring break.
- ASACC Conference - he attended the American Student Association of Community Colleges in Washington, DC with Senator Snyder, Coordinator Giverson, VP Hollander, Advisor Herzog, and Advisor McCauley. They participated in the vote to pass the 2011 ASACC Priorities. The first priority included the topic of Pell Grants; this priority requested that the maximum Pell Grant received by a

student be maintained at the current level of \$5,550. The second priority called for the extension of the Grace Period of the William D. Ford Direct Loan Program from the current six months to twelve months. As discussed with the Representatives Staffers, and brought up by VP Hollander, this will allow students to gain better jobs, better jobs allow students to own property, with property comes property taxes, and so on. The above members of the SGA along with members of the Damon City Campus SEGA met with staffers from Senator Gillibrand's office and Senator Slaughter's office. They shared stories about how the Pell Grant has been beneficial in their own lives; they extended an invitation to Senator Slaughter to visit MCC.

This conference was very beneficial in the area of where the SGA is headed next year and how they would like to approach the year. The Brighton Campus delegation discussed future conferences; they also brainstormed the idea of holding a leadership class specific to lobbying. They have recently experienced several occasions of lobbying and feel that the MCC student leaders should be equipped with that specific skill.

- Richard M. Guon Child Care Center – he has been working on “beach day” with Ms. Anne Barker, Director of the Child Care Center. This is a two day event; sign up sheets have been posted in the Senate and Cabinet offices.
- Blood Drive - sign up sheets are posted in the Senate and Cabinet offices, posters, and table flyers have been sent to operations to be hung up. This is a TWO-day SGA sponsored event and he expects everyone to participate. If you would like to make an appointment to give blood see Deputy Speaker Gray.
- Thank you to Corey K. the Store Manager at the Greece Ridge Mall Express for his donation to the Carolina fight for life euchre tournament, as well as Randy Turlington for his donation as well.

B. Vice President

Vice President Hollander

- SUNY Palooza - he also traveled to Albany on March 15th with 23 students and Advisor Stewart to advocate for SUNY and the Community Colleges of New York. It was just announced this week that Governor Cuomo and the Legislators have reached a compromise to close the budget deficit. This deal includes restoration of the base-aid funding for Community Colleges. Unfortunately, a rational tuition policy will not be instated this year for SUNY.
- American Student Association of Community Colleges (ASACC) – they had the opportunity to hear from speakers that included Ralph Nader and the Secretary of Education. There were workshops presented by both students and professionals which included presentations about suicide, global economics, and sex in higher education. They also met with staff members from the offices of Representative Louise Slaughter and Senators Schumer and Gillibrand.
- SUNY Student Assembly - March 25-27 he attended the last SUNY Student Assembly Executive Committee meeting for this academic year at SUNY Maritime. There was discussion about the upcoming conference. Any non-voting delegate who intends to obtain the certificate in sustainability needs to go to the website <http://www.studentassembly.org> by April 1 to complete the required material. Friday, April 8th will be the Spirit Contest that Chancellor Nancy Zimpher is scheduled to be a judge in. The resolutions will be voted on before the elections take place on Saturday.
- Carolina's Fight for Life – fundraising events will take place March 28 – April 1. Carolina has Clear Cell Sarcoma; due to the nature of this disease, traditional ways of removing cancer such as chemotherapy are not effective requiring a more intrusive treatment to remove the disease. Carolina and her family are part of the MCC family, having attended during the 90's. The organization is also helping to subsidize other people's treatments for Clear Cell Sarcoma. He will report next week on how much money was raised.
- Finance Coordinator Position – he and Recruitment Coordinator Michael Snyder are attending accounting classes to recruit for this position. They are looking for someone who has an interest in finances and accounting. The ideal candidate will be here the next academic year but they would like to fill it now since its budget time and a great time to train the coordinator.

C. Senators

Senator Hale...

- SUNY Palooza – he also traveled to Albany and found it to be a very rewarding experience. He continues to meet with the bylaws committee; focus has switched to working on the constitution.
- Carolina's Fight for Life – he has been participating in the Silent Auction fundraiser and has found the students to be very receptive and generous.

Senator Yost...

- Roundtable – at the March 9th Roundtable upcoming club events were discussed and have been posted on the Student Tribune. She has offered copies of her fundraising notes to all clubs. The next Roundtable will be April 4th at noon in the Forum.
- St. Patrick's Day Parade – she marched in the parade on March 12th.
- SUNY Palooza – she also participated in the March 15th rally in Albany.
- Faculty Senate – she attended the March 17th meeting in the absence of Deputy Speaker Gray. They were given a presentation of the proposed plan to remodel the Monroe Loop; she extended an invitation to have the latest presentation brought to the next Senate meeting so the students can also be informed of the upcoming changes to the campus.
- Carolina's Fight for Life fundraising campaign – she and Vice President Hollander are working on a Euchre Tournament scheduled for Thursday, March 31st. Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 teams.
- Parking Appeals Committee – she participated in the March 9th hearing in the absence of Coordinator Armstrong and will also participate in the April 6th hearing.

D. **Faculty Advisor McCauley** stated that he too marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. He also traveled to Washington for the ASACC Conference. At the end of the conference the group debriefed and engaged in a conversation about ASACC, their participation, and a follow-up. It is his hope that those who went to the conference will continue with the follow-up. The conversation started about ASACC, our participation and future with ASACC is important and should be continued. He encouraged them to keep pursuing the folks who make the decisions about whether Pell will continue and whether students will get their student loan deferments.

E. **Office of Student Life & Leadership Development Advisor Herzog** reminded the students that the Club/Organization Awards packets for the Student Awards Banquet are due by 5:00 PM on April 11. She also mentioned that she and Eddie Visagie will be presenting at the Connectology Student Leadership Conference at RIT on April 9.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. ACTION ITEMS (Items requiring a Senate vote)

a. Resolution to support a tuition increase for the 2011-2012 Academic Year.

Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate supports a tuition increase for the 2011-2012 Academic Year.

Speaker Hills called for a motion to approve support for a tuition increase for the 2011-2012 Academic Year.

Senator Hale so moved; seconded by Senator Wassel-Saxe.

Discussion:

Eddie Visagie, Student Trustee, offered a friendly amendment to the resolution stating that the third Whereas, should read: "Whereas, Monroe Community College's overall operating budget will *remain flat with* cuts in funding from New York State..." He thanked Vice President Heze Simmons and his team for working so hard on exhausting all other options before coming to the students for money. Many of the other local schools are raising tuition up to \$500 per semester or year. For MCC to only increase tuition \$50 per semester is incredible.

Senator Hale accepted the friendly amendment; the friendly amendment is approved.

Vice President Hollander encouraged the Senators to approve the resolution stating that it is only a 3½% increase and when they were doing the petitions for SUNY Palooza, the students were ok with a 5½% increase.

Heze Simmons, Vice President of Administrative Services, explained the SUNY guidelines for maintaining the fund balance of the College savings account which helps to subsidize the College's operating budget.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves support for a tuition increase for the 2011-2012 Academic Year.

At 2:40 PM the Senate took a brief recess to wait for Professor David Shaw.

Executive Session was held.

At 2:58 PM the Senate reconvened.

Valarie Avalone and David Shaw – speaking on the Strategic Plan

Valarie Avalone began the discussion with a history of Strategic Planning; she explained that it is planning for the future. Currently MCC is in its 4th Strategic Plan and the committee is now planning for the 5th. There is a committee of 17 people who will be gathering information from various entities including internal college staff, various internal student groups, and outside groups; all groups will be asked the same questions.

David Shaw conducted the question and answer session:

- 1. Briefly describe your vision of Monroe Community College for the future. Some factors to include are: curriculum, instructional/service delivery, staffing, enrollment, funding, governance/structure, or others.**

Input from students:

- New technology, more green technology, more advanced economic classes.
- Enrollment – more structure regarding classes needed for major; more of a roadmap to graduation. Better scheduling of classes. Staying with the same advisor after initial registration. More advisors/staff in Counseling & Advising. New student orientation and/or COS should be mandatory.
- More seats in programs that are limited (re: Nursing and Dental Assisting).
- More certificate programs in computer field; research Apple Care certification.
- More organization with regard to buildings; change numbers to names.
- More Res. Halls
- A Student Union building in a central spot for both campuses to house all clubs/organizations and with space for events and weekend gatherings.
- More innovation; for example an all MAC lab, green initiatives, etc.

- 2. What do you believe are the most pressing issues/challenges confronting the College during the next 3-5 years?**

Input from students:

- Enrollment growth and money.
- Encouraging more interaction with the whole campus; more of a whole college experience.
- Getting students to graduate; increased enrollment leads to more wait listing which leads to longer time to complete programs.
- Consistency among the various classes about how a course is presented and the use of technology (overheads, whiteboards, online capability).
- Availability of tutors and getting the word out that tutors are available and when they are available.
- Introducing students to various possible majors/programs to help them find what they want to do without spending 4-6 years searching.
- Stricter attendance policy.
- Preventing students from dropping out after their financial aid check comes in.
- Making use of available resources mandatory.

- 3. What do you believe are the College's current strengths?**

- Opportunities for co-curricular involvement in addition to academic.
- Opportunities to create outside activities; support groups.
- Diversity of students.
- Diversification of opportunities and classes.

- 4. What do you believe are the College's current shortcomings/limitations?**

- Organization

- PARKING
- Orientation is not mandatory

V. ADJOURNMENT

At 3:54 p.m. Speaker Hills called for a motion to adjourn. Senator Senator Yost so moved, seconded by Senator Hale. The motion passed; the Senate meeting was adjourned.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Brennan
SA Secretary