



**MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING
MINUTES FOR
Tuesday, October 20, 2009
2:15 p.m. – Forum (3-130)**

Student Senators:

Academic Clubs Senator Raja
At-Large Senator Blum-**Absent**
At-Large Senator Cohen
Interdisciplinary Studies 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: Dr. Otero, DCC Executive Dean; Robert Cunningham, Academic Facilities & Learning Environments; Valarie Avalone, Planning; Shirley Batista-Provost, Campus Center; Hoang Chau, Presidential Cabinet; Justin Young, CAB; Donna Brennan, Secretary.

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

A. Roll Call

(See attendance above)

B. Approval of October 13, 2009 Senate Meeting Minutes

Speaker Carey called for a motion to approve the minutes for the October 13, 2009 Senate meeting.

Deputy Speaker Ruhindi made a motion to correct the date of the SADHA Bone Marrow collection from Wednesday, November 5 to Wednesday, November 4.

A vote to amend the minutes was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approves the motion to amend the minutes.

A vote to approve the minutes as amended was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves the minutes for October 12, 2009 as amended.

II. SPEAK TO THE SENATE

Damon Campus Executive Dean Otero, Bob Cunningham, and Valarie Avalone were present to speak about the new downtown campus. Dr. Otero informed the Senate that 4 faculty focus groups and 4 student focus groups, 2 of each on each campus, have been held. The next step will be for the Ad Hoc Committee to get together to discuss major items for the new campus. Recommendations will then go to Dr. Kress. Dr. Kress will make the site selection and a new committee will be formed. He will keep everyone up to date.

Some of the suggestions from the students included:

- ✓ More room for clubs
- ✓ Larger student center with more student space, room for a chapel, and one floor dedicated to student activities. Student space to include: a large central area for students to just hang out, quiet space to study and do homework spread out throughout the campus, space with a view, space for games, a fitness center, and comfortable furniture.
- ✓ WMCC radio studio at downtown campus that works with Brighton campus station.
- ✓ Student housing

- ✓ Transit system linking all MCC campuses – very important!
- ✓ Larger technology center; better Wi-Fi in study spaces; computer access in hallways
- ✓ Much larger cafeteria area
- ✓ Keep future expansion in mind
- ✓ Interior route throughout the campus
- ✓ Improved security in parking areas
- ✓ Better heating/cooling system

Bob Cunningham stated that more space has been set aside for clubs. With regard to the heating/ cooling system, he mentioned that each room will have its own thermostat. The Wi-Fi right now is old technology; the more people on it the slower it gets; building 9 on the Brighton Campus is currently being renovated with updated wireless. Dr. Otero agrees that transportation is an issue. He mentioned that the MCC Association, Inc. Board has commissioned a sub-committee to look at shuttle service; they should hear about that before the building gets started. The next group in the planning will ask about student space; in 3 years the definition of student space will change. The location chosen will make a difference; right now, DCC is the fastest growing campus.

III. REPORTS

A. Speaker

Speaker Carey...

- ★ The annual Fall Open House held on Saturday, October 17, attracted over 1000 high school students and their families. This was almost double last year's open house attendance, which means MCC is in for another record enrollment next fall.
- ★ The Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Project held their 2nd annual Walk for Water on Saturday, October 17; over \$5200 was raised.
- ★ Saturday, October 24, he, Senator Blum and Director Idris will be joining President Penn, Vice President Dixon, Coordinator Penn and Coordinator Moorefield from Damon at the ASACC Conference in Washington DC. They will meet with our Representatives and Senators to advocate financial aid and keeping tuition costs low for community colleges.
- ★ Monday, October 19, the SGA EBoard had lunch with Dr. Kress, Dr. Salvador, and Advisor Stewart. They discussed SGA's current endeavors. Dr. Kress was impressed with all that SGA is doing and she suggested that each month different members of SGA meet with her for lunch to get to know each other and to share their endeavors.

B. Senators

Senator Blair...

- ★ He met with Pride Alliance – a Brighton campus-based club which meets to address the unique needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and trans-gendered students. One of his top priorities as Interdisciplinary Studies Senator is to address issues of diversity on the Brighton Campus. His attendance at this meeting was an attempt to further those goals by meeting with students who have traditionally been marginalized in our community. During the meeting, in which approximately 30 students were in attendance, he was struck by the need of many of these students for safe spaces on campus. Safe Zone Training is available to all student leaders, faculty, and professional staff and he urges all Senators and members of President Ijaz's Cabinet to take advantage of this very important training.

Senator Blum's report was read by Speaker Carey...

- ★ Suggestion boxes – she ordered two more boxes and the questionnaire pads. Shelitha Dickerson has given permission to place one in the Res. Halls. The others will be located in building one across from the information desk, building 3 in the campus center, the lobby of canal hall, in the marketplace near the microwave, and on the wall outside the SGA office. She hopes to have them up by October 30.

Senator Cohen...

- ★ Rules Committee is tentatively scheduled to meet on Thursday, October 29th, at 3 pm. On the agenda are the Radiology and Men's Volleyball Constitutions, as well as discussion on rewriting the club constitution template, and planning for the year, including changes to the By-Laws and Election Rules. If anyone has

anything they would like the committee to discuss, please mention it to Senator Cohen, President Ijaz, or Director of Legislative Affairs Idris. They are looking to expand the committee, and membership is open to all interested parties, irrespective of whether they hold a position in SGA. If interested in joining the Rules Committee this year, please speak with any of the people already mentioned or Speaker Carey.

- ★ SUNY Student Assembly Fall Conference will be held in Binghamton, NY October 23-25. He met with the Brighton and Damon delegations to the conference, and he is willing to answer any questions anyone may have concerning the conference, the organization, or specific items of business on the agenda for the weekend. One of the topics that will be brought up is Governor Paterson's repeated theft of SUNY funds: the Legislature has been asked to cut the SUNY system \$24 million (most of it from Community Colleges such as MCC) and the HESC \$28 million (\$26 million of that from TAP alone, which many MCC students rely on). This makes the rally that President Ijaz is planning, in conjunction with SUNY schools across the state, vitally important, and he encourages everyone who is available to attend.
- ★ Chancellor's Group of 200 – this Group of 200 will assist in formulating a five year Strategic Plan for the 64 school SUNY network. The first of seven meetings will be held at Hudson Valley Community College. The meetings will rotate around the state, and each will be open to the public. The next meeting is at UB in November, then at Upstate Medical in February. He encourages anyone who is interested, and has the time free, to attend. Dr. Kress, Dr. Goode, and he are the three people serving in the Group of 200 from MCC. If you are interested in learning more about this Group, and their mission, visit www.suny.edu/strategicplan.
- ★ Operations and Personnel Committee of the MCC Association, Inc. Board of Directors – at the meeting on Thursday, October 15, he and President Ijaz discovered that Aramark's contract with MCC is coming to a close, and the Association is putting out a Request For Proposals (RFP) for a new food service vendor. If anyone has any thoughts, comments, questions, or concerns pertaining to the process, deliver them to either President Ijaz or Senator Cohen, and they will ensure that they get where they need to go, and answer any questions to the best of their ability.

Senator Mac...

- ★ Roundtable – at the meeting on October 14, club and organization activities were mentioned: Saturday, October 17, Outdoor Activities Unlimited did a clean up outside MCC; October 26, at 4:00 pm, the Pool and Billiards Club held lessons on how to play pool; October 30, Outdoor Activities Unlimited Club will go to a Corn Maze, \$5 per person; November 24, WMCC will have Fuse Stock in Monroe A and B, the SGA will have a fundraising activity at that event; Hospitality Club will travel to NYC November 6 – 10, the approximate price for each person is \$622.10.
- ★ Travel Contingency Committee met on Friday, October 17 and approved \$200 to Campus Ambassadors for their fall retreat to Cornwallville, NY on October 30.

Senator Raja...

- ★ On 10/17/09 he worked at the MCC Open House.
- ★ He met with the Vice President of SADHA and a representative of the Health Information Technology Club; they discussed their upcoming bone marrow transplant project.
- ★ On Wednesday, October 21, he will be meeting with all of the academic club presidents.

C. Campus Activities Board

- ★ Justin Young, Co-Director, Campus Activities Board reported the following:
 - E-Board Positions: Educational Programs Chair = Almost filled
 - Events Scheduled:
 - Mitch Albom Book Presentation to Faith Based Organizations, October 12, Noon -1:00, CC Atrium
 - Chicken Wing/Pie Eating Contest, October 14, Noon – 1:00, CC Atrium
 - Open Mic Afternoon, October 20, 3:00 – 5:00, Near Java's
 - Ghost Hunters, October 29, 7:00 – 10:00 pm, Gym
 - Live Group Sex Therapy, November 11, 12:00 – 1:00 pm, Lecture Hall 8-200
 - Mitch Albom Co-Sponsored Event, November 17, 7:30 – 9:30 pm, Gym (\$3/Students & \$15/Public)
 - Breakfast with Santa, December 5, 10:00 – 12:00 pm, Forum, Admission TBD

D. Roundtable

★ **Hoang Chau**, Director of Clubs & Organizations reported the following:

- WMCC will be doing Fuse Stock
- Hospitality Club will be going to NYC in November
- OAU did a Clean-Sweep on October 17
- Walk for Water took place on October 17
- Peer Mentors will be holding a Rock Band tournament
- Health Information Technology club will have a Bone Marrow Drive on November 4 in the Campus Center Atrium from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

E. Faculty Advisor

Faculty Advisor McCauley mentioned that attendance at the Senate meetings is smaller than it was at the beginning of the year. He encouraged everyone to go out and recruit students to become involved.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. ACTION ITEMS (Items requiring a Senate vote)

a. **Resolution to de-charter the Chess Club, Horseback Riding Club, Pan African Club, Massage Therapy Club, College Republicans Club, Accounting & Business Club and Martial Arts Club**

Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate de-charter the following clubs: Chess Club, Horseback Riding Club, Pan African Club, Massage Therapy Club, College Republicans Club, Accounting & Business Club and Martial Arts Club.

Speaker Carey called for a motion to de-charter the above mentioned clubs.

Senator Blair so motioned, seconded by Senator Mac

Discussion:

Senator Mac offered a friendly amendment to put the Taekwondo Club back on the agenda to be de-chartered; Deputy Speaker Ruhindi seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Senator Cohen mentioned that it was decided to hold the de-chartering of the Taekwondo Club for a week because the student who was interested in starting the club up was given a week to speak to Shirley Batistta-Provost. It is his understanding that the de-chartering of clubs is put on the agenda to give those clubs a little more time.

Speaker Carey, President Ijaz, and Senator Raja stated that the student who was interested informed them that he does not have the time nor desire to be an officer of the club and that student could not find any other students who were interested.

Shirley Batistta-Provost stated that the Taekwondo Club has been on the books, inactive, for two years.

Deputy Speaker Ruhindi called the question.

A roll-call vote to call the question and end discussion was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association

Senate approves the motion to call the question as follows:

Yeas - Senator Blair, Senator Mac, Senator Monroe, Senator Raja

Nays – Senator Cohen

A roll-call vote to approve the friendly amendment to add the Taekwondo Club to the list of clubs being de-chartered was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approves the friendly amendment to add the Taekwondo Club to the list of clubs being de-chartered as follows:

Yeas - Senator Blair, Senator Mac, Senator Monroe, Senator Raja

Nays – Senator Cohen

Discussion:

Senator Cohen motioned to table the resolution to de-charter the above mentioned clubs and the Taekwondo Club for one week; there was no second to the motion.

A roll-call vote to approve the resolution to de-charter the above mentioned clubs and the Taekwondo Club was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approves the resolution to de-charter the following clubs: Chess Club, Horseback Riding Club, Pan African Club, Massage Therapy Club, College Republicans Club, Accounting & Business Club, Martial Arts Club, and Taekwondo Club as follows:

Yeas - Senator Blair, Senator Mac, Senator Monroe, Senator Raja

Nays – Senator Cohen

V. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Advisor McCauley commented on the issue of requesting student space. If the student space does not get utilized continuously it gets closed and used for something else. Something should be put into place to insure that the space gets utilized for programming, study groups, etc. year after year so that it remains student space.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

At 3:30 p.m. Speaker Carey called for a motion to adjourn. Senator Blair so motioned, seconded by Senator. The Senate meeting was adjourned.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Brennan
SA Secretary