



**MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING
MINUTES FOR
Tuesday, October 13, 2009
2:15 p.m. – Forum (3-130)**

Student Senators:

Academic Clubs Senator Raja-**Absent**
At-Large Senator Blum
At-Large Senator Cohen
Interdisciplinary Studies Senator Blair-**Absent**
Service Clubs Senator Monroe
Social Clubs Senator Mac

President:

Qasim Ijaz

Vice President:

Jason Childers-**Absent**

Speaker/At-Large Senator:

Ted Carey

Deputy Speaker/Science, Health & Business Senator

Simon Ruhindi

Campus Center Advisor:

Elizabeth Stewart

Faculty Advisor:

Joseph McCauley-**Absent**

Visitors: Annette Agness, MCC Association, Inc.; Lisa Armstrong, Tima Marathe, Fred Brown, Presidential Cabinet; Erin Markum, student; Kyle Madden, Alumnus; Donna Brennan, Secretary.

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

A. Roll Call

(See attendance above)

B. Approval of October 6, 2009 Senate Meeting Minutes

Speaker Carey called for a motion to approve the minutes for the October 6, 2009 Senate meeting.

Senator Cohen so motioned, seconded by Deputy Speaker Ruhindi

II. SPEAK TO THE SENATE

Kyle Madden, MCC/SGA Alumnus, complimented the SGA and all the students who were involved in the 9/11 Ceremony. The attendance and the ceremony were impressive. There were more students participating and in attendance than he saw when he was here. Great job!

III. REPORTS

A. Speaker

Speaker Carey...

- ✓ Luncheon with Dr. Salvador – he, along with President Ijaz, Vice President Childers, and Advisor Stewart attended a lunch hosted by Dr. Salvador on Wednesday, October 7. They gave her ideas and suggestions for things they are working on and would like to see at MCC. One suggestion was an electronic message board for the main entrance.
- ✓ Reminder: CAB is hosting a chicken wing eating contest and a pie eating contest on Wednesday, October 14 at noon in the Campus Center Atrium.

B. Deputy Speaker

Deputy Speaker Ruhindi...

- ✓ LSAC (Library Student Advisory Committee) held their first meeting on September 30. They discussed the Books That Make a Difference project and how they will proceed to get more students, faculty and administration involved, along with other ways they can make it more successful. They will also be developing a new library survey for students.
- ✓ Blood Drive – the first blood drive of the semester was held on October 1. It was special for him because he overcame his fear and donated blood for the first time. The whole entire process was very easy and after

he was done he laughed at himself because he had no real reason to be fearful in the first place; it is a great feeling knowing that his blood may help someone live; he can't wait for the next one.

- ✓ He thanked everyone for reaching out to him and for the flowers that were sent to his sister's house for his dad's death. He knows that he has so many he can lean on or to talk to when he is feeling down.

C. President

President Ijaz...

- ✓ Presidential Cabinet - the position of Director of Physical Activities will hopefully be filled today. The Presidential Cabinet Directors are working very hard to make sure their fellow students have the best experience possible. Director Marathe is an inspiration to us due to her enthusiasm for helping students. She is very committed to serving our students to the fullest extent. He announced that the ENABLE, which stands for "*Encouraging Nutrition and Better Living through Exercise*", student Health Fair, will be held in the Campus Center Atrium on March 10, 2010 from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM.
- ✓ Governor Paterson has ordered a 90 million dollar budget cut for SUNY. The SUNY budget had already been cut by 146 million dollars for academic year 2008-09, which resulted in a \$310 per semester increase in SUNY tuition for in-state undergraduate students. These actions will have severe effects on our future. Students of today are leaders of tomorrow. If we cannot study due to more budget cuts and less financial help, who will lead America in the future? Governor Paterson needs to realize that investing money in education is the best resulting investment. Governor Paterson, who makes \$170,000 per year, does not realize that students, who get little or no support from their parents, cannot afford the cost of education he has proposed. If we, SUNY students, do not stand against this anti-education formula, the next budget cut will be even worse.

He advises MCC students to stay informed about this budget cut and to the SUNY Student Assembly's response to it. You can use news media and the SUNY Student Assembly's website, StudentAssembly.org for these purposes. Also talk to your class mates, your parents, legislatures, congressmen, and professors; talk to everyone you can about this high risk crisis. We students are going to be affected by these budget cuts. The Governor and Legislators are far removed from the stage of paying tuition. They do not realize what it is like to be a student in this time of economic crisis. If we speak, they will hear; or should I say they will have to hear. It is our duty to speak now, so future students do not have to go through a bigger budget cut.

D. Senators

Senator Monroe...

- ✓ Leadership Retreat – it was a blast; she reminds herself of the FISH principles daily and is grateful that she was able to go and experience a wonderful weekend and grow as a leader - thank you!
- ✓ American Sign Language Club (ASL) – she has been working with the President of the club on events for the year. On Saturday October 17, 2009, at the Aldersgate United Methodist Church (AUMC) in Greece, the MCC ASL club will have a table at a "Family Fun Event". Anyone interested in helping is welcome; see her for more details. She is also working on ideas for a fundraising event this year.

E. Campus Center Advisor

Campus Center Advisor Stewart...

- ✓ She attended an Advisor Roundtable which is held for club & organization advisors to gather to talk about things. Professor Inero, advisor for the Health Information Technology Club and Chair of the Health Professions Department, talked about a bone marrow drive which will be held on Wednesday, November 4, in the Campus Center Atrium. They are asking for assistance from the clubs & organizations to recruit people to be placed on the bone marrow registry. There is no fee and the test for collecting is a swab inside the cheek. They will also have coin jars to collect money for future bone marrow drives. There is a strong push for minorities; Caucasians have a 70% chance of having a match whereas minorities have a less than 40% chance of having a match.
- ✓ President's Program for Students will take place on Friday, October 30, at FLCC. Students from FLCC, GCC and MCC will be gathering for leadership activities, a tour of the campus, dinner and networking. MCC students will travel together by van and leave campus around 1:00 p.m. and return around 7:00 p.m.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. ACTION ITEMS (Items requiring a Senate vote)

a. Resolution to approve Erin Markum as Director of Physical Activities

Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approves, using due process, Erin Markum for the position of Director of Physical Activities for the remainder of the 2009-2010 academic year.

Speaker Carey called for a motion to approve Erin Markum as Director of Physical Activities.

Senator Blum so motioned, seconded by Senator Cohen.

Discussion:

Erin gave the Senate a brief explanation of her background and explained that she would like to get involved to network and to help; she was briefed on the position and is very open to ideas; if she needs help she will not hesitate to ask for it.

President Ijaz mentioned that Vice President Childers met with Erin and explained the official duties and the office duties to her. He also mentioned that one of the reasons he ran for President was to have a sports channel for our athletes. Now, with a Director of Physical Activities, he believes that will be accomplished.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves Erin Markum for the position of Director of Physical Activities for the remainder of the 2009-2010 academic year.

V. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Tima Marathe, Director of Student Services in the Presidential Cabinet, spoke about the ENABLE (Encouraging Nutrition and Better Living Through Exercise) Student Health Fair. She met with Tony DiFabio, Peer Mentor, to talk about their past health fairs regarding what worked and what didn't work. She met with Advisor Stewart to set the date and do the paperwork to book the areas to be used for the fair. Lastly she met with Courtney Belluccio to hold and secure the locations and date for the health fair. The ENABLE Student Health Fair will be held on March 10, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Campus Center Atrium. She hopes to use the festival as a way to arm students with the skills and knowledge they need to prevent disease, live healthier lifestyles, and utilize the resources available on campus and in our local community.

She and Senator Carey attended a Parking Appeals Committee Meeting on October 1. She enjoyed the experience of participating in the appeals process and looks forward to serving on the committee again. October 2-4, she attended the Leadership Retreat and had a blast. She learned a lot about teamwork and how every member has something valuable to contribute; she made some very strong connections.

Senator Cohen, embellishing on President Ijaz's report regarding the budget cuts, emphasized how important it is to advocate against the budget cuts. The budget cuts will not affect the students attending MCC but it will affect the students who transfer into SUNY 4-year colleges. The cuts also include massive cuts to the Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) which provides state loans and Tap which many MCC students rely on. SUNY Student Assembly will be encouraging all 64 campuses to hold a rally against the tuition hikes on October 27 & 28; a petition has been set up and is available on the SA website; Facebook will be used to get the word out. They will be working closely with the State Legislature; Senator Stavisky, Chair of the Higher Education Committee, has already sent a letter to Governor Patterson opposing the budget cuts.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

At 2:47 p.m. Speaker Carey called for a motion to adjourn. Deputy Speaker Ruhindi so motioned, seconded by Senator Cohen. The Senate meeting was adjourned.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Brennan
SA Secretary