



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

**Student Senators:**

Academic Clubs Senator Raja  
At-Large Senator Blum  
At-Large Senator Cohen  
CAB Senator Wysote  
Interdisciplinary Studies Senator Blair-**Absent**  
Liberal Arts Senator Worcester-**Absent**  
Service Clubs Senator Monroe  
Social Clubs Senator Mac

**President:**

Qasim Ijaz

**Vice President:**

Jason Childers-**Late**

**Speaker/At-Large Senator:**

Ted Carey

**Deputy Speaker/Science, Health & Business Senator**

Simon Ruhindi

**Campus Center Advisor:**

Elizabeth Stewart

**Faculty Advisor:**

Joseph McCauley

**Visitors:** Dick Ryther, Dr. Susan Baker, Student Services; Lee Struble, John Mallaber, Public Safety; Annette Agness, MCC Association Inc.; Bob Cunningham, Academic Services; Executive Dean Otero, Anita Manuele, DCC; Lauren Cona, Math Club; Donna Brennan, Secretary.

**I. CALL TO ORDER (2:18 p.m.)**

**A. Roll Call**

(See attendance above)

**II. SPEAK TO THE SENATE**

Dr. Otero, Executive Dean, Damon City Campus, and Bob Cunningham, Director of Academic Services Planning & Learning Environments, explained that they are looking for students thoughts regarding what constitutes a new campus. The new downtown campus is envisioned as a destination; a place that draws students, faculty, staff and community members to its doors; a place of engagement and collaboration. It should be a purposeful and inviting place. With that in mind, he asked the Senators what their thoughts are concerning the essential design elements and the essential academic and student services programming elements that would make the vision a reality. He mentioned that the location will be somewhere within the inner-loop.

Some of the thoughts and concerns shared were:

- ✓ Location should be conducive to the many students who commute between the campuses; keep the location of the bus route in mind.
- ✓ Ample parking; parking is a major issue
- ✓ Open air/green space; possibly utilize the roof area
- ✓ Tabletop areas in lecture halls need to be larger
- ✓ Area where students want to spend time
- ✓ Larger common area for eating along with smaller areas where students can go for study groups, quiet areas, technology areas
- ✓ Residential housing for students
- ✓ Sustainable building
- ✓ Keep classroom without windows at a minimum
- ✓ More digital signage; allowing artists in the community to showcase their art work
- ✓ More smart rooms
- ✓ WMCC broadcast on campus

- ✓ Areas for faith based groups
- ✓ More computers not just in the library but also around the building
- ✓ More commercial/independent food services
- ✓ Utilize area health providers
- ✓ More print stations
- ✓ Better acoustically good performance area
- ✓ Shuttle service
- ✓ Wider hallways

More thoughts and ideas can be sent to Dr. Otero at [eotero@monroecc.edu](mailto:eotero@monroecc.edu) and Mr. Cunningham at [rcunningham@monroecc.edu](mailto:rcunningham@monroecc.edu).

### III. REPORTS

#### A. Speaker

##### Speaker Carey...

- Thank you to everyone who helped with and attended the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony. It looked like there were many more people who attended this year than last; both Student Government's and CAB's hard work was evident.
- Prizes for Constitution Bowl and the Scavenger Hunt have been purchased. Thank you Campus Center Advisor Stewart for purchasing the mall gift cards.
- The first Roundtable will be tomorrow, September 16 from 4-5p.m. in the Forum. As a reminder, it is mandatory that at least one club/organization member attend Roundtable.
- Activity Day is tomorrow, September 16 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 pm in the Campus Center Atrium.

#### B. Deputy Speaker

##### Deputy Speaker Ruhindi...

- He thanked the Senate for electing him as Deputy Speaker and congratulated everyone for the great job done with the September 11 Ceremony.
- He would like to see all of the Senate and Presidential Cabinet members at Activity Day, even if it's only for 5 minutes. The students should see who their representatives are.
- Constitution Day is Thursday, September 17. There will be an all day scavenger hunt and a trivia bowl with prizes.

#### C. Senators

##### Senator Cohen...

- The Auto Club's Constitution has a few minor issues left to be worked out. Their petition for charter should be ready to be voted on next week.
- Constitution Day will feature a return of the Constitution Bowl trivia competition from 12:30 to 2:00, a reading of the Preamble in the Campus Center Atrium at 2:00, and an all day Scavenger Hunt. Prizes will be awarded for both Constitution Bowl and the Scavenger Hunt, with the top prize being an iPod for the winner of the Scavenger Hunt. Free pocket-sized copies of the United States Constitution will also be given away.
- He sat on a Disciplinary Appeal Hearing with CAB Co-Director Young on Friday, September 11. He was very concerned over what he felt was an infringement on the student's fundamental rights as accorded by the SGA's brand new Constitution, the Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students, and the US Constitution. He will be following up with Mr. Ryther.

#### D. Campus Center Advisor

##### Campus Center Advisor Stewart...

- Alumni Week and Homecoming information can be found in the Campus Center. Campus Activities Board is participating with the MCC Alumni Committee. Buy tickets for Caroline Rhea and invite all friends & family. Show your support by getting involved; there is a lot happening. Some of the events happening throughout the week are: an alumni appreciation reception, a Disc Golf Tournament, a men's alumni soccer game, a 5K Race, Dr. Kress will be in the hospitality tent, women's and men's soccer games, a baseball double-header, Carolyn Rhea, a presentation at the Damon City Campus with past, present and future exhibits of the Damon campus, there is a virtual homecoming on-line, and alumni cooking demonstrations.

President Ijaz mentioned that he was very impressed that members from the Class of 1960 would be present.

Justin Young, CAB Co-Director, mentioned that there will be an alumni social at the original Alexander Street Campus; he has been told that it has been converted into apartments.

#### E. Faculty Advisor

**Faculty Advisor McCauley** complimented the Student Government for a job well done with the 9/11 Ceremony. He also complimented the students for the questions they had for Dr. Otero and Mr. Cunningham regarding the new downtown campus.

### IV. OLD BUSINESS

#### 1. ACTION ITEMS (Items requiring a Senate vote)

##### a. Resolution to approve Sara Idris as Director of Legislative Affairs

*Resolved*, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate consents to the appointment of Sara Idris to the position of Director of Legislative Affairs in the Presidential Cabinet for the 2009-2010 academic year.

**Speaker Carey** called for a motion to remove from the table the resolution to approve Sara Idris as Director of Legislative Affairs.

**Senator Cohen** so motioned, seconded by Senator Ruhindi.

##### **Discussion:**

Senator Cohen stated that he had a chance to meet with Sara and he now feels comfortable voting yes for her.

President Ijaz mentioned that Sara was part of the Model UN in high school; she chaired and attended Model UN conferences. She was also part of Student Assembly.

**A vote was taken.**

**Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate** unanimously approves the appointment of Sara Idris to the position of Director of Legislative Affairs in the Presidential Cabinet for the 2009-2010 academic year.

### V. NEW BUSINESS

#### 1. ACTION ITEMS (Items requiring a Senate vote)

##### a. Resolution to endorse the Community College Financial Bill of Rights

*Resolved*, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association of Monroe Community College hereby endorses in full the provisions of "The Community College Financial Bill of Rights," as passed by the Student Assembly of the State University of New York, and further, be it

*Resolved*, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association of Monroe Community College requests that Melody Mercedes, President of the Student Assembly of the State University of New York and SUNY Trustee, along with Will Madera, Director of Community College Affairs for the Student Assembly of the State University of New York, or their designee(s), attend the next meeting of the New York Community College Association of Presidents (NYCCAP) to communicate said endorsement to that group, and further, be it

*Resolved*, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association of Monroe Community College requests that Melody Mercedes, President of the Student Assembly of the State University of New York and SUNY Trustee, along with Will Madera, Director of Community College Affairs for the Student Assembly of the State University of New York, or their designee(s), make all due effort to see the provisions of "The Community College Financial Bill of Rights," as passed by the Student Assembly of the State University of New York, put into effect as statewide policy to benefit and assist the students of Community Colleges across the state, including the students of Monroe Community College, both now and in the future.

**Speaker Carey** called for a motion to endorse the Community College Financial Bill of Rights.

**Senator Cohen** so motioned, seconded by Deputy Speaker Ruhindi.

##### **Discussion:**

**Senator Cohen** explained that in April the SUNY Student Assembly representatives voted to approve the bill called the Community College Financial Bill of Rights. All 30 Community Colleges across the state have to deal with some form of a Faculty Student Association. MCC's is the MCC Association. Not

every Community College has as good a relationship with their FSA as MCC does. Many of the Student Governments have continual problems with their FSAs and the Community College Financial Bill of Rights was developed to try to alleviate the issues. President Melody Mercedes of the SUNY Student Assembly, who also sits on the SUNY Board of Trustees, and Director of Community College Affairs Will Madera, who sits on her Cabinet, wish for Community College Student Governments across the state to pass the same bill or a bill endorsing the original resolution passed at spring conference so they can bring up these endorsements when they go to the meeting of the New York Community College Association of Presidents at the beginning of October. Senator Cohen requested a roll call vote.

**A roll call vote was taken:**

**Yeas** – Deputy Speaker Ruhindi, Senator Blum, Senator Cohen, Senator Mac, Senator Monroe, Senator Wysote.

**Absent** – Senator Blair, Senator Worcester.

**Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate** endorses, in full, the provisions of “The Community College Financial Bill of Rights,” as passed by the Student Assembly of the State University of New York and requests that Melody Mercedes, President of the Student Assembly of the State University of New York and SUNY Trustee, along with Will Madera, Director of Community College Affairs for the Student Assembly of the State University of New York, or their designee(s), attend the next meeting of the New York Community College Association of Presidents (NYCCAP) to communicate said endorsement to that group, and also requests that Melody Mercedes, President of the Student Assembly of the State University of New York and SUNY Trustee, along with Will Madera, Director of Community College Affairs for the Student Assembly of the State University of New York, or their designee(s), make all due effort to see the provisions of “The Community College Financial Bill of Rights,” as passed by the Student Assembly of the State University of New York, put into effect as statewide policy to benefit and assist the students of Community Colleges across the state, including the students of Monroe Community College, both now and in the future.

**VI. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

President Ijaz thanked everyone who helped on the 9/11 Ceremony. Activity Day is tomorrow, September 16 from 11:00 – 2:00.

Senator Cohen reminded everyone that today is Primary Day in the city and everyone should get out and vote. The polls are open until 9:00 p.m. He also mentioned that there is a sign-up for the Constitution Bowl on the SGA board.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

At 3:35 p.m. Speaker Carey called for a motion to adjourn. Senator Blum so motioned, seconded by Senator Cohen. The Senate meeting was adjourned.

**VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Brennan  
SA Secretary