



**MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING
MINUTES FOR
Tuesday, January 28, 2014 2:15 PM-Forum (3-130)**

Student Senators:

Academic Clubs Senator Jopson-**absent**
At-Large Senator Poloznik
Senator Richards
Senator Jackson
At Large Senator Rapp
Science, Health & Business Senator Wyble
Service Clubs Senator Schollnick
Social Clubs Senator Williams

Speaker of the Senate:

Adrian Hale

Deputy Speaker:

Alexandria Cassidy

President:

Nelson Clark-**late**

Vice President:

Mark White

SL&LD Advisor:

Elizabeth Stewart

SL&LD Advisor:

Rebecca Herzog

SA Secretary:

Lisa Truman

Visitors: Nikolai Alexandrov, Global Union; Matthew Vineyard, Martial Arts Club; Sara Feuerstein, White House Representative; Amy Walters, CAB; Royce Entner, Student; Amye Brown, ANIME Club; Carolos Ortiz, ANIME Club; Craig Proctor, Student Life; Ken Koban, WMCC; Ameen Smith, WMCC; Susan Baker, Student Services; Betsy Ripton, Student Services; Virginia Geer-Mentry, MCC Association; Evan Marcella, Celtic Society; Mary Jane Starr, MCC Staff; Christopher Belle-Isle, Student Services.

I. CALL TO ORDER (2:20pm)

A. Roll Call (See attendance above)

B. Approval of the December 10th Minutes.

Speaker Hale called for a motion to approve the December 10th Minutes.

Senator Schollnick so moved, Senator Rapp seconded.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Student Government Association, approves the December 10th Minutes as written.

II. SPEAK TO THE SENATE

Sara Feuerstein, a representative of the White House, announces there are more tickets available to see Vice-President Biden speak tomorrow, January 29th at the Applied Technology Center. Please see her today at the Terrace level of the Campus Center to reserve a spot. The Vice-President will speak from approximately 12:00pm to 1:00pm, please arrive between 10:00am-11:30am as it is first-come, first-served seating. Do not miss this opportunity, the Vice-President had many venue choices, but chose MCC as the location.

Roy Schneider, an MCC student, has an idea of a public speaking forum for MCC. He has noticed while in his Public Speaking class, the students had difficulty expressing themselves in front of others. He would like to see platforms with micorphones set-up at planned locations around campus to offer an open forum of free speech. He felt these such opportunities to speak out an any topic of a student's choice would assist with the fear of public speaking, as well as promote free speech around the college campus. He will follow-up with fellow students and seek out a faculty advisor.

Amy Brown, a representative of the ANIME Club, reminds all of ANIME's quest to remind all students of college hour. She and her club are strong supporters of an hour of socializing, and campus experiences outside of the classroom. She would like to see postings of college hour around campus, and on MyMCC so all are aware and can choose not to schedule classes during this time to visit with fellow students.

III. REPORTS

Senator Williams

Senator Williams has had one meeting with the Travel Contingency Committee. Senator Rapp is the Chairperson so he will provide meeting details. He reviewed two club's requests, The Revolution and Trojans Paintball Club, to become chartered on the 24th of January. They are both aware they need to make changes to their constitutions. Senator Williams reminds all that tomorrow, January 29th, at 4pm is the mandatory Roundtable meeting for all clubs, organizations and associations of the students. Attendance is required and all unauthorized absences are reported.

Senator Schollnick

Senator Schollnick stated she is excited to begin the Spring semester with fellow SGA members who have been working hard to make this the best semester yet. She reminds all there is a blood drive on February 6th, and please see her if you are looking to volunteer. Senator Schollnick thanks the Celtic Society for always assisting. She received a complaint from WMCC/The Fuse regarding trip funding being denied by the Finance Committee, and after speaking with fellow SGA members, she is confident this can be resolved. A big "Thank You" is given to Advisor Stewart and Advisor Herzog for a great meeting last Tuesday! She is excited to get the year going.

Vice-President White

Spoke of his journey, with President Clark to take Student Government back, and make it a government of the students, rather than a government of the people. He attended the MCC Association Board meeting where an increase in the student life fee was up for a vote. He felt there was no student input, and no student involvement in this decision, resolution, or process. He and President Clark ran on the platform of the student life fee and value students felt they were receiving in programming and inclusion in events. He personally found it frustrating when C.A.B., whose events engage a large portion of the student body is given a \$68,000.00 budget, yet the student life fee is paying over 50% of the fee of a campus speaker who will only engage 1/8th of the student body. He did not feel the programs lack value, he stated there is a need for parity. MCC cannot continue to engage 1/8th of the student population and dismiss the other 75% because they are not involved, as we have not presented anything for them to be involved in. As a protector of the student body, he disagrees with any raise in the student life fee that does not give C.A.B. additional funds for more and larger events.

Advisor Stewart

Would like all to be aware of MCC's RACE Card Project. Think about the word "race." How would you distill your thoughts, experiences, or observations about race into one sentence that has only six words? Now you can participate in the MCC Race Card Project. You will find forms around MCC for submitting your six words about race. These will be posted around campus and are a good way to involve the college community in this discussion.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Action Items (items requiring a Senate vote)

a. Resolution to approve the funding for the Civility Committee's PUSH Physical Theatre.

Resolved, that the Senate approves Civility Committee's request for \$1300.00 for the PUSH Theatre appearance on campus.

Speaker Hale called for a motion to approve the Civility Committee's request.

Senator Schollnick so moved, seconded by Senator Poloznik

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Student Government Association Senate approves the Civility Committee's request for \$1300.00 for the PUSH Theatre appearance.

b. Resolution to approve Glenn Rapp to the position of Deputy Speaker for the Spring 2014 semester.

Resolved, that the Student Government Association approves the appointment of Glenn Rapp as the Deputy Speaker for the Spring semester of the 2014 academic school year.

Speaker Hale called for a motion to approve the appointment of Glenn Rapp as the Deputy Speaker.

Senator Williams so moved, seconded by Senator Jackson.

Discussion: Senator Rapp spoke of how he is looking forward to continuing his service in the roll of Deputy Speaker and will do all he can to make this a very successful semester.

A vote was taken.

Senator Rapp abstains.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Student Government Association Senate approves the appointment of Glenn Rapp as the Deputy Speaker for the remainder of the Spring semester of the 2014 academic year.

2. Discussion Items

a. Alternatives to raising the student life fee.

Speaker Hale opens the floor for opinions and feedback regarding the student life fee increase.

President Clark is the first to address the room. He spoke of the MCC Association Board raising the Student Life Fee 3% over the next 5 years, as well as charging all on-line students the student life fee which they do not presently pay. He felt this was a quick decision with little or no student input. In just this short time he has observed a negative reaction from the general student population, as well as students sitting on the board. He and Vice-President White ran to shift student thinking. He wants the SGA to be one entity run by and for students. His opinion is that the Campus Activity Board (CAB) is severely underfunded and that is one organization which is able to reach the most students/participants. The student life fee should apply to student organizations, not the college business system, and simply funding the association does not benefit the students.

Christopher Belle-Isle, Interim V.P. of Student Services, addresses the concern. He has been a member of the MCC community for 50 years now, and started here as a student. He apologizes for the miscommunication that led to little or no student input at the meeting which addressed the student life fee increase, and understands the importance of students being included/part of this process. The college is facing many issues with regards to increased external costs to simply maintain current programs, and a decline in federal and state funding. This coupled with decreased enrollment has lead the college to utilize a reserve fund, which while available now, will eventually be depleted for future generations of MCC students. He reminds all to think past the next couple of semesters and asks what we intend to leave for future students attending MCC. The student life fee increase is also in response to a demand for more programs, and more funds would help with this. As a past member of the SGA himself, he feels this government is thinking the same way he was many years ago; to get as many students involved as possible, and to leave something better behind once gone. **Senator Jackson** asks if Mr. Belle-Isle feels MCC is advancing. He certainly hopes it is, and he feels a great SGA is key in this role. **Senator Schollnick** asks what new programs he is referring to. Mr. Belle-Isles says that is up to SGA to determine the budget of the programs, and which new ones they support. **Roy Sedner**, a student, takes issue with MCC spending other people's money and notes the front loop removal and the cost. A discussion ensues on how a capital budget is separate from MCC and there was a necessity to provide public transportation to the college, and RTS was requesting new drop/pick-up areas. **Speaker Hale** is more concerned with the appropriation of funds. He asks if students will see a tangible result due to the increase? Will this help keep students engaged? Will students want to stay on campus instead of leaving right after class? **Mr. Belle-Isle** agrees this has always been an issue with a community colleges and has been with MCC as well. **Virginia Geer-Mentry**, of the MCC Association, explains the shuttle service is a large part of this cost. The demand has been so great, they have had to add an additional shuttle, bringing the total to three. The addition of the ATC route has been an expense also. Different thought regarding the shuttle, the percentage of the student population that utilize the shuttle, and who it benefits. There is discussion as to why the shuttle is under the student life fee, and it is confirmed that the shuttle is considered an auxiliary service that cannot go under any tuition program. **President Clark** reminds the room this is not about the shuttle specifically, but how the revenue generated by this increase will benefit the student population as a whole. **Senator Schollnick** offers to poll the student population to see where they stand on the issue. It is discussed that this resolution has already passed the MCC Association Board, and **Ms. Geer-Mentry** reminds all the board only voted as to recommend this increase. **President Clark** expresses concern as to how the student life fee will affect clubs/organizations now and in the future. After asking advisors in the room, if their budgets have increased or decreased, they answer decrease. **Advisor Rebecca Herzog** states that while CAB has had a decrease in budget, she has tried to get creative with her programming and stretch their dollars. A nominal entrance fee for events is discussed to draw bigger names and more student participation. Discussions regarding what the student life fee exactly covers, what personnel are paid by these funds, and the bookstore's recovery of funds when a student takes an advance on financial aid

and drops out of college continue, as well as the topic of student retention. **Dr. Susan Baker** states she is aware of community college retention and engagement issues. She and others are continually working to improve the campus environment. Any input or suggestions from the SGA or students is welcomed and encouraged. She would like students to remain on campus and enjoy a campus lifestyle instead of leaving after class or even going home on weekends if they live in the residence halls. **Speaker Hale** wants all to know that the student leaders present today, as well as students who sit on the boards are extremely mindful of the costs students incur. Students at MCC want to see all monies spent in a way that appeal to a broader base. He understands what the cost ratio to student services mean, and what he is really concerned with is the new revenue brought in from these increases should appeal to all students in some way, and the issues of engagement and retention should be something addressed with these additional funds. Many students who chose community colleges do so with cost in mind and in most cases as their deciding factor. There needs to be more student involvement, and more communication between students and the association regarding what services are offered and how to receive these services. **Ms. Geer-Mentry** agrees and would like to involve more students in the budget process.

V. QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

There were no questions or comments.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Senator Schollnick called for a motion for adjournment. Deputy Speaker Cassidy so moved, with a second from Senator Jackson.

A vote was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Truman
SA Secretary