



**MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING
MINUTES FOR
Tuesday, February 23, 2010
2:15 p.m. – Forum (3-130)**

Student Senators:

At-Large Senator Carey
At-Large Senator Cohen
CAB Senator Young
Liberal Arts Senator Gothard - **Absent**
Media Senator Moorefield
Residence Hall Senator Pritchard
Service Clubs Senator Monroe

President:

Jason Childers

Vice President:

Tima Marathe - **Absent**

Speaker/ Science, Health & Business Senator

Simon Ruhindi

Campus Center Advisor:

Elizabeth Stewart

Faculty Advisor:

Joseph McCauley

Visitors: Dick Ryther, Student Services; Lee Struble, Public Safety; Annette Agness, MCC Association, Inc.; Rebecca Herzog, Trung Nguyen, Cathy Higgins, Campus Center; Lisa Wallace, DCC Campus Center; Tony DiFabio, Jacob Tierney, Jenny Blum, Students; Rahul Raja, Presidential Cabinet; Donna Brennan, Secretary.

I. CALL TO ORDER (2:15 p.m.)

A. Roll Call

(See attendance above)

B. Approval of February 9, 2010 minutes

Speaker Ruhindi called for a motion to approve the minutes for February 9, 2010.

Senator Cohen so moved, seconded by Senator Monroe.

Discussion:

None.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approves the minutes for February 9, 2010 as written.

C. Approval of February 12, 2010 emergency meeting minutes

Speaker Ruhindi called for a motion to approve the minutes for February 12, 2010.

Senator Carey so moved, seconded by Senator Young.

Discussion:

None.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approves the minutes for February 12, 2010 as written.

II. SPEAK TO THE SENATE

There was no one to speak to the Senate.

III. REPORTS

A. President

President Childers...

✓ Presidential Cabinet is active and just about full.

✓ Student Government website - Director Perez is working on updating the entries for each position which, along with personal information, will include a brief position description and a photo of the Senator/Director.

- ✓ Association of College Unions (ACUI) International Conference in New York City – he will be attending with Directors Kuhn and Markham.

B. Senators

Senator Carey...

- ✓ Blood Drive - 76 units of blood were collected at the Blood Drive on February 4.
- ✓ ASACC – one of ASACC’s advocacy goals is to make textbooks more affordable for students. They have asked those attending the conference to bring information from their individual Financial Aid Office, Records and Registration Office and Bookstores. Betsy Ripton and Andy Morris from the Records and Registration office have provide him with the top 10 classes students register for at MCC and he is waiting for a reply from Financial Aid and the Bookstore.

Senator Cohen...

- ✓ SUNY Group of 200 - the sixth discussion took place in Plattsburgh, NY on February 19. The topic was Quality of Place; Keynote Speaker was Ira Harkavy, Associate Vice President and Founding Director, the Barbara and Edward Netter Center for Community Partnerships, University of Pennsylvania. He spoke primarily about how Campus involvement with the surrounding community can contribute to the quality of the overall campus setting, but the discussion expanded later to include a discussion on the quality of facilities and grounds on campus. The seventh discussion will take place at Upstate Medical on Thursday, February 25th. An eighth discussion has been added and will take place in mid-March. If interested in participating more, every Conversation is webcast live, and the videos are archived. There is a wealth of other information available pertinent to each Conversation, including digital versions of the presentations, all available through the Strategic Planning website. SUNY system administration is still interested in hearing input on any of the topics, and encourages as many SUNY family members as possible to participate online, if they cannot attend in person. Remember to visit the website, www.suny.edu/strategicplan, if you are interested in learning more about this Group, their mission, or to offer feedback on the Strategic Planning process. You can also follow GenerationSUNY on Twitter, Facebook, or YouTube, for more news on SUNY in general and the Strategic Plan in specific.
- ✓ SUNY Student Assembly Executive Committee met at Rockland County Community College. The meeting included an extremely lengthy discussion on SUNY’s proposed guidelines for setting differential tuition; System Administration has begun calling it “Special Tuition.” The Director of Community College Affairs Will Madera has resigned from his position. The Director of Community College Affairs answers directly to the President of SUNY Student Assembly, acts as a supervisor for the Community College Representatives, and is responsible for SUNY Student Assembly’s relationship with all 30 Community Colleges. The President of SUNY Student Assembly asked Senator Cohen to fill this position for the remainder of the year, and he accepted. He will remain Monroe’s primary liaison and representative to the Executive Committee, and will continue to facilitate the flow of information between the two organizations.
- ✓ NYCCAP, the New York Community College Association of Presidents, has scheduled a lobbying day on Tuesday, March 9 for all 30 Community College Campus Presidents to bring delegations from their schools to Albany to advocate to the legislature. The SGA should be coordinating with President Kress’s office, particularly Cynthia Cooper, Assistant to the President for College, Community, & Government Relations, on student involvement in this advocacy trip.
- ✓ SUNY Student Assembly is hosting SUNY Palooza in Albany on Wednesday, March 24th, from 10 AM – 4 PM; this will be a student-centered effort. SUNY Student Assembly is looking for as many students as possible to participate, whether they are student government members or not. Monroe, as the third largest Community College in the state, and one of the six largest schools overall, should send busloads if at all possible.

Senator Monroe...

- ✓ Masquerade Ball - scheduled for March 26 from 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. in Monroe A & B; tickets will go on sale soon.
- ✓ Food Committee proposals have come in - if anyone has suggestions about what they would like to see at MCC regarding food service, see her ASAP.

Senator Pritchard...

- ✓ Personal Health and Safety Committee meeting took place on Thursday, February 1, in the Empire Room - conversations included the importance of every student wearing an identification badge, the no pet policy on campus, and the importance of the presence of Public Safety officers everywhere on campus. The public safety officer in attendance stressed that there are only some things they can do to keep the student and faculty/staff population safe; the response was to ensure that armed peace officers are present on every part of the MCC campus.
- ✓ Res. Life – he will be meeting with Shelitha Dickerson, Director of Housing and Residence Life, to discuss some concerns from the resident hall students.

Senator Young...

- ✓ CAB Events for Date Week (February 22-26):
 - Every Rose has its Thorns, February 22 - 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm – Forum (3-130)
 - Speed Dating, February 23 - 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm - Campus Center Atrium
 - Love Bug Brownies, February 24 - 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm – Marketplace
 - Condom Bingo, February 25 - 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm – Marketplace
 - Learn to Salsa, February 26 - 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm - Campus Center Atrium

C. Campus Center Advisor

Campus Center Advisor Stewart...

- ✓ Thanked the students who took part in the Campus Environment and Safety Issues focus groups.
- ✓ The Emerging Leaders Workshop will take place on Wednesday, March 24, from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. 190 students have been nominated and invited, a student leader alumnus has been invited to speak, and clubs/organizations have been asked to set up tables with displays. This is a great opportunity to recruit new members.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. ACTION ITEMS (Items requiring a Senate vote)

a. Resolution to approve Committee Members to the Rules Committee

Resolved, that the Senate consents to the appointment of Douglas “Mirlin” Moorefield and Luis Perez to sit on the Rules Committee for the remainder of the 2009-2010 academic year.

Speaker Ruhindi called for a motion to approve committee members to the Rules Committee.

Senator Cohen so moved, seconded by Senator Monroe.

Discussion:

None

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves the appointment of Douglas “Mirlin” Moorefield and Luis Perez to sit on the Rules Committee for the remainder of the 2009-2010 academic year.

b. Resolution to approve Committee Members to the Veterans’ Affairs Committee

Resolved, that the Senate consents to the appointment of John Huther, as Committee Chair, and Bill Huther, Jr., to sit on the Veterans’ Affairs Committee for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Speaker Ruhindi called for a motion to approve committee members to the Veterans’ Affairs Committee.

Senator Young so moved, seconded by Senator Monroe.

Discussion:

Senator Carey stated that it is his understanding that the Chair of a committee is voted on by the members of the committee, not appointed by the President.

Senator Cohen stated that Roberts Rules allows the appointing authority, in this case the President, to designate a chair if a chair is not designated in the appointing resolution then the first name listed is interim chair until the first meeting.

At the first meeting elections would be held but only if a chair is not designated in the appointing resolution.

Senator Carey offered a friendly amendment to change committee chair to interim chair, seconded by Senator Young.

Discussion:

Senator Monroe asked for the purpose of the friendly amendment.

Senator Carey responded that appointing an interim chair will give the committee members the opportunity to vote for a committee chair.

Senator Cohen stated that the President’s choice of chair should be honored especially when the named chair is the Director of Veterans Affairs.

A vote to accept the motion to change the language of the resolution was taken.

The motion fails.

A vote on the original resolution was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approves the appointment of John Huther, as Committee Chair, and Bill Huther, Jr., to sit on the Veterans’ Affairs Committee for the 2009-2010 academic year.

c. Resolution to approve Jenny Blum as Director of Multicultural Affairs

Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approves, using due process, Jenny Blum as the Director of Multicultural Affairs for the remainder of the 2009-2010 academic year.

Speaker Ruhindi called for a motion to approve Jenny Blum as Director of Multicultural Affairs.

Senator Cohen so moved, seconded by Senator Carey.

Discussion:

None

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves Jenny Blum as the Director of Multicultural Affairs for the remainder of the 2009-2010 academic year.

d. Standing Rule on Programming Budget Allocations

Resolved, that the Senate hereby delegates the power to allocate the funds contained in the SGA Programming Budget to the Events Committee for the remainder of the 2009-2010 academic year, or until this standing rule is revoked by the Senate, whichever comes first, and further be it

Resolved, that the Senate must still approve any allocation made by the Events Committee prior to the execution of said allocation, as required by the Constitution.

Speaker Ruhindi called for a motion to approve the standing rule on programming budget allocations.

Senator Moorefield so moved, seconded by Senator Cohen.

Discussion:

Senator Carey stated that this is an unnecessary extra step.

Senator Monroe asked for clarification.

Advisor Stewart explained that this is saying that the Events Committee has authority over whatever is in the programming budget. The Senate has always been the body to allocate the money. Advisor McCauley stated that the Events Committee plans events; they do not distribute the funds.

Senator Cohen pointed out that this rule would expire at the end of the semester and the Senate can revoke it at any time. Additionally, the Senate would still have to vote on the Events Committee's allocations before they are spent.

Senator Moorefield asked what the point was if the rule was going to expire at the end of the year.

Senator Cohen explained the reason to have it expire at the end of the year is so that future Student Governments are not bound to do it the same way as this Student Government especially until the Events Committee is formed. This was originally suggested so that there would be more oversight on how the programming budget is spent.

Advisor Stewart expressed concern because the Events Committee is not the only group that used the Programming Budget. It is for anyone who wants to do programming of any kind and they shouldn't have to go to the Events Committee for the funding.

Senator Carey motioned to call the question, seconded by Senator Pritchard.

A vote to call the question was taken.

The motion passed.

Speaker Ruhindi called for a motion for a roll call vote.

Senator Carey so moved.

A vote was taken.

The motion for a roll call vote passed.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Senator Carey, no; Senator Cohen, yes; Senator Monroe, yes; Senator Moorefield, yes; Senator Pritchard, yes; Senator Young, abstain.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approves the Standing Rule on Programming Budget Allocations.

V. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Senator Cohen read a personal statement then resigned.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Brennan
SA Secretary