



**MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING  
MINUTES FOR  
Tuesday, April 1, 2014 2:15 PM-Forum (3-130)**

**Student Senators:**

At-Large Senator Jopson  
At-Large Senator Poloznik  
Social Clubs Senator Major  
Senator Jackson-**absent**  
Service Clubs Senator Schollnick  
Academic Clubs Senator Cassidy  
At Large Senator Savarese  
Science, Health & Business Senator Wyble

**Speaker of the Senate:**

Adrian Hale

**Deputy Speaker:**

Glenn Rapp

**President:**

Mark White

**SL&LD Advisor:**

Elizabeth Stewart

**SL&LD Advisor:**

Rebecca Herzog

**SA Secretary:**

Lisa Truman

**Visitors:** Juan Padilla, FYE; Douglas Williams, MCC Student; Ted Carey, PTK; Becca Leavy, PTK; Mathew Vineyard, Martial Arts Club; Kelly Burke, SMA; Evan Marcellus, Celtic Society; Mika Kawama, Chinese Culture Club; Shenamarie Luline, MCC Art Student; Emma Nardi, MCC Art Student; Kathy Farrell, MCC Faculty; Susan Baker, Student Services; Melissa Chase, JCC; Matthew Lawson, OSLLD; Andy Binder, MCC Student; Dolores Pasto-Ziobro, MCC Administration; Ty Patterson, SUNY Consultant/visitor.

**I. CALL TO ORDER (2:15 pm)**

**A. Roll Call (See attendance above)**

**B. Approval of the March 25<sup>th</sup> Minutes.**

Speaker Hale called for a motion to approve the March 25<sup>th</sup> Minutes.

Senator Jackson so moved, Senator Major seconded.

**A vote was taken.**

**Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Student Government Association, approves the March 25<sup>th</sup> Minutes as written.**

**II. SPEAK TO THE SENATE**

Matthew Lawson introduces Ty Patterson. Ty Patterson has over 37 years working in Student Services at a collegiate level, and is now a national consultant for the "Tobacco Free Initiative". Mr. Patterson tells all he is not only a student affairs person, but has and is an advocate for students. In his 37-year career span, he spent 30 years as the Chief of Student Affairs. He is also a former smoker, who smoked for 37 years. He states his mission is not to get people to quit smoking, he felt once you are of age you can make the decision to use tobacco yourself. He is more interested in establishing mutual respect and respect in general on college campuses. Mr. Patterson has observed a gradual decline of respect in general in society over the years, and he is looking to make that value more prominent. His work is comprised of helping higher-education institutions develop tobacco-free respect. Respect is very prominent on his web site and he feels this is of the utmost importance. He opens the floor to questions. Ted Carey, an MCC Student, asks about smoking in one's personal vehicle. Dolores Pasto-Ziobro noted the policy excludes personal vehicles, as legally they cannot be enforced. The policy does read to extinguish all products upon exiting the vehicle and she hope all will comply. Questions are asked regarding E-Cigarettes or Vaping products, if they are included in the "Tobacco Free Policy". The answer is yes, they are included. Mr. Patterson is aware that E-Cigarette use is growing rapidly and there are several products out there all making different claims. The F.D.A. has not authorized, regulated, or approved the use of E-Cigarettes and there are no studies that support the claim that they aid in smoking cessation. The courts have upheld

the F.D.A. ruling on E-Cigarettes and until they are regulated and controlled, no one really knows what each individual brand has in it or what it does to the body. There is no manufacturer control and no guarantee of what is in the product. Many do see the attitude changing and many may revisit the E-Cigarette inclusion in the policy if the F.D.A does approve and control the product in the future. Senator Savarese questions how to get the word out to the student population that this policy does actually help them? He has spoken to several students and no one seems to be in favor of the policy. Ty Patterson answers that the demographics of the student population is such that as a person's addiction and dependency gets worse over time, most students are at an age where they are at the beginning of the progressive addiction. The college will provide nicotine replacement patches, lozenges, and gum to assist someone throughout the day, and maybe some will even go off nicotine altogether. This is true for employees as well. The policy eliminates the use of a carcinogen, a degraded campus environment with cigarette butts littered all over, and there is usually some under age use of tobacco on campus. His experience has been that the right policy for all higher-education institutions is you just cannot allow the use of tobacco on campus. Senator Schollnick asks how this policy will be enforced. Mr. Patterson said he recommends not being punitive. It is a policy on campus, and he would hope all would adapt and abide by it. It is a cultural change, and this is not an easy endeavor. The policy will work if the culture changes. As a society we follow rules everywhere and we comply because we are good community members. If you do the right thing, you will never have to worry about being penalized. He does not want to see a police state; he wants people to do the right thing. Dolores Pasto-Ziobro stated we have an existing policy in place if necessary to address an issue, and we will use the existing Disciplinary Process instead of creating a new process. There are questions on where people will pick-up the nicotine replacement products and they are told Health Services. Dolores Pasto-Ziobro tells all there is not only a budget in place now while the policy is being developed, there will be a budget in the future to allow for the purchase of the nicotine replacement products. There are some questions on what areas of the campus MCC "owns" and will be able to actually enforce this policy, and it is explained that while Monroe County does own the property, it is held in Trust to MCC. If anyone has questions on this, they should Google "Enabling Legislation for State of New York" for specifics. Senator Jopson asks if Mr. Patterson has seen a decline in enrollment due to the policy. Senator Jopson notes MCC has many adult returning students and a large Veterans population as well. Mr. Patterson responds there is just some data you cannot possibly identify. While a student may not decide to attend MCC, he may have several reasons, or he may just have one. We can never really know the exact reason someone would decide not to register. To date though, he has seen no institution that has shown any enrollment decline due to the policy. He explains the movement on most college campuses are to a tobacco-free environment. Now almost all schools are tobacco free, and people really do not have that many options. It is also noted if you are on an MCC trip/outing/event outside of campus, you should abide by this policy as well. That is how the current policy in place works, and it will continue on to the future policy also. Mr. Patterson stated the best way to notify all of the policy and try for continuous compliance is to be relentless in spreading the word. Culture change is difficult and you must be unrelenting in your message. Senators ask about the current policy at MCC which is a certain distance away, designated area type of policy. It is noted this does not work. No one is clear on where the distances are, and if a person is smoking directly outside a door to the campus and others see them, they will smoke there as well. Mr. Patterson asks that all smokers treat everyone and everywhere they smoke as if they were at home and with their loved ones. This causes a different perspective to emerge, and people start to self-enforce the policies and it also takes away the stigma from someone feeling they are uncomfortable asking someone to stop smoking. Mr. Patterson thanks the Senate for their time, and commends the Senate and MCC Student Government for a productive and intelligent dialogue. Speaker Hale thanks him as well for his time and noted a lot of points he mentioned resonated with him and he felt they would with others also.

### **III. REPORTS**

#### **Speaker Hale**

Thanked the Senators for the awesome questions presented to Ty Patterson, and gave a special acknowledgement to Senator Jopson whom he felt asked some important, relevant questions.

#### **Senator Schollnick**

She will be emailing all clubs and organizations in an effort to streamline communications and introducing the Senate and providing their contact information for the clubs and organizations.

#### **Advisor Stewart**

Thanked all for the Emerging Leaders program. It went very well, and was a great turnout. She also thanked the Senate for the thoughtful questions and discussion with Ty Patterson.

#### **Senator Poloznik**

He has emailed all of the service/culture clubs with the exception of Pride Alliance. He has been in contact with Pride Alliance and they are trying to amend their constitution. He congratulated the Spanish Club for a wonderful event in the Atrium. It was a success.

## IV. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Action Items (items requiring a Senate vote)

#### **a. Resolution to approve the funding of \$1163.00 to The Engineering and Leadership Council to sponsor the TYSEA Competition.**

*Resolved*, that the Monroe Community College Student Government Association approves the funding of \$1163.00 to The Engineering and Leadership Council to sponsor the TYSEA Competition.

**Speaker Hale** called for a motion to approve the funding of \$1163.00 for The Engineering and Leadership Council. Senator Wyble so moved, seconded by Senator Savarese.

**Discussion:** Senator Wyble explained that the TYSEA is a state-wide robotics competition where colleges create robots and take them to the competition. You can view the robotics the MCC Engineering and Leadership Council has developed in room 9-156. It is behind a glass partition for all to view at any time.

**A vote was taken.**

**Be it resolved**, the Monroe Community College Student Government Association Senate approves the funding of \$1163.00 to The Engineering and Leadership Council to sponsor the TYSEA Competition.

#### **b. Resolution to approve the funding of \$2000.00 to Pride Alliance to sponsor the program “Big Summer Luau”.**

*Resolved*, that the Monroe Community College Student Government Association approves the funding of \$2000.00 to Pride Alliance to sponsor the program “Big Summer Luau”.

**Speaker Hale** called for a motion to approve the funding of \$2000.00 to Pride Alliance.

Senator Schollnick so moved, Seconded by Senator Wyble.

**Discussion:** Denise, a member of Pride Alliance, thanked the Senate for considering their request. Due to frequent changes in leadership, the Pride Alliance has not had a chance to actively fundraise. Denise felt this funding would be a great start, and the Pride Alliance would be able to fundraise for future events. President White spoke, and reiterated the issue of constant and changing leadership within Pride Alliance, and asked the Senate to approve the funding.

**A vote was taken.**

**Be it resolved**, the Monroe Community College Student Government Association Senate approves the funding of \$2000.00 to Pride Alliance to sponsor the program “Big Summer Luau”.

### 2. Discussion Items

#### **a. Phi Theta Kappa**

Becca Leavy, a member of Phi Theta Kappa spoke of some past events and invited all to attend any event they may be interested in. Phi Theta Kappa membership is offered to those students who attain a 3.75% G.P.A. after completing 12 credit hours. They do have provisional members who do not meet the G.P.A. guidelines. Phi Theta Kappa events are open to all students, not just members. They are working on a Phi Theta Kappa cookbook, host Compete to Complete events in each semester, as well as several other events including a Financial Aid Information Day. She urges all to attend the events and they are open to all students.

#### **b. Art Department**

Kathy Farrell, a professor from the Visual Arts Department along with two students brought sketches to depict the mural that is approved to be painted in building 12. The proposed theme is possible silhouettes depicting clothing styles from various decades seen through the eyes of the MCC student at that time. The students working on this mural are in a class titled, “Fashion Illustration”. The mural creation will begin in approximately two weeks and Professor Farrell will keep us posted on progress.

#### **c. Academic Freedom**

This discussion topic is a follow-up on the previous weeks’ email from a student who was denied a make-up exam due to an illness. Senator Cassidy followed-up on this, and spoke with Kristen Love, from Academic Services. She was told this particular issue would not fall under the Academic Freedom policy, as MCC allows its faculty to decide their make-up policy as they see fit. Kristen Love suggested the following steps be taken if something like the above-mentioned situation happens to a student:

1. Medical Emergency. Document all health issues with Health Services. Do not present doctors note to the professor, but rather have it on file with Health Services.
2. Try to work it out with the professor. If this does not work, contact the Department Chair.
3. Go to the Academic Services Department. The staff there is familiar with these issues and can assist.
4. Grievance Procedure. This is a last resort, and is not entertained as an option unless the student failed the class. Senator Cassidy offers discussion on how well a student would have done if a grade dropped while not ill. She would like to put ideas into writing on professor’s policies and how students may feel about them. Speaker Hale

agrees with her, and drafting a proposal would be helpful. Several Senators speak of how distracting and disrespectful it is to have a student come to class ill, or be forced to come to class ill to take an exam and expose all to infection. Advisor Stewart notes that professors come to their individual policy for reasons that encompass past experiences. They deal with diverse needs and issues within each class, and having a strict standard is sometimes a necessity. She advises all to think before they deem something “unfair”, to try to think of the larger group as a whole.

**V. QUESTIONS & COMMENTS**

Senator Jopson reminds all of the SUNY Spring conference, and he and five other Senators will be attending. He is looking forward to it. Deputy Speaker Rapp is hosting a Dodge ball Tournament this weekend and several members of the Senate and President’s Cabinet will be playing in it. Matthew Lawson, from the Office of Student Life and Leadership Development Office thanked the Senate for a great meeting today, and was pleased with the discussion with Ty Patterson. He strongly encourages all to attend the luncheon tomorrow in Monroe A where another open forum session will take place with Ty Patterson on the “Tobacco Free Initiative” which is taking effect at MCC. Senator Savarese reminds all that Roundtable will take place tomorrow between 4pm-5pm. He hopes to see everyone there. Speaker Hale and Vice-President White are meeting with the Director of the MCC Association at 4pm on Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Speaker Hale called for a motion for adjournment. Senator Poloznik so moved, with a second from Senator Cassidy.  
**A vote was taken.**  
The meeting adjourned at 4:15pm.

**VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Truman  
SA Secretary