



**MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING
MINUTES FOR
Tuesday, March 25, 2008**

Present:

Senators:

Senator Broyld-Absent
Senator Darrow
Senator Esposito
Senator Kuhn
Senator Lynch
Senator Robinson
Senator Wingate
Senator Woodward
Senator Yost

President:

Daniel Elliott

Vice President:

Ronald Quider

Speaker:

Matthew Lawson

Deputy Speaker:

Jennifer Bickel

Campus Center Advisor:

Elizabeth Stewart

Faculty Advisor:

Joe McCauley

Visitors: President Flynn, Dr. Salvador, Dick Ryther, Dr. Baker, Student Services; Lee Struble, Public Safety; Dianne McConkey, College & Community Relations; Annette Agness, MCC Association, Inc.; Ron Wood, Cat Robson, Theresa Gmelin, Cabbages & Kings; Tony DiFabio, Peer Mentors; Sean Frischmann, Amanda Haessler, Candice Beck, CASA; Mark Soderberg, Presidential Cabinet; Donna Brennan, SA Secretary.

I. CALL TO ORDER (2:21 p.m.)

A. Roll Call

(See attendance above)

B. Approval of March 18, 2008 minutes

Speaker Lawson called for a motion to approve the March 18, 2008 minutes.

Senator Esposito so moved, seconded by Senator Kuhn.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves the March 18, 2008 minutes as written.

II. SPEAK TO THE SENATE

President Flynn answered questions from the Senators:

- ❖ **Renaissance Square Project** – local architects have been chosen and the project is moving forward with an anticipated completion date of 2011. On April 15, 2009 it will be decided if the whole project is a go. The money is available for the bus terminal and MCC but not for the Performing Arts Center. The question now is if it will be the whole Renaissance Square Project or just an MCC Project.
- ❖ **Future of MCC** – MCC is a very strong institution; there is no one individual that is stronger or bigger than the institution. This institution and this community would not allow a President to continue if that person was unable to do the job and who took the institution down. He is not concerned about the future or the health of Monroe Community College in the long run, the concern now is the candidates that have been put forth by the search committees and candidates put forth by the Board of Trustees. It is important now to take each step of as it comes; the next step is the interview of each candidate and the recommendation of one.
- ❖ **Qualifications of the next President** – the standard within higher education is that the President should have a doctorate. The background and accomplishments of the person and if they fit the mold of MCC need to be considered. That person's background should prove that they can work in an institution like this with faculty and students as well as with contacts in government. He hopes the Senators will take a good look at all of the candidates individually and determine who they believe will work best with the students of Monroe Community College.
- ❖ **Best accomplishment as President of MCC** – he will let others decide that but a personal satisfaction is still being invited and welcomed to the Senate meetings and always feeling welcomed when he is with the students.

- ❖ **Future status of Public Safety Officers as Peace Officers** – he strongly supports the change to Peace Officer status. As Peace Officers, they will have the authority to make arrests instead of having to wait for the Brighton Police to come in to make an arrest. When and where they will be armed is still to be discussed. This change will be going before the Board of Trustees for approval very soon. The new President will not be able to change the policy once the Board of Trustees has approved it. Our Board of Trustees feels very strongly that we should have that protection on campus.
- ❖ **Candidate’s lack of qualifications** – SUNY Board of Trustees will determine if the person being recommended by our Board of Trustees lacks the credentials for the position.
 - Accreditation by Middle States probably would not be effected unless the college did not meet the Middle States objectives. Middle States does state that the President cannot be influenced by an outside political party.
 - League of Innovations looks at the qualifications of the institution itself being a leading innovative institution in this country against 1200 others and the qualifications of the President to be an active, productive participant as a college President in all of that. If the person had no attributes to offer that could affect membership in the League.
- ❖ **Additional Res. Halls & Empire State College** – As of now there are no active plans to add more Res. Halls. Empire State College will be leasing land from the college to build a 2-story building and a small parking lot on the Southwest corner at the Brighton-Henrietta Town Line Road entrance.
- ❖ **Student Government’s position in the Presidential search** – the Brighton Student Government and the Damon Campus SEGA leadership will have the opportunity to meet with each candidate. As a group they should get as much information as possible on each candidate, have an idea about what type of person they want to lead MCC, and come up with very specific questions for the candidates. After meeting with the candidates forward the Governments’ views on the candidates to Mr. Degus who will then forward that information on to the Board of Trustees.
- ❖ **Board of Trustees voting** – the Chair has a vote on all of the Board activities, not on the committees.
- ❖ **Smoking Policy** – the proposed smoking policy has been reviewed by the entire college campus and will be put into place by July 1. With the new policy, smokers will have to go out to the walk which runs around the perimeter of the campus.

President Flynn asked the Senate if they have met their objectives and what major challenges they see for the students of Monroe Community College:

Speaker Lawson stated that it has been an exciting year. They continue to work on their objectives, have worked through some hurdles and will end on a positive note.

Senator Robinson feels that making MCC more of a home rather than just a place they come to for classes is a major challenge; the job of the Student Government is to make them more aware of the clubs and organizations and the opportunities that are here for them.

President Flynn - MCC is a big place and it is the responsibility of the Student Government to recognize that and continue to promote the clubs and organizations and opportunities on campus.

Cat Robson, on behalf of Cabbages & Kings, read the following statement:

“On behalf of Cabbages & Kings Literary and Arts Student Organization, we would like to wholeheartedly thank the Student Government Association for taking into consideration our questions and concerns over the past few weeks. For the fair adjudication regarding the Student Contingency Budget, for your patience throughout this trying time for both of our groups, and more importantly, for displaying integrity that can be difficult to embody in such extenuating circumstances, we thank you and we hope that our groups can continue to work towards enriching the experience of the student body.”

III. REPORTS

A. Campus Center Advisor

Campus Center Advisor Stewart – she is very proud of everyone for their involvement, commitment, and willingness to watch out for things. The Student Government involvement at the Board of Trustees meeting and with what they did with Cabbages & Kings shows responsibility and integrity.

B. Faculty Advisor

Faculty Advisor McCauley reported on the ACUI Conference in New Orleans and the experience they had working with Habitat for Humanity.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. ACTION ITEMS (Items requiring a Senate vote)

- a. Resolution to approve the release of funds in the amount of \$200 to the Peer Mentors.

Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approve the release of funds in the amount of \$200 to the Peer Mentors.

Speaker Lawson called for a motion to approve the release of funds to the Peer Mentors. Senator Esposito so moved, seconded by Senator Darrow.

Discussion:

Tony DiFabio, representing the Peer Mentors, explained that the request for money is to help them purchase ribbons to give to everyone who attends the Annual Anti-Violence Program on April 9. The program will take place in the Campus Center Atrium from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Tony Perez, Deputy Chief, Rochester Police Department, Betty Stewart, Director, MCC Campus Center, and Nina Beacoats, mother of victim of violence are the guest speakers.

Speaker Lawson and Senator Darrow both stated that they attended the program last year and give the Peer Mentors their full support.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves the release of funds in the amount of \$200 to the Peer Mentors.

b. Resolution to approve the release of funds in the amount of \$800 to the MCC Cinema Society.

Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approve the release of funds in the amount of \$800 to the MCC Cinema Society.

Speaker Lawson called for a motion to approve the release of funds to the MCC Cinema Society. Senator Robinson so moved, seconded by Senator Kuhn.

Discussion:

Senator Woodward explained that the request is to provide food for the Res. Hall movie nights Friday, March 28 and Saturday, March 29.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves the resolution to release funds in the amount of \$800 to the MCC Cinema Society.

c. Resolution to over-ride President Elliott's veto.

Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate over-ride President Elliott's veto on the proposed smoking policy as of the September 25, 2007 Senate meeting.

Speaker Lawson called for a motion to over-ride President Elliott's veto on the proposed smoking policy. Senator Darrow so moved, seconded by Senator Esposito.

Discussion:

A vote was taken.

The motion fails.

IV. QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Advisor Stewart, on behalf of the Peer Mentors, thanked the Senate for approving their request for funds. All of the projects the Peer Mentors do are all funded through fundraising; they do not have a budget. The \$200 will help them a lot.

Senator Darrow expressed concern about the two candidates the Board of Trustees put through as finalists.

Senator Lynch expressed concern that many students at MCC do not take advantage of the open door policy many of the faculty and staff at MCC have. Students who are not involved do not take advantage of that opportunity. He is very proud of MCC.

Mr. Ryther stated that he also took part in a Habitat for Humanity and it was a life changing experience.

Advisor McCauley stated that the Senate has some work to do. Getting together with SEGA to come up with questions for the Presidential candidates should be at the top of their list of things to do.

Sean Frischmann announced some CASA events coming up: Pianist Kate Quinn will be performing in Main Dining from 12-1 pm on Friday, March 28; that same evening they will be co-sponsoring a Liars Dice Tournament and they need more participants.

Speaker Lawson thanked all of the students who attended the Board of Trustees meeting on Monday, March 24.

V. ADJOURNMENT

At 3:19 p.m. Speaker Lawson called for a motion to adjourn.
Senator Robinson so moved, seconded by Senator Darrow. The Senate meeting was adjourned.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Brennan
SA Secretary