



**MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING
MINUTES FOR
Tuesday, April 14, 2009
2:15 p.m. – Forum (3-130)**

Student Senators:

Academic Clubs Senator Acosta-**Absent**
At-Large Senator Carey
CASA Senator Brown-**Absent**
Residence Hall Senator Rice
Science, Health & Business Senator Ruhindi
Service Clubs Senator Malin

President:

Sarah Robinson

Speaker/At-Large Senator

Stephen Darrow

Deputy Speaker/At-Large Senator

Matt Lawson

Campus Center Advisor:

Elizabeth Stewart

Faculty Advisor:

Joseph McCauley

Visitors: Adam Mendez, Devyn Merritt, Matt Copenhaver, Alyssa Klein, Denise Smith, Taylor Bassett, Heather Matthys, Michelle Peters, Sylvanna Kings, Jason Newcombe, Nick Wickham, Deason Brown, Travis Cannan, Elizabeth Marvin, Long Nguyen, Andy Dresang, John Foley, Jeff Markowitz, Slade Waters, and several more Students; Michael Halstead, Res. Life; Liz Redden, Jacob Tierney, Monroe Doctrine; Amanda Schilb, CASA; Craig Learn, Kashmir Stearns, Brandon Webb-Fezer, WMCC; Tony DiFabio, Peer Mentor; Franzie Weldgen, VaPA; Leah Santirocco, Public Safety; Susan Salvador, Susan Baker, Dick Ryther, Student Services; Elisabeth Aisen, Jim Taylor, LDSSA; Peggy Harvey-Lee, E.J. Watkins, Counseling & Advising; Rosanna Condello, Hency Yuen-Eng, College & Community Relations; Annette Agness, MCC Assoc.; Craig Proctor, Campus Center; Amy Battaglia, Malcolm Cohen, Presidential Cabinet; members of the local media; Donna Brennan, Secretary.

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

A. Roll Call

(See attendance above)

B. Approval of April 10, 2009 Emergency Meeting minutes

Speaker Darrow called for a motion to approve the minutes for the April 10, 2009 Senate meeting.

Senator Lawson so moved, seconded by Senator Carey.

Discussion:

Senator Carey pointed out that the day should read Friday, not Tuesday.

Senator Rice motioned for a roll call vote, seconded by Senator Ruhindi.

The motion passed.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approves the minutes for April 10, 2009 as amended.

II. SPEAK TO THE SENATE

Liz Redden, Editor-in-Chief of the Monroe Doctrine read a statement addressing the concern over a comic printed in the last issue of the Monroe Doctrine (see attached statement).

Franzie Weldgen, VaPA, mentioned that he teaches Comics and Sequential Art. He explained that Curtis is just following a long rich line of tradition in comic books. Over the last 300 years there have been many cartoonists and comic book artists who have commented on their lives and who actually endangered their lives because of their expressive opinions. What Curtis is doing is not new at all; it is a long tradition of free speech that he is practicing. He will extend an invitation to Curtis to register for his comic book class next semester; he would be a great addition.

President Robinson mentioned that at a meeting with Curtis he said that the point of his comic was not meant to hurt anyone, there was no malicious intent. He was saddened to hear that he hurt people's feelings. It was his way of expressing himself; it is what he has seen, what he has experienced.

Some students mentioned that they were not mad at Curtis for expressing his feelings but felt that because the newspaper represents Monroe Community College it should have been edited out. Some took offense because of some of the wording and the fact that specific areas were mentioned; some wondered what his point was and felt he should have been present to explain why he wrote it; others felt he should apologize because his comments were directed toward individuals.

Speaker Darrow stated that the college follows the same rules as the first amendment of the US Constitution which gives us the freedom of speech and freedom of press and these are the rules the Monroe Doctrine follows. Others mentioned that it would not be fair to edit out or censor controversial topics because they lead to discussion and that is where learning begins.

Craig Learn, General Manager of WMCC, mentioned that Curtis is also a DJ at the radio station. At a meeting with the Student Government, Betty Stewart, and others, Curtis stressed that he was very sorry; he did not mean to hurt anyone's feelings. It happened, we all should learn from it and move on.

Liz Redden, stated that through the people who went to the Monroe Doctrine they have taken what was said and evaluated the decisions that they make and have come to the conclusion that they will take different precautions when they choose to run controversial material. They will now put the same disclaimer that is on the opinion page in the comics when there are pieces that may cause controversy. The whole experience has taught them not only how to make decisions but how to handle the decisions they have made once it has gone public. They take comments from people and learn from them; there is no better way to learn than through experience. She pointed out that there were only two students who went to them before the media appeared on campus. They were totally unaware about how the campus felt until they had the media at their door. It is sad that the students did not go straight to the MD to ask the vital question that needed to be asked.

Senator Ruhindi stated that he feels that this is a small issue compared to what is going on in the world. When there are negative issues everyone shows up but when something good is happening no one shows up. He feels people need to be more pro-active, not reactive.

III. REPORTS

A. Speaker

Speaker Darrow...

- ACUI Conference was a great learning experience, met a lot of great people from Region 2, participated in Battle of the Regions with Senator Carey, did a scavenger hunt in Downtown Disneyland with two other team members, and Family Feud on Tuesday night. He also attended some educational sessions, one of which was sustainability on campus; this session gave him ideas for MCC and he would like to see some new positions for sustainability created. Freedom of Speech was another very good session.

B. Deputy Speaker

Deputy Speaker Lawson...

- Student Government is looking forward to the student interviews with the MCC Presidential Finalists.
- Rock the Vote Committee – he has started working with the committee to begin the transition of leadership for next year.
- Brighton Clean Sweep – the Student Government will be participating in the Clean Sweep on Saturday, May 9; any students or clubs who would like to help can sign up at the Student Government Office; there will be free t-shirts and food.

C. President

President Robinson...

- “For my first report as the new President of the Brighton Campus Student Government, I just wanted to say that I am very excited for this opportunity that I now have. As your former vice president, I hope that I can do even better as your president for the last five weeks of the semester!”
- The Spaghetti Dinner was a very successful event; \$165 was raised for the MCC Child Care Center. Way to go everyone!
- PAC center hours - she met with Annette Agness about the current hours; she is hoping that they will consider expanding the hours of the PAC Center for student and the community use next year.
- Presidential candidate interviews – she is looking forward to participating in them.

D. Senators

Senator Carey...

- ACUI Conference in Anaheim – he hopes to put what he learned from the workshops to good use. He will be corresponding with some of the workshop presenters to get information about their school policies on certain issues.

- Transit Day - about 30 single day RTS bus passes were handed out; a couple of the elections candidates made an appearance; winners of the monthly bus passes have been notified.
- SUNY Student Assembly Conference is in Rochester (April 17-19).

Senator Malin...

- SGA website is still being updated.
- Blood Drive – the final blood drive of the year is a 2-day drive on April 15 & 16; he is asking all of the clubs/organizations to help work the food table at the drive.

Senator Rice...

- NCCA National Model United Nations Conference in New York City - it was a momentous occasion and he was honored to have been selected to partake in the Conference.
- MCC Presidential Finalist Interviews – he participated in the interview of Dr. Kevin Drumm and believes he is well qualified, he evokes his passion for students, and in particular community college students. The following interviews should be as productive.
- SUNY Student Assembly Conference – he will also be attending.

Senator Ruhindi...

- Anti-Violence Rally – despite a small turnout, the event went very well; the speakers were excellent. It made him look at his life and all the obstacles he has overcome and the new ones he may have to face. Listening to all of the speakers, and with the death of his friend, it has given him the strength to keep striving to do better. This event helped to set a blueprint to do more events like it.

E. Committee Reports

Sustainability Committee – Amy Battaglia, Campus Environment Coordinator, mentioned that the committee is working to increase awareness so the community will not continue to put garbage in the paper recycling bins. Fred McCullough has donated recycling bins to clubs for fundraising; Earth Day events will take place on Wednesday, April 15, from 11am – 1pm in Main Dining. The Biology Department has submitted paperwork to fund the worm bins.

F. Campus Center Advisor

Campus Center Advisor Stewart...

- **Sustainability Committee** – Amy has been doing a great job in making things happen in regards to sustainability on campus. She is keeping track of the steps she has taken and writing them down for the next group to come in. She encouraged everyone to do the same so it is easier for those coming in in the fall.
- **Brighton Clean Sweep** – the Student Government has adopted the area of Winton Road from Westfall Road to Jefferson Road; that is a very large area so everyone is invited to come out and help.
- **SGA Elections** will be held on May 5 and 6 – there are two candidates running for the Student Trustee position, two teams running for President and Vice President, and two candidates running for uncontested senate positions. She encouraged everyone to learn about the candidates so they can vote accordingly in the elections.

G. Faculty Advisor

Faculty Advisor McCauley...

- **ACUI Conference** – he also attended the conference and stated that the students were very dedicated and hard working; he saw them involved in the conference. He took part in a focus group regarding where ACUI plans to go in the future and found that they discussed things MCC has been already been doing. He always finds that MCC is always at the forefront of a wide range of issues.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. ACTION ITEMS (Items requiring a Senate vote)

a. Resolution to approve the charter of the Latter Day Saints Association.

Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approve the charter of the Latter Day Saints Association.

Speaker Darrow called for a motion to take the resolution off the table.

Senator Lawson so motioned, seconded by Senator Rice.

Speaker Darrow called for a motion to approve the charter of the Latter Day Saints Association.

Senator Lawson so moved, seconded by Senator Ruhindi.

Discussion:

Senator Carey pointed out that Article 4, Section 1 of the Constitution states that the advisor of the club shall be appointed by the Rochester New York Institute of Religion. He asked if they have the right to do that since MCC is a public college and clubs are funded by the student life fee.

Malcolm Cohen, Director of Legislative Affairs in the Presidential Cabinet, informed them that the Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students states that the club or organization must choose their own advisors; no outside organization can compel a decision on way or the other. Faculty Advisor McCauley pointed out that the college endorses the Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students and it is included as part of the catalog.

Jim Taylor, faculty advisor to LDSSA, mentioned that he was approached by the students to be the advisor. The current constitution is a draft constitution that was provided by the International Latter Day Saints Student Organization and they will ask for an amendment to that section. He also expressed their appreciation to Speaker Darrow and Senator Acosta for working with them on the constitution. Advisor McCauley suggested that the club re-submit the amended constitution to Speaker Darrow and Senator Acosta.

Deputy Speaker Lawson offered a friendly amendment to approve the constitution subject to the amendment of Article 4, Section 1.

Speaker Darrow called for a motion to approve the constitution of the Latter Day Saints Association subject to the friendly amendment.

Senator Carey so moved, seconded by Senator Rice.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approves the charter of the Latter Day Saints Association subject to the friendly amendment.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. ACTION ITEMS (Items requiring a Senate vote)

a. Resolution to approve Pratima (Tima) Marathe as the Director of Student Services.

Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approve Pratima Marathe as Director of Student Services for the remainder of the 2008-2009 Academic Year.

Speaker Darrow called for a motion to approve Pratima Marathe as the Director of Student Services.

Senator Rice so motioned, seconded by Senator Lawson.

Discussion:

President Robinson stated that this is a Presidential Cabinet appointment brought forward by former President Elliott; it would be great to have her come on now and be ready to transfer into next year.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves Pratima Marathe as the Director of Student Services in the Presidential Cabinet for the remainder of the 2008-2009 Academic Year.

b. Resolution to approve the new draft Constitution.

Resolved, that should the new Constitution be ratified, the new Constitution's terms shall apply to all incoming members of the new Student Government from the start of their terms, which shall start as defined in the new Constitution.

Speaker Darrow called for a motion to approve the new draft Constitution.

Senator Carey so moved, seconded by Senator Rice.

Discussion:

Malcolm Cohen read a statement explaining the steps he took to prepare the draft. He sat with former President Elliott, Speaker Darrow, Advisor McCauley and Advisor Stewart and the work on the Constitution was based on input from those meetings, the Joint Statement of Rights and Freedoms of Students, and several other constitutions. All changes to the original Constitution have been documented, as have changes to the second draft. The second draft was distributed to a variety of people including the Executive Director of the American Student Government Association who had their top Constitutional expert review it. The vote today is on the question of whether the proposed draft is in order and purposeful. He explained the steps of the resolution. If today's measure is approved the next step is at the general Student Government elections on May 5 & 6 where the Constitution will appear as its own question. In order to be ratified and take affect it would have to receive 2/3^{rds} affirmative vote at the elections. If it achieves ratification at the general Student Government elections, the bottom half of the resolution kicks in and takes effect. The current Constitution will apply to everyone serving this year until the end of their term and the new Constitution will take effect with the incoming officers.

President Robinson asked that everyone keep in mind that Malcolm was the only one to step forward to take on this responsibility. He did an excellent job and it is important to remember that this process has not been taken on in years. She feels there should support for Malcolm for what he did and what it will do for future governments.

Advisor McCauley encouraged all to vote for the Constitution. What Malcolm has done has needed to be done. If not approved, this Constitution will be brought back next year. This vote is asking you to give the student body the option of accepting or rejecting the Constitution. It is also respect for all of the background work that was done on the Constitution to get it to this point.

Malcolm commented that everything he has done, at every stage of the process, has been designed to make this process as open, transparent, and accountable as possible.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Student Government Association Senate approves the new draft Constitution by roll call vote:

Academic Clubs Senator JC Acosta	Absent
CASA Senator Fred Brown	Absent
At-Large Senator Ted Carey	Yes
Service Clubs Senator Taylor Malin	No
Residence Hall Senator Michael Rice	Abstain
Science, Health & Business Senator Simon Ruhindi	Yes
Deputy Speaker/At-Large Senator Matthew Lawson	Yes

Speaker Darrow thanked Malcolm for his effort and for spearheading this process.

VI. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Advisor Stewart gave kudos to Senator Ruhindi for the Anti-Violence Rally he organized; even though there were not very many people at the rally, those who were there were touched by it and he should be proud of what he did.

With respect to today's meeting and Simon's comment on being pro-active as opposed to reactive, she would like to see more students come together when there are issues. She invited students to meet with her; to start a dialogue now to talk about different things.

Craig Learn, General Manager of WMCC, invited all those who are running for office to be interviewed on the station.

Advisor Stewart informed everyone that the Model UN delegates came back with Honorable Mention. Senator Rice explained that only 30 out of 192 nations of observers are recognized.

Malcolm Cohen asked about the emergency meeting held on Friday, April 10. Advisor McCauley explained that the meeting was held because so many people were traveling and the need for the Travel Club to obtain approval of the Senate was fairly great. It is not the desired procedure and not the normal thing, but sometimes it is the only way to get the group back together for a meeting when one is needed. Deputy Speaker Lawson apologized, as Acting Speaker last week, for not thinking about advertising the meeting as it should have been. Advisor Stewart explained that it was a necessity and the Senate has the choice to do that.

Senator Carey motioned to adjourn the debate, seconded by Senator Lawson.

The motion passed.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Brennan