



**MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING
MINUTES FOR
Wednesday, June 17, 2015 11:00 AM-SGA Office (3-127)**

Student Senators:

Senator Addison
Senator Balzano-**absent**
Senator Davis
Elections Coordinator Haehl
Senator Khanna
Senator Shoff
Senator White
Senator Wisseh

President

Blake Moore

Vice President of Governance:

Michael Viele

Vice President of Programming:

Dawn Williams

Treasurer: Priyanka Meka

Secretary: Marie Jackson

SL&LD Advisor:

Elizabeth Stewart

SA Secretary:

Catherine Higgins

Visitors: Lori Bartkovich, Counseling Center and Veterans Services; Joshua Gagner, student; Dr. Lloyd Holmes, Vice President of Student Services; Jake Tower, SUNY Student Representative. Dee Metzger, Intern, OSL&LD.

I. CALL TO ORDER (11:10am)

A. Roll Call (See attendance above)

B. Approval of the May 12, 2015 Minutes.

Vice President of Governance Viele called for a motion to approve the May 12, 2015 SGA Minutes.

Senator Shoff so moved, seconded by Senator Davis.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Student Government Association approves the May 12, 2015 minutes as written.

II. SPEAK TO THE SENATE

Jake Tower, a member of last year's SGA and both the former and current SUNY Student Representative, introduced himself and informed everyone that the Fall Conference will most likely be held in Syracuse at the end of October. This is an opportunity for colleges to get together to work on they want passed in legislation for the next year. He suggested looking for hotels now, because they fill up fast.

He will be trying to get one or two students from each school to attend SUNY Speaks Up. If he can be of any assistance, please contact him.

Lori Bartkovich, from Counseling Center and Veterans Services, informed the group that the Career and Transfer Center, Financial Aid and her department will be hosting a Non-Traditional Student Week, which is nationally-recognized and she is extending an offer for the SGA to participate by holding an event during that week. There will financial aid and resume writing workshops, and professional workshops for staff and faculty and Returning Adults. She would love to have the participation of the Student Government because they represent the students.

III. REPORTS

President Moore

“Since assuming the office of SGA President the focus has been on training and personnel. I would like to formally thank the entire incoming SGA government and our advisor Elizabeth “Betty” Stewart for their continued positivity and dedication. Recently, Dr. Holmes, Dr. Baker, Betty and myself had the opportunity to formally interview SGA Chief Justice prospective candidate Joshua Gagner. I am pleased to report that all parties present gave their support and approval for his speedy confirmation.

Working closely with Shirley Provost and former president Suhail Prasathong, the information gathering and brainstorming process regarding the introduction of a multi-cultural center continues. The excitement and enthusiasm expressed anytime this topic is discussed with students translates into motivation for SGA to champion the cause. After time spent reviewing the proposed Student Code of Conduct handbook, and corresponding with faculty, the E-Board has decided that a deeper look into simplifying the language of the document is necessary. Executive members of both SGA and SEGA are currently in the process of collaborating with the Faculty Association in order to address and remedy these concerns prior to the August 17th Board of Trustees meeting and subsequent vote.

Looking forward, the official SGA committee appointments will be announced by Monday June, 22nd.”

Vice President of Governance Viele

“I would like to thank everyone on being elected for this upcoming school year. As a whole, SGA has a lot on our agenda already. From the student handbook, to our shuttle system, to financial aid to serve a multitude of issues. We also have many other events involving promoting that we need to focus on. Such as, Rock the Vote, the 9/11 Memorial and many others. I plan on serving my duty as Vice President by making changes, but effectively instituting them into the campus to create a better atmosphere. As I will be working close with everyone, I believe this can not only be possible, but time effective. I hope everyone enjoys the rest of their summer, as SGA prepares for some major changes. Thanks again.”

Elections Coordinator Haehl

Rock the Vote – Senator Haehl will be contacting the Monroe County Democratic Committee to see if she can get some representatives from there. Representative David Gantt

is available for that date and would be willing to come. She will also contact the League of Women Voters who have participated in the past. She will also contact the National Organization for Women and the Sisters of Mercy.

Elections Coordinator Report

Get Out the Vote/Rock the Vote

- Monroe County Democratic Committee (MCDC)
- League of Women Voters
- Rochester MetroJustice
- National Organization of Women

She thinks that for this year it would be better to turn more toward progress on innerfaith dialogue and less on patriotism and nationalism, especially since we are opening a Multi-Cultural Center.

This year she would like to contact speakers from Nazareth Center for Innerfaith Studies and Dialogue and the Reverend from Mt. Olivet. If anyone has any questions, feel free to ask.

9/11 Memorial

- Reach out to Louise Slaughter, Joe Morelle, Chuck Schumer etc.
- Reach out to the Nawal Foundation
- Have a Muslim/Interfaith presence
- Shift focus from patriotism/nationalism to diversity and peace

Senator Khanna

“I’m very excited about my position. I hope to improve and make an impact on the health and wellness aspect of student life and the college. In the fall I would like to start off by having a poll to get an insight of some of the issues that student are experiencing. Thank you.”

Treasurer Meka

“So far, student government has been everything that I’ve been hoping it would be. Diversifying this college is something I’ve been wanting to see since I joined this college, and its happening in the form of the Multi-Cultural Center.

Another thing that I would really like to see are more events that gets all the students together. Unity is something that this college seems to be lagging in. More events during homecoming or a winter ball would help bring students closer together.

Something that I hear often from students is, “I’m here because I don’t have a choice,” and that shouldn’t be their perspective of college. So we should find a way to change their opinion about MCC.”

Senator Shoff

I would like to say a thank you for being elected as a senator for the 2015-2016 senate. I look forward to working with this great team of people. Anime Club will be hosting their 2nd annual Rairakkon on June 20th which is this Saturday. Doors open at 9:00am and this event runs till 10:00pm. Tickets at the door are \$20 with a student ID and \$25 without. Also

summer orientations will be starting next month in July. First Year Experience (FYE) are looking for clubs and organizations to have a table set up on these days to promote the clubs and organizations around campus. Please either see Matt Lawson, the Peer Mentors, or myself about dates and times. These run through August.

Senator White

“I have been in contact with Lorenza the President of SEGA. We talked about setting up a fun kick ball game between the two campuses this fall maybe sometime in October. Also having a fall ball (sort of like a prom) and a decoration of the department halls competition. I plan on working with the two campuses this fall in collaborating more fun and exciting events!”

Senator Davis

“I plan on developing a relationship between the SGA and the media outlets of MCC on campus and online, as well as establishing a relationship with MCC students by educating them on what the SGA is and what we stand for. By establishing a larger following I believe we will be able to accomplish more of our goals because we will have more support.”

Senator Addison

She would like to get a head start on the Multi-Cultural Center. She has a few good ideas about it. She would also like to thank everyone for being nice and welcoming.

Senator Wisseh:

Senator Wisseh rescheduled her meeting with Residence Life Director, Amy Greer and Assistant Director, Don Bigelow for today.

She thinks it would be amazing to have an Art Week on campus. She sees some phenomenal work that students do. The idea is to shine a light on the student artists by hanging their work around campus, we can have an event with local artists, where they can make art work, hold an auction with proceeds going to MCC or SGA.

We could have a collaborative performance between departments. Pick an art piece and reconfigure it into a play using the various departments like photography, engineering, theatre arts, etc. to be held in the Spring sometime. She hopes to get companies to donate to this event.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS (Items requiring a Senate Vote)

a. Resolution to Appoint Joshua Gagner as Chief Justice of the Student Judicial Council

Vice President of Governance Viele called for a motion to appoint Joshua Gagner as Chief Justice of the Student Judicial Council. The motion was made by Senator Shoff, seconded by Senator Wisseh.

Discussion:

Mr. Gagner indicated that he was looking forward to working with the members of the SGA.

President Moore stated that he was excited that Mr. Gagner stepped up to this opportunity. He is looking forward to what he will bring to the table. He is already looking at potentials for the five Justices.

A vote was taken.

Resolved, that the members present and voting approve Joshua Gagner as the Chief Justice of the Student Judicial Council.

b. Resolution to support Multi-Cultural Center

Vice President of Governance Viele called for a motion to support the Multi-Cultural Center. The motion was made by Senator Addison and seconded by Senator Shoff.

A roll call vote was taken.

The vote was unanimous in favor of supporting the Multi-Cultural Center.

Resolved, that the members present and voting support the Multi-Cultural Center being established at the Brighton campus of Monroe Community College.

V. DISCUSSION ITEM

There were no discussion items.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

VII. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Senator Shoff stated that she is looking forward to this year and it will be nice to make our mark in history.

Senator Addison is looking forward to the new year ahead and to the Multi-Cultural Center. She has a lot of good ideas to bring people together.

Dr. Holmes stated that he is excited about the Student Government in regard to the Multi-Cultural Center. It is extremely important that students have a space where they feel that they belong. While it is important for the entire Campus to be that space, sometimes they need a specific location to receive that support. He is looking forward to good things that will come out of having this center.

Dr. Holmes thanked the SGA for their support.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Vice President of Governance called for a motion for adjournment.

Senator Shoff so moved, seconded by Secretary Jackson.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35am.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Higgins
SA Secretary