



**MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING
MINUTES FOR
Tuesday, March 17, 2009
2:15 p.m. – Forum (3-130)**

Student Senators:

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

President:

Daniel Elliott

Vice 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: Elisbeth Aisen, Mike Green, Latter Day Saint Student Association; Samantha McKenna, Mike Lopez, Engineering Leadership Council; Malcolm Cohen, Presidential Cabinet; Donna Brennan, Secretary.

I. CALL TO ORDER (2:19 p.m.)

A. Roll Call

(See attendance above)

B. Approval of March 10, 2009 minutes

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

Senator Rice so moved, seconded by Senator Carey

Discussion:

Vice President Robinson asked that the minutes be amended to reflect that she was present, not absent.

A vote was taken.

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

II. SPEAK TO THE SENATE

There was no one to speak to the Senate.

III. REPORTS

A. Senators

Senator Carey...

- Marching in the St. Patrick's Day parade and attending the Knighthawks game with fellow SGA members on Saturday was very enjoyable.
- He attended the Town Hall style meeting with Governor Paterson. He felt the Governor seemed very perplexed at some of the questions that were asked and he left with more questions than he had before the meeting. Fliers have been made for the rally opposing the Governor's budget which is scheduled for Friday, March 27th at noon in the Campus Center Atrium.
- Reminder: priority registration began Monday, March 16, for the fall semester for students who have completed at least 12 credit hours. Make sure you register for classes as soon as possible.

B. Committee Reports

Fundraising Committee:

Senator Rice reported that the flyer for the April 1st spaghetti dinner are done and will be submitted to Advisor Stewart for approval.

Sustainability Committee:

Vice President Robinson reported for Amy Battaglia, Campus Environment Coordinator:

- ✓ Tuesday, March 24 from 11a.m. – 2p.m. there will be an education table in the Campus Center Atrium with an exhibit explaining the importance of local economies to ecology. Volunteers are needed to help staff the table.
- ✓ The Geology Association is planning an Earth Day event for April 15th from 11:30a.m. – 1:30p.m. in the Campus Center Atrium. They will have a fossil exhibit and a discussion panel focused on climate change. A live webcast about different efforts college campuses have been making around the country will also be shown. They are working with the Math Club on “The Environment in Jeopardy”. An exhibit on home gardening may also be included.
- ✓ Recycling Program – the campus staff in charge is working on putting in more recycling bins but the current bins are being contaminated with garbage being thrown into them. The budget does not allow hiring someone to separate and then clean recyclables that have been contaminated and probably never will. The committee is making it their mission to educate the student body on the importance of recycling. They will be running ads in the Monroe Doctrine, the Tribune, and on the radio, and making posters to put up around campus.

Cabinet Report:

Vice President Robinson reported for Amy Battaglia:

- ✓ She is encouraging the Res. Hall students to participate with Earth Hour on March 28th, where people around the world turn off their lights and other appliances for an hour. Last year, participants around the world saved millions of kilowatts of energy.
- ✓ She met with Fred McCullough, Director, Building Services, who informed her that a project he worked on with Clay Munnings, former Campus Environment Coordinator, has come to fruition; all small recycling bins in classrooms will soon have paper only lids on them. She is working with Mr. McCullough to get more clearly labeled signs on all bins.
- ✓ She has been meeting with different staff members about the green walls and worm bins: Bldg. 9 is being renovated and will be LEED certified when it is done, which a green wall would fit into perfectly (if she cannot get it installed by the designers, she will continue to search for a grant); she is waiting for approval from Jan Peters, who runs the greenhouse, about getting a worm bin. If they cannot get approval, the sustainability committee will immediately begin work on getting it built by the end of the semester.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. ACTION ITEMS (Items requiring a Senate Vote)

- a. **Resolution to support the State University of New York’s opposition of the New York State deficit proposal**
Therefore, be it resolved, that the students of **Monroe Community College of the State University of New York** urge the state legislature to continue to support SUNY, its students, and its families by providing funding when possible to ensure that the highest quality of education can be achieved, and
Further, be it resolved, that the students urge the state legislature to not allow student fees to be used for any purpose other than higher education, and
Further, be it resolved, that the students urge the state legislature to ensure that 100 percent of base aid be preserved for community college enrollment, and
Finally, be it resolved, that the students of **Monroe Community College of the State University of New York** urge the state legislature, and the Governor to understand that by investing in SUNY, you invest in New York.
Student Trustee Lynch was not present for discussion of this resolution; therefore, the resolution will remain on the table.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. ACTION ITEMS (Items requiring a Senate vote)

- a. **Resolution to approve the charter of the Psychology Club**
Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approve the charter of the Psychology Club.
Speaker Darrow called for a motion to table approval of the charter for the Psychology Club because no one from the club was available to attend the meeting.
Senator Carey so motioned, seconded by Senator Ruhindi.
A vote was taken.
Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves the motion to table the resolution.

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

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

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

Speaker Bauman so motioned, seconded by Senator Ruhindi.

Discussion:

Senator Carey pointed out that a sexual harassment clause was missing from the constitution and asked that a friendly amendment be made to include it.

Elisabeth Aisen, club president, stated that they would be willing to add a sexual harassment clause.

Advisor Stewart pointed out that there are many grammatical errors in the constitution which should be changed before the constitution is approved and put on the books.

Elisabeth mentioned that they worked with Shirley who said it was fine and sent it on.

Deputy Speaker Lawson asked that the club senators meet with Elisabeth then put it on the agenda for next week.

Speaker Darrow called for a motion to table the resolution to approve the Latter Day Saints Association.

Senator Bauman so motioned, seconded by Senator Carey.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves the motion to table the resolution.

c. Resolution to approve changes to By-Law 1.1.3

Resolved, that the following changes, as indicated by the words in italics, be made to **By-Law 1.1.3**:

From: If a Speaker has not yet been elected, the President shall run the meeting. If the President is unavailable, the Vice President shall run the meeting. If a Speaker has been elected and is unable to run the meeting, the Deputy Speaker shall run the meeting. *If neither the Speaker nor the Deputy Speaker is able to run the meeting, the Senate shall, by majority vote, elect the presiding officer of the meeting.*

To: If a Speaker has not yet been elected, the President shall run the meeting. If the President is unavailable, the Vice President shall run the meeting. If a Speaker has been elected and is unable to run the meeting, the Deputy Speaker shall run the meeting. *In all cases not herein provided for, where there is no indicated presiding officer present, the Senate shall, by majority vote, elect the presiding officer of the meeting.*

Speaker Darrow called for a motion to approve changes to By-Law 1.1.3.

Deputy Speaker Lawson so motioned, seconded by Senator Ruhindi.

Discussion:

Malcolm Cohen, Director of Legislative Affairs, explained that operationally, this change will have no effect on the by-law, it still means that if the entire leadership of the student government is *absent*, everyone who is at the meeting will elect a presiding officer for that meeting alone. The change takes care of the ambiguity and the scenarios that were not spelled out.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves the changes to By-Law 1.1.3.

d. Resolution to approve changes to By-Law 2.1.2

Resolved, that the following changes, as indicated by the words in italics, be made to **By-Law 2.1.2**:

From: A faculty/staff member who has agreed to act as the club's advisor. *Lack of an advisor will not be the sole criterion for not chartering.*

To: A faculty/staff member who has agreed to act as the club's advisor. *If all other criteria for chartering have been met, a written certification that the club has attempted to secure an advisor, but has yet to locate a suitable choice agreeable to the club, shall be acceptable for the purposes of meeting this requirement for chartering. This certification must be signed by the club's officers and the Assistant Director of the Campus Center for Clubs and Organizations.*

Speaker Darrow called for a motion to table the resolution.

Deputy Speaker Lawson so motioned, seconded by Senator Rice.

Discussion:

Malcolm explained that he is asking to have this resolution tabled until March 31 because there was a requested change to the change after Pre-Agenda on Friday, March 13. Part of the requested change also means that changes have to be submitted for By-Laws 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 & 2.4.1 and he has not had a chance to discuss the changes to 2.4.1 with Advisor McCauley and Advisor Stewart.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approves the motion to table the resolution.

e. **Resolution to approve changes to By-Law 2.1.4**

Resolved, that the following changes, as indicated by the words in italics, be made to **By-Law 2.1.4**:

From: *A spokesperson and/or members of the club must* be present to respond to questions when the Senate meeting on chartering is held. If no member is able to appear at the Senate meeting the appropriate Club Senator may *be the* spokesperson.

To: *Members of the club and/or an advisor for the club should* be present to respond to questions when the Senate meeting on chartering is held. If no member *or advisor* is able to appear at the Senate meeting, the appropriate Club Senator may *act as* spokesperson.

Speaker Darrow called for a motion to approve changes to By-Law 2.1.4.

Senator Carey so motioned, seconded by Deputy Speaker Lawson.

Discussion:

Malcolm explained that the *must* in the current wording contradicts the second part of the by-law. The new language reconciles the first half of the by-law and the second half of the by-law. The other part of the change eliminates the possibility of choosing any random person to act as spokesperson for the club.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves the changes to By-Law 2.1.4.

VI. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Senator Ruhindi mentioned that the flyers for the Anti-Violence rally are out. The rally will take place on April 3, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Campus Center Atrium. He has contacted people who will speak and will meet with Courtney Belluccio regarding set-up.

Senator Malin mentioned that he updated the web-site with elections and contact information. Send him information you would like on the web-site.

Malcolm Cohen asked Senator Malin if he updated the constitution and by-laws on the web-site. The constitution currently on the web-site is the May 2002 version not the May 2005 version which the Student Government is operating under.

Senator Malin stated that he has just started updating the web-site, but he was going to wait until the changes to the constitution were made.

Advisor Stewart stated that Donna could send him a PDF of the May 2005 version of the constitution for the web-site.

Senator Acosta stated that he enjoyed marching in the St. Patrick's Day parade and he thinks the students from the Damon Campus were surprised to see so many students from the Brighton Campus there.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At 2:44 p.m. Speaker Darrow called for a motion to adjourn. Senator Bauman so moved, seconded by Senator Rice. The Senate meeting was adjourned.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Brennan