



MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING MINUTES FOR
Tuesday, May 15, 2012
2:15 p.m. – Forum (3-130)

Student Senators:

Academic Clubs Senator Valone
At-Large Senator Isaacs
Athletics Senator Coulombe-**Absent**
CAB Senator Snyder
Social Clubs Senator Jackson-Harris

President:

Michael Gray-Late

Vice President:

Kelly Bynes-Late

Speaker/At-Large Senator

Scott Blue

Deputy Speaker/Service Clubs Senator

Jason Childers

SL&LD Advisor:

Elizabeth Stewart

Faculty Advisor:

Joseph McCauley

SL&LD Advisor:

Rebecca Herzog

Visitors: Dick Ryther, Student Services; Joe Marchese, Ginny Geer-Mentry, MCC Association, Inc.; Megan Scott, Student Trustee; Catherine Higgins, Office of Student Life; Stephanie Gill, Caitlin Murphy, WMCC; Lindsey Holland, Kathleen Cesareo, Hannah Miller, Student Music Association; Andy Binder, Student; Donna Brennan, SA Secretary.

I. CALL TO ORDER (2:16 p.m.)

A. Roll Call

(See attendance above)

II. SPEAK TO THE SENATE

WMCC the Fuse – Stephanie Gill, General Manager, thanked the Senate for their support. With the help of Senate funds, they were able to attend the Intercollegiate Broadcasting Conference in New York City. Some of the highlights included a tour of the Sirius Radio Station where they learned about internship opportunities available during the summer. They also toured WLIU – Long Island University Radio Station. Members of the group attended many workshops particular to their interests.

Student Music Association – Lindsey Holland, Vice President of Vocals, thanked the Senate for their support. With the help of Senate funds, they were able to go to New York City and sing at Carnegie Hall. She talked about their experience.

Andy Binder mentioned that the printers in the Interdisciplinary and Writing Center do not have the ability to print 2-sided documents. He asked the Senate to see if anything could be done to get new printers.

Speaker Blue asked At-Large Senator Isaacs to look into that.

Megan Scott, Student Trustee, thanked the Senate for help with feedback and with the transition into her position. She looks forward to coming back as Alum. She also thanked the advisors.

III. REPORTS

A. Speaker

Speaker Blue...

- “Good afternoon student body, today I am going to give you the final Speaker report for this year. The job of the Speaker is a very interesting one; the Speaker is elected within the Senate’s ranks to hold the senators responsible to their duty and to the student body. But I also believe a large part of the Speaker’s job is keeping the balance and order of the government. That was my goal this year as Speaker to restore order and balance and I believe if you look at your Senators this year and all they have accomplished you would agree that I accomplished my goal. This year’s Senate has operated more efficiently than many of its predecessors on all levels. Thanks to this year’s Club Senators Bo Jackson, Marie Elizabeth Valone, and Jason Childers the Senate has been extremely engaged in supporting the needs of the clubs. Senator Jackson brought back an old practice Club Senators used to partake

in.....meeting with their clubs outside of roundtable. Senator Valone reconnected SGA with the Academic Clubs which hasn't been done in a few years. Deputy Speaker Childers participated as an active member in one of his clubs and helped to organize MCC's participation in the Saint Patrick's Day parade. The Club Senators this year have truly revitalized what it means to be a Senator. Athletics Senator Coulombe brought us closer to the needs and concerns of the athletic department and of our athletes while simultaneously bringing home the gold as a swimmer. CAB Senator and Former Community College Rep Snyder has, in his time, been an endless resource on all things SUNY SA and has helped to strength our connection with our Campus Activities Board. At-Large Senator Isaac is the embodiment of a jack of all trades, which in reality is what the At-Large position is; he has been instrumental in filling in the gaps. No matter what I needed whether it was someone to chair the Club Constitution Committee, get our information on the TVs in the shuttles, or bring our online presence up to date Senator Isaacs did it with excellence and minimal complaining. I'd like to also give a small special thank you to my former Senators Sierra Sears and Kelly Bynes. Former Residence Halls Senator Sears made great strides in her short time with us; she laid down the ground work for SGA to hear and react to the needs of the residence hall students with her SGA town hall forums at Canal Hall. It is my hope that she will re-apply and continue her work. Vice-President Bynes as Media Senator helped to smooth over SGA's bumpy relationships with the media organizations, expressing to them that we are not the SGA of the past and it is our goal to unite all clubs and organizations for the betterment of the student body. I was lucky to have her as a Senator and we are all lucky to have her as our new SUNY Community College Rep and Student Trustee. Student Trustee Megan Scott represented the MCC students very well on the Board of Trustees and has been very instrumental in the move of the downtown campus. It was the hard work and dedication of these individuals that made this year's SGA stand out above the rest, not me; these people are my Senators and my co-workers but most importantly my family. A special thanks to Former Vice-President Theresa Ciaccio, I firmly believe we would not be where we are today as an organization without her insight, compassion, and leadership. I owe a great deal of debt and thanks to my Deputy Speaker and Former President Jason Childers, it was his deep insight and knowledge of SGA's history that truly helped me lead this government in the right direction. Thank you for your service sir, you will be missed. I would like to thank President Gray for ultimately being the person to help me craft this organization in to what it is now. He represented the Student Body well. And finally, I thank our Advisors Betty Stewart, Rebecca Herzog, and Joseph "The Mac" McCauley for dealing with our craziness and of course you Donna, thanks for not retiring the minute you saw they let Michael and me run the Government. Mr. President, Madam Vice-President, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Senators, Advisors, Student Body I will tell you like I told President Kress and Vice-President Salvador at the beginning of this year my goal was to create a foundation for this organization and if God willing I am elected as your Speaker next year I will build this organization up on that foundation. It has been my honor to serve you all."

B. Deputy Speaker

Deputy Speaker Childers...

"Sunday, May 13, I attended the National Junior College Athletic Association Women's Lacrosse Championship. The #3-ranked Tribunes played the #2-ranked Onondaga Community College Lasers. The Tribunes got out to great start, with a 3 goal lead, but it was tied 3-3 at the half. MCC had the lead towards the end of the game at 5-4, but about 2:30, Onondaga tied it at 5-5. Both teams fought for control with the clock winding down, until, with 3 seconds left, the Lasers scored. After a face off going towards MCC's goal, Onondaga won their second title, 6-5, breaking MCC's 2-title streak. But it was a game that the Tribunes had nothing to be ashamed of. Kelly Reilly scored twice, while Melissa Smith, Taylor Wingerden, and Lexi Wilensky had a goal each. Goalie Remie Harr stopped 5 shots, and joined Jamie Archer, Hannah Barnett, and Kara Lyon to the All-Tournament team, the most players from one college. The stands were full, with fans rooting for both schools. Thanks go to the whole Committee for hosting a good tournament. And so we come to my last Public Meeting behind the mic. Three years is a long time to be involved in an organization. But being on the Executive Board for the whole time means somebody thinks you must be doing something right: I beyond thank my wife, Melanie, for her patience and her love. After 17½ years together, and us celebrating 10 years of marriage Saturday, she doesn't always understand why I get involved with some groups. But she has always been supportive.

I also thank Shirley Battista-Provost for her support and patience with the Finance Committee. I am grateful for your assistance and faith in me over the years.

To Stephanie Gill, I'm glad we could be supportive of each other. I'm glad you had great experiences despite what happened.

To Christopher Hollander, hi.

To Sean Etter, Jeff Jones, Donna Allen, and Dr. Jeff Bartkovich, thank you for helping the Celtic Society grow. And to everyone who helped with the St. Patrick's Day Parade, from CAB, HGHRP, Pool and Billiards, Student Music Association, Student Government, and the Human Service Club, to the Parade Committee, to the individual marchers, including Dr. Kress and her family, thank you for coming out. Let's see how we can make it even better next year.

To Ben Serbicki: it has been great working with you. Miami was a hoot. Thanks for your ideas and your work. Good luck with your new program.

To Hassan Ali, Sara Stevens, and Adriana Estrella, it has been great working with you, and I am glad that you are staying on for next year. You have learned a lot, and your experience will help you work out the kinks in the system. To Jim Snyder, thank you for reminding me that serving in the Senate is an honor, a responsibility, and a privilege, not a right.

To Mike Snyder, thank you for your work in SUNY, and your representation of MCC. May you find success in Albany. To Ignatius Ukatu, thank you for working through the year. Keep on speaking your mind. If you are returning, I look forward to seeing more of your opinion pieces in the Doctrine.

To Sierra Sears, your attitude has been great to find in the office. I hope happiness keeps finding you.

To Jessica Coulombe, you brought sportsmanship back to SGA. Keep on swimming. If you can come back, I know you'll be welcome.

To Marie Elizabeth Valone, you have been lovely to work with, and I am glad you have been a fellow Club Senator. You had the majority of the clubs, and succeeded in keeping in touch with them. I loved having our chats, and I hope we can stay in touch while you're in Texas.

To Betty Stewart, you have been wonderful, supportive, a shoulder, incredible, a magician, and much more. Joe McCauley, you have been a huge help in bouncing off ideas; great to reminisce with about UD; and great to shop for ties with. The two of you together have helped keep everybody from each other's throats.

To Mrs. Herzog, thank you for the opportunity to go to Miami; I learned a lot in choosing a Speaker and in the Finance Committee.

To Shmuel ben Daniel, I think you have grown a lot this year, although I think it took you a while to realize it. Thank you for coming out to various Celtic Movie nights. I look forward to your goals and ideas. I know you will tell us in your upcoming reports!

To Bo Jackson, grazie, signor senatore, per un buon anno. I've enjoyed working with you as a fellow Club Senator, and I think you'll be great in teaching mine and Marie Elizabeth's successors the ropes.

To Trustee Megan Scott, you are STILL the rockstar! Your love for the school has shown in your work, and it will be missed when you leave. Your patients will be blessed to be in your care.

To Trustee-Elect Vice President Kelly Bynes, you still have been incredible, but differently. Your life trials have been trying, but I am glad you have not given up on your goals. When you find that it's time to leave (with your eleventy degrees), the world will be your oyster. Just remember, California Solidarity still rules.

To President-elect Gray....Michael: Michael, Michael, Michael. Michael, Michael, Michael, Michael. This has been an interesting year, especially having you go through three vice-presidents, and the revolving door that has been your cabinet; you are starting a new year with stronger members. And to our time in Miami. Your experiences bring to mind a line from Bob Dylan, "I was so much older then. I'm younger than that now." I'm glad that you're finally able to relax in your role. I look forward to seeing what next year brings you.

To Speaker Blue, thank you for the opportunity to assist you in bringing back respectability to the Senate. Your knowledge of not just how to run the meetings and government, but why we are doing it, and why the system is in place, even when you see it as annoying, has been very commendable. Your love of the Senate and for the Senate has held us together, and kept us from being a revolving door like in previous years. May you carry on with these ideas next year, whether or not you become Speaker again.

And finally, to Donna Brennan, who has been the unsung and sung spine of SGA, with her ongoing patience, cookies and brownies on a whim, she who is the keeper of the by-laws, and who is worth 10 times her weight in golden gummi bears. I don't know if we know how good we have it, but with Donna retiring in July, I am glad I'm stepping down without knowing right away.

After this and the Awards Banquet, my time in SGA will almost conclude. President Gray has an initiative or two that he will have me working on over the summer. Otherwise, as Chieftain-Elect in the Celtic Society, I will be serving the college differently. But I will still be keeping an eye on SGA as an informed citizen in the Community, as we all should be."

C. President

President Gray...

- Student Government will partner with Henrietta Relay Life on June 9 & 10 from 6:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m. A kickoff event hosted by the Student Government and WMCC the Fuse will be held in the Campus Center Atrium on May 16 from noon – 1:00 p.m.
- Finance Committee has been meeting to create criteria on how clubs and organizations will be funded by Student Government. Coordinator Ali has been working on creating procedures for the committee to streamline the committee's work, to make it more effective and to make it fair to all of the clubs and organizations within the Student Association.
- Roundtable Coordinator Estrella and he will be hosting a meeting with various advisors to talk about new procedures for Roundtable. Coordinator Estrella has been working on these criteria for the past several months to ensure that all the clubs and organizations are in sync with one another, and to show how the Student Government Association is here for them.

- On May 4, all of the current and elected members of the Student Government Association had the opportunity to attend the Student Government Elections Candidates Luncheon. He commended Coordinator Stevens and all the advisors who played a part in this event.
- He had the opportunity to host a Talk About Something That Matters event on May 11 in the Brick Lounge by Javas. He was a little discouraged to see only a few Student Government members at the event seeing that it was a Student Government sponsored program.
- Moving forward there is still work to be done, as previously stated the Finance Coordinator, and the Roundtable Coordinator will making changes, and he is charging the By Laws Committee to include these changes in the By Laws by the end of June 2012.

“First and foremost, I would like to thank Megan Scott for all your hard work and dedication to the student body. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, thank you for keeping me grounded, hitting me upside the head when I needed it and I look forward to working with you next year. Jason, I know you are not going anywhere any time soon so don’t get too comfortable; you will be missed. Student Elect Trustee Bynes, good luck next year I know you will represent us well. To Donna Brennan, I appreciate everything you have done for me these past two years. Thanks for being a sound-board, thank you for yelling at me when I needed it, thank you for sewing the buttons on my jacket. Donna has always been there. I do appreciate you, love you and we will miss you. I don’t know how I am going to function.”

D. Senators

Senator Jackson-Harris...

“Over the past weeks a lot of exciting and fun things have occurred here at MCC. No doubt these things have brought some much needed relief especially with the week of finals at last approaching and the semester finally coming to a close; summer is right around the corner and people are already flocking to the yearly Lilac Festival. However, even with all of the good that is occurring, at the same time many tragic events are occurring all around us both abroad and even here at home. We all right now are dealing with or being affected by the tragedies that are occurring around us, but if you don’t remember anything remember this: you cannot let it break you down, instead, allow it to strengthen you and build you up. We are going through ever-changing times and now is the time to honestly stop for a minute and take a look at what you have, what you love, and what you value in life. Don’t get caught up in the chaos of life. Even as the pressure of these last few weeks is finally coming down and even though the world around you is hectic, keep your head up, stay focused, and stay positive. I wish you all luck on your exams and I look forward to seeing you all next semester. Enjoy the summer and stay safe.”

E. Office of Student Life & Leadership Development Advisor

Advisor Stewart wished everyone good luck on their finals and thanked them for all of the good things they did this year. She also wished those leaving this year good luck and said she is very grateful for the work they have done.

F. Faculty Advisor

Advisor McCauley said that this is always a bittersweet time of year. He hopes they all go on to great things and thanks them for the effort they put forth and thanked them for the time they put in to the Student Government.

G. Office of Student Life & Leadership Development Advisor

Advisor Herzog said that it has been an honor working with the Student Government. As she became more involved, she learned so much. She is excited about the developments already started for next year.

H. Committee Reports

President Gray announced that interviews for the CAB Director took place and Allison McCarthy will be the next CAB Director.

Speaker Blue stated that a resolution for the appointment will be brought forward for approval at the first summer meeting of the Student Government Senate.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. ACTION ITEMS (Items requiring a Senate Vote)

a. Resolution to Override Presidential Veto

Resolved, that the MCC Student Government Association Senate hereby overrides the Presidential veto and approves the chartering of the Dungeons and Dragons Club effective immediately and, be it further

Resolved, that we, the MCC Student Government Association Senate highly recommends that the Dungeons and Dragons Club meets all the necessary requirements by the end of August, 2012.

Speaker Blue called for a motion to override the Presidential veto and approve the chartering of the Dungeons and Dragons Club effectively immediately.

Senator Jackson-Harris so moved, seconded by Senator Isaacs.

Discussion:

President Gray stated that his main concern was that they didn't seem to have enough members to start the club. But the Senate felt that the opportunity for the club to be chartered should be there. So, he did not sign it. He asked the Senate to consider two conditions: that the club first has four active members as well as one committed faculty advisor. At the present time, there are only 2 committed active members and no committed faculty advisor. That was his hesitation. He gave the club a deadline to satisfy the two conditions by September 11, 2012. That will give the club the chance to recruit members at the summer Orientations and to find an advisor. He asks that the Senate wait until the club has satisfied the two conditions to approve the Dungeons and Dragons Club. He has also charged Roundtable Coordinator Estrella to work directly with them to help them sign up for Orientations and to find an advisor. He wants the club to be as successful as possible.

Speaker Blue explained the process for chartering a club. The President made recommendations for the betterment of the club and did not sign the resolution. He then explained the facts of the resolution and the options available for either accepting the President's veto or for bringing the club back for approval.

Senator Isaacs on behalf of Dungeons and Dragons said that the President of the club is very devoted and excited about getting the club up and running. If they are not approved now, they will miss out on the opportunity to recruit during the summer. The President will be here for one more year so he has the time to put into the club to make it successful. One of the recommendations is to get a faculty advisor but according to the SGA By-Laws that has never been required before; clubs have been chartered without an advisor and have been very successful. Senator Isaacs stated his support for overriding the Presidential veto.

President Gray mentioned that Coordinator Estrella will be returning and a resolution appointing her to the Roundtable Coordinator position for 2012-2013 will be brought forward at the first summer meeting. She will be here to show him what he needs to do to get members.

Senator Isaacs asked for a point of clarification regarding the President's recommendations.

Speaker Blue explained what would have to be done to accept the veto as currently presented.

Deputy Speaker Childers clarified that during the summer, the SGA can work with the group either as a club or not as a club. There is nothing preventing them from working with Coordinator Estrella.

Senator Snyder explained that if they override the veto, it will establish them as a club and allow them available funds. Senator Snyder moved to call the question; Senator Jackson-Harris seconded. The motion was passed.

A roll call vote was taken as follows: Deputy Speaker Childers – nay; Senator Isaacs, yea; Senator Jackson-Harris, yea; Senator Snyder, yea; Senator Valone, yea.

The motion passed, the President's veto is overturned.

b. Resolution to support the Monroe Community College Association Inc., Budget for the 2012-2013 Academic Year

Resolved, that the Monroe Community College Student Government Association Senate supports the Student Association budget for the 2012-2013 Academic Year.

Speaker Blue called for a motion to support the Monroe Community College Association Inc., Budget for the 2012-2013 Academic Year.

Senator Isaacs so moved, seconded by Senator Snyder.

Discussion:

Joe Marchese, Finance Manager, explained the highlights of the budget.

President Gray explained that the Association's Finance Committee has passed the budget and the Board members will vote to approve it at their next meeting. He recommends passing support for the budget.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves support for the Monroe Community College Association Inc. Budget for the 2012-2013 Academic Year.

c. Resolution to approve the revision of the Monroe Community College Student Code of Conduct

Resolved, that the Monroe Community College Student Government Association Senate approves of and supports the revised version of the Monroe Community College Student Code of Conduct.

Speaker Blue called for a motion to approve the revision of the Monroe Community College Student Code of Conduct.

Deputy Speaker Childers so moved, seconded by Senator Snyder.

There was no discussion.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves and supports the revised version of the Monroe Community College Student Code of Conduct.

d. Resolution of Recognition and Appreciation for SUNY SA President Kaitlyn Beachner

Resolved, that the Monroe Community College Student Government Association hereby officially recognizes and appreciates the commendable work President Beachner has done on the behalf of the students of the State University of New York.

Speaker Blue called for a motion to approve the resolution of recognition and appreciation for SUNY SA President Kaitlyn Beachner.

Senator Snyder so moved, seconded by Senator Isaacs.

Discussion:

Speaker Blue stated that Kaitlyn has been the best President that the SUNY Student Assembly has ever had.

Senator Snyder stated that working with Kaitlyn this year he has seen that she obviously works for the students. She has been a valuable asset to the students in the SUNY system.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Student Government Association Senate hereby officially recognizes and appreciates the commendable work President Beachner has done on the behalf of the students of the State University of New York.

e. **Resolution of Recognition and Appreciation for Donna Brennan**

Resolved, that Monroe Community College Student Government Association recognizes and appreciates the hard work and commitment of Donna Brennan, be it finally

Resolved, that the Monroe Community College Student Government Association wishes to show gratitude with words of thanks and gummi bears.

Speaker Blue called for a motion to approve the recognition and appreciation for Donna Brennan.

Senator Valone so moved, the entire group seconded.

There was no discussion.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Student Government Association Senate unanimously recognizes and appreciates the hard work and commitment of Donna Brennan, be it finally

Resolved, that the Monroe Community College Student Government Association wishes to show gratitude with words of thanks and gummi bears.

V. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Advisor Stewart mentioned that a group of students met with President Kress for a casual conversation. Senator Jackson-Harris spoke about the conversation.

Stephanie Gill thanked the Student Government for all they do and for their dedication and kindness.

Senator Jackson-Harris thanked the Senators and Coordinators and Speaker Blue for encouraging him to join. He thanked President Gray for his service and he looks forward to improvement next year. Thank you to Vice President Bynes for filling in the gaps. Thank you Deputy Speaker Childers for being the guru and answering all of his questions. Thank you Speaker Blue for being a mentor, a friend and a co-worker; you have been phenomenal, going above and beyond the call of duty. He looks forward to continuing with the Student Government next year.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

At 3:47 p.m. Speaker Blue called for a motion to adjourn. Senator Isaacs so moved, seconded by Senator Snyder. The motion passed. The Senate meeting was adjourned.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Brennan
SA Secretary