



**MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING MINUTES FOR
Tuesday, December 6, 2011
2:15 p.m. – Forum (3-130)**

Student Senators:

Academic Clubs Senator Valone
At-Large Senator Isaacs
CAB Senator Snyder
Media Senator Bynes
Social Clubs Senator Jackson-Harris
Residence Hall Senator Sears

President:

Michael Gray

Vice President

Theresa Ciaccio-absent

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: Ehizeme Aruya, SGA; Delaney Braun, Christine Brumfield, Travel & Tourism; Quayah Bui, Global Union; Shirley Batista-Provost, OSLLD; Ginny Geer-Mentry, MCC Association; Christopher Hollander, SUNY Student Assembly; Alex Kates, Evan Ling, Monroe Doctrine; Robin Lalisie, WMCC The Fuse; Jennifer Morris, Travel & Tourism; Enxhi Panariti, SGA; Chelsea Reed, Global Union; Dick Ryther, Student Services; Catherine Higgins, SA Secretary.

I. CALL TO ORDER (2:25 p.m.)

A. Roll Call

(See attendance above)

B. Approval of the November 29, 2011 Senate Meeting Minutes

Speaker Blue called for a motion to approve the November 29, 2011 Senate Meeting Minutes.

Senator Sears so moved, seconded by Senator Snyder.

There was no discussion.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, that the Monroe Community College Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves the November 29, 2011 minutes as written.

II. SPEAK TO THE SENATE

Representatives from the Travel and Tourism Club gave a presentation on their trip to New Orleans. They visited the French Quarter, Café DuMonde and took a post-Katrina tour of the city. They stated that it is very important for people to visit the city because they rely so heavily on tourism money, which will help them to rebuild. The students benefitted by having hands-on experience. Their relationships with their peers were strengthened. They also stated that they are holding a Silent Auction starting on Wednesday, December 7th until Friday, December 9th from 10:00am until 2:00pm. The actual auction will be held on Friday in the Atrium. Speaker Blue thanked them for their presentation.

Representatives from Global Union and the Spanish Club gave a presentation on their trip to Washington, D.C. The purpose of their trip was to learn more about new cultures. Some places they visited were the Botanical Gardens, the Capitol, the White House, the National Museum, the Smithsonian and the Holocaust Museum. The members thanked the SGA for helping to fund this trip. Speaker Blue thanked them and stated that they are an example of what other clubs and organizations should be doing.

Evan Ling of the Monroe Doctrine, indicated that there have been recent tickets given to students for breaking smoking rules. He asked the SGA if they had any information on who was fined or where they were fined. He also has heard about drug overdoses at the College and wondered who is in charge and if there are any plans for programs regarding drug abuse.

President Gray indicated that he has a monthly meeting with Public Safety, and invited Mr. Ling to speak with him one on one regarding these matters. He is not aware of what measures Public Safety may be taking toward these issues, but is willing to bring Mr. Ling's questions to Public Safety.

Mr. Ling asked what the process is for SGA Elections. President Gray indicated that anyone running for a position, needs to collect 100 signatures to be turned in to the Office of Student Life and Leadership Development. They must find three election agents to work on their campaign. There is an opportunity to meet the candidates. Senator Bynes stated that if the President and the Vice President run together, they must each collect 100 signatures. The Elections Committee provides materials needed for their campaign. All campaigning is left up to the individuals. Campaign rules are given to them in advance.

Mr. Ling asked whether there were any plans to promote the elections. President Gray has an interview with a possible Elections Coordinator. He hopes to recruit students by word of mouth and also will rely on the CAB Director, Monroe Doctrine and other clubs and organizations to work together. Senator Bynes indicated they would like to see a higher amount of candidates running, as well.

III. REPORTS

A. SENATORS

Speaker Blue

Speaker Blue has been working closely with Senator Bynes in their objective to reconnect SGA with the media organizations around the campus. This has become extremely pressing in these hard economic times. They want students to be informed of the situation and know that SGA is doing all it can to protect the interest of student life. He and Senator Bynes have currently met with the Monroe Doctrine and Cabbages and Kings. The Editor of the Monroe Doctrine Socrates Maura, has assured us that he wants to see the connect between SGA and the Doctrine flourish. That is why under his leadership, the paper has focused more on SGA. Thanks to them, the students know more about SGA. His meeting with the E-Board of Cabbages and Kings was a great leap in communication. They consider themselves a bit more introverted. He assured them that SGA is here to lend a helping hand, and that he will do whatever he can to make this year's magazine the best yet. Speaker Blue's ultimate hope is that these cuts force student life to band together and work as a unit supporting one another. We all have the same goal in mind and that is to selflessly serve the wants and needs of the student body.

Senator Snyder...

This past weekend, Senator Snyder had the pleasure to attend CAB's Breakfast with Santa event. He got onto campus around 7:00am to help CAB with some last minute set-up before the doors opened at 10am. While at the event, he was able to assist CAB with whatever they needed help with, as well as help distribute hot chocolate at the table SGA had set up. Everyone who attended had a great time participating in the many holiday related activities. The event was a huge success. CAB was able to get over one hundred people, including children, to attend. He saw many familiar faces there, including students, faculty, and staff. He had a great time at Breakfast with Santa this year. CAB did an outstanding job organizing and executing this event.

Last week, he had the opportunity to attend a luncheon with the Chancellor of the State University of New York. This was a fun, yet informative lunch, where the Chancellor was able to answer any questions they had. Many topics were touched upon including remedial classes, SUNY's Passport program, Chancellor Zimpher's Cradle to Career efforts, and lastly, shared presidencies. Shared presidencies has been a very heated topic lately. On July 28, 2011, it was announced that SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam were going to be consolidating campus presidencies as a part of Chancellor Zimpher's "Shared Services" initiative. Additionally, similar announcements were made in regards to SUNY I.T., Delhi, Cobleskill, and Morrisville in early August 2011. This sparked a lot of controversy among students during the business meeting at SUNY SA's Fall Conference. The Student Assembly reached an agreement on a resolution after a five hour long debate.

On Tuesday, November 22, The SUNY Board of Trustees passed a resolution that delayed the decision about sharing a president between SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam until at least July 15, 2012. The SUNY Board of Trustees also instructed SUNY Canton, Potsdam, I.T, Delhi, Cobleskill, and Morrisville that they need to submit a progress report to Chancellor Zimpher by the July 15th deadline. The reports requested are supposed to include recommendations on whether independent presidents, a shared presidency or an alternate leadership structure would best achieve the goals of SUNY's Campus Alliance Network. Additionally, the reports are expected to include recommendations for increasing the percentage of campus operating budgets that are devoted to academics and updates about progress made with sharing services. If these reports show enough savings, then the SUNY Board of Trustees will entertain individual presidents on each campus.

B. Advisor Stewart...

Advisor Stewart reminded everyone that the Blood Drive will be held tomorrow from 9:00am to 4:00pm in the Forum. The Winter Leadership Retreat will be held on Monday, January 9th. Please plan to attend and rsvp to Maureen Karlnoski in the Office of Student Life and Leadership Development as soon as possible.

C. Faculty Advisor McCauley...

Faculty Advisor McCauley stated that he attended the Breakfast with Santa event. It was a nice event.

D. Advisor Herzog...

Advisor Herzog indicated that she also attended the Breakfast with Santa event and had a good time. She encouraged everyone to attend the Winter Retreat and to bring a friend.

E. Committee Report

Senator Isaacs reported that he is still waiting to hear from the Chess Club regarding their constitution and list of officers. Senator Bynes indicated that the By-Laws Committee is making progress. She will hand out additions and revisions in the near future for everyone's review. These changes should make it easier for Senators to understand their jobs better.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

a. Resolution to Approve Rachel Sparks as the CAB Director

Resolved, that the Senate approves & recognizes the appointment of Rachel Sparks as the CAB Director for the 2011-2012 Academic Year.

Speaker Blue called for a motion to approve & recognize the appointment of Rachel Sparks as the CAB Director for the 2011-2012 Academic Year.

The motion was made by **Senator Isaacs**, and seconded by **Senator Sears**.

Discussion:

Speaker Blue indicated that as a member of CAB, Ms. Sparks is a member of the Presidential Cabinet. The By-Laws state that as a Cabinet member, she must be approved by the SGA to act as CAB Director. Ms. Sparks spoke to SGA indicating that she enjoys being a part of CAB. They are planning healthy living events for the coming semester, Spring Fling and a formal dance. They currently have nine E-Board members. They are still looking for an Educational Chair. She would like to have the opportunity to continue her work on the Campus Activities Board.

Christopher Hollander, former Vice President of the SGA, cited Article 3, Section 4E of the SGA Constitution and suggested that this resolution be changed.

Senator Snyder moved to amend the resolution. It was seconded by **Senator Bynes**.

Senator Snyder read the modified resolution.

Resolution to Recognize Rachel Sparks as Campus Activities Board Director

Whereas under section 9.3.1.5.3.C of the MCC Student Government Association Bylaws state the Campus Activities Board Director is chosen by the outgoing President or designee, outgoing Speaker of the Senate or designee, and 3 other Campus Activity Board (CAB) members, and

Whereas former Vice-President Hollander, former Deputy Speaker Michael Gray, and former CAB members Jonathan Muniz, Jon Cahill-Weather, and Jessica Monroe have chosen Rachel Sparks to be the Campus Activities Board Director,

Be It Resolved, that the MCC Student Government Association Senate approve Rachel Sparks to be the Campus Activities Board Director for the 2011-2012 Academic Year.

Discussion:

Mr. Hollander stated that this amended resolution takes away any concerns he previously had.

Senator Isaacs read the amended resolution again.

Speaker Blue called for discussion.

Discussion:

Senator Isaacs stated that he has worked with Ms. Sparks and believes she will do a good job. Senator Valone spoke to Rachel and to E-Board members and feels she is a good candidate. Senator Sears knows Ms. Sparks from CAB and the Residence Halls. She feels she has initiative and will put forth her best effort. Senator Jackson-Harris talked to members of CAB. He has heard good things about Ms. Sparks. Senator Snyder stated that she is the perfect person for this position. President Gray has spent time with Ms. Sparks and she embodies this position.

A vote was taken.

The second modified resolution was approved.

b. Resolution of Dissent Regarding the Consolidation of Campus Presidencies

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Monroe Community College Student Government Association Senate hereby officially denounces all past actions related to shared presidencies due to the lack of student and faculty input, and demand the delay of any future decisions until research has been conducted and that all future decisions be made in coordination with faculty and student input; and,

Be it further resolved, that any and all future conversations or plans directly involving such drastic measures be properly vetted through the Chancellor-championed, open "shared governance" model, ensuring that students, faculty, and staff are involved in conceiving, planning, implementing, and evaluating such plans; and,

Finally, be it resolved, that the Monroe Community College Student Government Association Senate hereby officially endorses the efforts made in good faith on behalf of all SUNY stakeholders in opposing any plan to share presidencies, and any other proposal that would similarly undermine campus individuality, and pledges support of all such endeavors.

Speaker Blue called for a motion to officially endorse the efforts made in good faith on behalf of all SUNY stakeholders in opposing any plan to share presidencies, and any other proposal that would similarly undermine campus individuality, and pledges support of all such endeavors.

The motion was moved by **Senator Bynes**, seconded by **Senator Isaacs**.

Discussion:

Senator Isaacs asked that in the future, the “whereas” sections be numbered for clarification.

Advisor McCauley suggested we could table this resolution, and bring back a new resolution to avoid any confusion.

Senator Isaacs stated that Senators Bynes and Snyder both have amendments to this resolution.

Senator Bynes suggested that in light of SUNY’s decision not to share presidencies between Canton and Potsdam, we hold off on the original resolution.

Following a thorough discussion of the issue, President Gray suggested that we table this until SUNY Representative Snyder and others can work something out.

Senator Bynes moved to table this resolution. The motion was seconded by **Senator Isaacs**.

A vote was taken.

The motion passed.

IV. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

On behalf of the Celtic Society, Deputy Speaker Childers thanked Advisor Stewart for wearing her tartan. President Gray reminded everyone that they will have their picture taken immediately following this meeting.

Mr. Hollander stated that the Open Meeting Laws does address an exemption in pertaining to real property, but he feels it was wrong.

Senator Snyder indicated that SGA is doing a fundraiser by handing out tickets to Great Northern Pizza. If you purchase something on December 19th or 20th, a portion of the proceeds will go to the SGA.

Senator Bynes indicated that the SGA is holding a Candy Cane fundraiser next week from 12:00pm to 1:00pm Monday and Wednesday.

V. ADJOURNMENT

At 3:55 p.m. **Speaker Blue** called for a motion to adjourn. **Senator Isaacs** so moved, seconded by **Senator Bynes**. The motion passed; the Senate meeting was adjourned.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Higgins
SA Secretary