



**MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING
MINUTES FOR
Tuesday, November 11, 2008
2:15 p.m. – Forum (3-130)**

Student Senators:

Academic Clubs Senator Acosta
At-Large Senator Carey
At-Large Senator Kuhn
Liberal Arts Senator Halling - **Absent**
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: Dick Ryther, Student Services; Annette Agness, MCC Assn., Inc.; Lee Struble, Public Safety; Malcolm Cohen, Elections Coordinator; Craig Learn, WMCC; Catherine Higgins, Secretary.

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

A. Roll Call

(See attendance above)

B. Approval of November 4, 2008 minutes

Speaker Darrow called for a motion to approve the minutes for the November 4, 2008 Senate meeting.

Senator Bauman so moved, seconded by Senator Carey.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves the minutes for November 4, 2008 as written.

II. SPEAK TO THE SENATE

There was no one to speak to the Senate.

III. REPORTS

A. Senators

Senator Carey...

- ✓ **Veteran's Day** - he began by thanking and saluting his fellow veterans; it is a privilege to have a day set aside for veterans, but they should be remembered throughout the year.
- ✓ **Rock the Vote** - Election Night Showdown was fantastic. The committee worked very hard this year; he commended Senator Lawson for his work as Chairman of the committee.
- ✓ **ACUI Conference** – he attended the conference on November 7-9 and had a great time. He will be able to utilize all he learned at the conference here at MCC.
- ✓ **Fall Ball** - Nia Jones, President of SEGA, informed him that the tickets have been distributed.

Senator Malin...

- ✓ **ACUI Conference** - the sessions he attended were very interesting and informative; he hopes to have the opportunity to share the knowledge he gained with his fellow students.

Senator Rice...

- ✓ **Presidential Election** - on Monday, November 3, he met with two foreign students, one from Nigeria and one from the Sudan; this was sponsored by the U.S. State Department. They discussed the upcoming Presidential election and the candidates. He thanked the Rock the Vote Committee and the Monroe Doctrine for helping to sponsor this event. On election night he attended the Monroe County Democratic Committee Party at the Hyatt.
- ✓ **Res. Halls** - he met with Finance Coordinator Devon Woodward about the possibility of revising the Residence Life laundry policy to using a swipe card that is inserted into the machine instead of having to use change.

B. Campus Center Advisor

Campus Center Advisor Stewart...

- ✓ **Kudos** to all involved in the Rock the Vote event on election night. There was a good turnout and everyone had a good time.
- ✓ **SAVE THE DATE:** On December 5, 2008 the Campus Center will host an MCC night with the Amerks at the Blue Cross Arena. Tickets will be \$5.00. She encouraged everyone to attend. There will also be a night with the Nighthawks at a future date.

C. Faculty Advisor

Faculty Advisor McCauley...

- ✓ **Election Day** - he missed last week's meeting because he was at the Monroe County Democratic Committee Headquarters where he helped work on petitions to help people vote that might otherwise be denied. They helped 400 people to vote; it was not only fun, but moving as well.
- ✓ **ACUI Conference in Oneonta** - it was a lot of fun. MCC is ahead of the curve when it comes to the issue of collaboration between Student Center and Faculty. MCC has been doing this successfully for a long time and he was very proud.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEM

Speaker Darrow brought forth for discussion the item of changing the Constitution regarding the election process.

Advisor Stewart posed the question of how many of the Senators were selected and all but five raised their hands. She explained that since most of the Senate positions were selected and not elected, this process is not working as effectively as it could be. Back in the day when more students went through the election process, she and Advisor McCauley had a good opportunity to train officers which made for a good solid start to the school year. Right now there are 14 Senator positions, as well as President, Vice President and Student Trustee to be elected in the Spring. This past year there were three Senators elected and they all ran unopposed. There is a lot of money that goes into the election process with a small but wonderful result. We are looking to find a way to enhance this process and make it more effective.

After a conversation with the new Leadership Team it was decided to bring this change forward to the Senate for discussion. One suggestion was that the President, Vice President and Student Trustee would have to be elected. For example, if three candidates were running they would not have to campaign, but would still have to go through the petition process and complete the election packet. The problem right now is that if a candidate is running for office and knows there is no competition, they don't try to promote themselves. The Elections Coordinator puts in a lot of time for that and there should be a better way to do this. There are also candidates who just apply for a position after the elections and because they are needed, they get those positions.

If we were to do this differently, and select people right after the election process, we could have a solid group to train in the summer and be ready for the new school year.

President Elliott indicated that this would not erase the petition process.

Senator Ruhindi asked what exactly we are proposing to do now that we have outlined a problem.

Speaker Darrow said the action would be to put forward a referendum to change the Constitution in terms of the election process.

Advisor McCauley explained that what is being proposed is that regarding the uncontested seats, that candidates who go out and get the petitions filled would become Senators, but if there was contention and two candidates were up for the same position, then it would go on the ballot. Otherwise, you are adding a lot of time and expense in the election process which isn't necessary, as long as potential candidates are showing initiative and getting signatures on a

petition. If no one is contesting a position, then you can put a candidate in the position early on in the process, which allows more time for training. We used to have eight to ten people in the summer for basic training, but it hasn't happened for the past four or five years. That makes scheduling training times around other commitments difficult. Speaker selection used to be done in July and now it isn't accomplished until September. It's important to have officers in sooner and trained sooner so that goals for the coming year can be planned sooner. That will make the year that much more successful because that would leave more time to plan for activities.

Malcolm Cohen, Elections Coordinator, asked what the difference was in time and money, between having one candidate or three on the ballot.

Senator Kuhn explained that, for example, last year supplies were ordered for campaigns that never happened.

Elections Coordinator Cohen then asked that assuming these ideas are put through, how does it help us get started earlier because on election day there are still only three on the ballot?

Advisor McCauley explained that you can get the process started earlier instead of waiting until after graduation to start looking for those who want to be involved. This allows those who have gone through the petitioning process to go out and find interested people who may not have known positions were available. Orientation is a good way to draw students in to this process. We want more people involved earlier and the current process is not doing that.

Elections Coordinator Cohen indicated that regarding the Spring 2008 election process, he was not aware of the deadline until it passed.

Advisor Stewart stated that if the process had been what we propose, after the election process is over, you could still be interviewed in April or May and still be hired.

Speaker Lawson asked if the terms would be shorter if these changes were made. Advisor Stewart said that they would still be until Commencement Day.

Speaker Darrow stated that this discussion will now be brought before the Constitutional Review Committee.

V. QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Craig Learn from WMCC informed the Senate that on November 17, 2008, WMCC is holding an event called Battle of the Bands in Monroe A & B from 12:00 – 2:30 p.m. This is to raise money for a trip to New York City. Tickets will be \$1.00 per person.

Senator Kuhn stated that the Peer Mentors have adopted a family for the holiday season. They will be collecting toys and teddy bears.

Advisor Stewart indicated she got a call from SEGA asking how many Senate members will be attending the Fall Ball.

Speaker Darrow said he will bring this up at the Executive Session.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

At 2:43 p.m. Speaker Darrow called for a motion to adjourn.

Senator Rice so moved, seconded by Senator Kuhn. The Senate meeting was adjourned.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Higgins
Secretary