



**MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING
MINUTES FOR
Tuesday, September 8, 2009
2:15 p.m. – Forum (3-130)**

Student Senators:

Academic Clubs Senator Raja
At-Large Senator Blum
At-Large Senator Cohen
CAB Senator Rivera - **Absent**
Interdisciplinary Studies Senator Blair
Liberal Arts Senator Worcester
Media Senator Malin
Service Clubs Senator Monroe
Social Clubs Senator Mac

President:

Qasim Ijaz

Vice President:

Jason Childers - **Late**

Speaker/At-Large Senator:

Ted Carey

Acting Deputy Speaker/Science, Health & Business Senator

Simon Ruhindi

Campus Center Advisor:

Elizabeth Stewart

Faculty Advisor:

Joseph McCauley

Visitors: Dr. Susan Salvador, Dick Ryther, Dr. Susan Baker, Student Services; Donna Mueller, Health Services; Lee Struble, Leah Torregiano, Public Safety; Annette Agness, MCC Association Inc.; Shirley Batistta-Provost, Jodi Oriel, Campus Center; Jessica Brown, Daniel O’Hanlon, MCC Alumni; Justin Young, CAB; Tima Marathe, SGA Presidential Cabinet; Alexander Curtis, Hoang Chau, Mazen Elrayes, Students; Donna Brennan, Secretary.

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

A. Roll Call

(See attendance above)

B. Approval of the August 18, 2009 meeting minutes.

Speaker Carey called for a motion to approve the minutes for the August 18, 2009 Senate meeting.

Senator Cohen so motioned, seconded by Senator Blum.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approves the August 18, 2009 Senate minutes as written.

II. SPEAK TO THE SENATE

Jessica Brown, MCC Alumnus, 2001SGA President, and co-creator of the September 11 Memorial, stated that the memorial was a community based project and she would like to see an initiative started to sell bricks for the walkway again; part of the money raised could be used towards the upkeep of the memorial, there are some general repairs that are needed. Since the walkway was put in, local soldiers have lost their lives and none of their names are engraved in any of the bricks. She requested that for the service next year she would like to see a committee started to research who in the area has been lost, what company they were with, who their families are and to see if bricks for them could be laid in the walkway.

Daniel O’Hanlon, MCC Alumnus, 02-03SGA Speaker of the Senate, and co-creator of the September 11 Memorial, addressed the maintenance of the memorial; there are cracks in the wall that need to be repaired. He would also like to see a reach out to the community to re-engage them. The 10th anniversary is two years way and he would like to look at bringing back the people who were originally involved in the development of the memorial. He also spoke about the placement of the plaque. The plaque is appropriate and it tells the story, but the current location is a hindrance to the symmetry of the memorial. He would like to see the plaque placed at the beginning of the walkway as the beginning of the story or at the back of the memorial.

President Ijaz thanked Jessica and Dan for coming; Senator Blum, regarding bringing back the people originally involved, asked them for their current contact information.

Dick Ryther, Associate Vice President, Student Services, mentioned that the maintenance issues have been pointed out to facilities and he knows it is on their to do list; he will check into it.

Senator Cohen motioned to suspend the agenda to move to reports until Dr. Salvador and Donna Mueller arrive, seconded by Senator Worcester.

A vote was taken.

The motion passed.

Dr. Salvador, Vice President, Student Services and Donna Mueller, Director, Health Services spoke about H1N1 flu precautions and the importance of taking care of each other and keeping each other informed.

Dr. Salvador talked about the steps taken prior to classes opening; letters were sent to all students and faculty; they spoke to parents at Res. Hall check in about the importance of students getting the flu shot; hand sanitizers have been placed around both the Brighton and Damon campuses; wipes have been placed in the Electronic Learning Centers. She emphasized the importance of being educated on how to keep your hands clean and each other healthy. There is a high chance and probability that many college students will get ill but they are not taking it in a perspective that this virus is deadly; it is a flu that will get you sick for between 3 and 6 days. Many of our students are focused, high achievers and many times we ignore our health; this is the time not to do that. This is the time to stay home if you are feeling sick and to encourage others to stay home if they are feeling sick. Now is the time to make the right choice when using sick days to miss class. She mentioned that President Kress shared her interest at All College Day on how we can keep a campaign of being healthy on this campus and that they will continue to do what they can to keep everyone informed. MCC has been very aggressive in regards to preparing a pandemic plan; Donna Mueller and Mr. Ryther co-chair a Pandemic Planning Team. Mr. Struble and Leah Santirocco from Public Safety will be running a tabletop, which is a simulated case, for the members of the Pandemic Planning Team to make sure they know their roles.

Donna Mueller talked about the importance of prevention. The H1N1 is very contagious and nobody in the age range of 5 to 24 has immunity to it. The most serious health risk is upper respiratory complications which can result with the flu. There are certain categories of people with upper respiratory conditions, pregnancy, or immuno suppressant populations who may be more at risk. It is imperative that those groups of students be protected. She needs everyone to be good public health citizens and she is asking the Student Government representatives to help with that charge. We need to take care of ourselves as well as each other not only to help prevent the spread of illness but also when people become ill. That might mean that we need to encourage people to stay home or sending them home if they are ill in the office area; encouraging people to take precautions; making people more aware of the public health risks and helping people develop new habits to protect themselves. The American College Health Association keeps track of the national trend in American colleges for how H1N1 is spreading. As of today, the incident rate is about 5% but they expect that might increase. H1N1 will be the predominant flu strain for the upcoming epidemic year. The course of the illness is significant and the absence from college will be approximately 3-5 days minimum. The criterion for returning to class is 24 hours after fever has subsided without taking anything to reduce the fever. Health Services will be working closely with the student newspaper to get that kind of information out. Some of the precautions recommended are hand washing, avoiding contact with persons who are sneezing or coughing, covering your mouth when you sneeze (sneeze into your elbow if you don't have a kleenex), good nutrition and getting an adequate amount of sleep, which is at least 8 hours. The spread of this disease is by direct contact; someone sneezes on the table, you put your hand on the table then you put your hands to your mouth; hand holding with someone who is sneezing; kissing; sharing your water bottle, food, and utensils. The best preventive measure right now against H1N1 is the seasonal flu vaccine which will be available at Health Services this month at the cost of \$10 per person; financial aid will not cover the cost of the vaccine because it is not part of the curriculum. In the past they have been able to subsidize the cost or give free injections to students who are at risk but because of the high demand this year that may be difficult. Students with Blue Cross/Blue Shield or MVP coverage through their parents can get reimbursed for the shot. They will be targeting students because they are the highest risk category. There will be special clinics for people in medical career programs and in res. life because they are at very high risk and they are required, if they are working in a health care setting, to get that injection. There is very low risk to seasonal flu vaccine and it is believed that it will provide some mediating effect to help lessen the symptoms if you get H1N1.

Tima Marathe, Director of Student Services in the Presidential Cabinet, mentioned that she is in the process of working on a weeklong health, wellness and disease prevention fair called ENABLE (Encouraging Nutrition and Better Living

through Exercise). It is slated for sometime in early October and she would like to have H1N1 prevention be a part of the fair.

III. REPORTS

A. Speaker

Speaker Carey...

- Welcome back – he thanked the new members of the Senate and Cabinet for making the decision to become members. This is the largest SGA group to begin an academic year in recent memory.
- RTS – he will continue working with RTS to improve transit service to and from MCC.
- Senate Meetings - he encourages all students to attend the meetings and to come to the Senate with problems, issues and/or ideas.
- Programming - he encourages the members of the Student Government to put on more programs and to volunteer at events, both on and off campus. His goal for SGA is to win Organization of the Year.
- SEGA - he is looking forward to working closely with SEGA President Arielle Penn and her staff at Damon.

B. President

President Ijaz...

- He thanked everyone who voted for him and assures everyone that this is going to be a great year.
- Planning for the 2009-2010 year began this summer. The September Eleven Remembrance Ceremony will begin the new year; he invites everyone at MCC to attend.
- SGA positions - most of the senate and cabinet positions are filled; the few positions still open are expected to be filled within a few weeks.
- Annual Leadership Retreat - he hopes to see all student leaders there.

C. Vice President

Vice President Childers...

- Student Government – he is pleased to see the number of applicants wanting to participate; although there are more applicants than positions, they are exploring ways to help them become involved.

D. Senators

Senator Blair...

- Return to MCC - he briefly explained how and why he returned to Rochester from Dallas, Texas in 2003 and what led to his decision to return to MCC. During the Spring 2009 semester, he worked in the Counseling & Advising Center with incoming students and their families helping them navigate placement testing, financial aid waivers, frustrations with Banner, scheduling conflicts, and more. All of these experiences led him to apply for the Brighton Campus Student Senate. As Interdisciplinary Studies Senator, he would like to promote MCC as both a place where education, intellectualism, and diversity are not “dirty words” and as an economic engine to the seven counties that MCC serves. He feels it is his obligation and duty to promote the 3 R's of MCC: 1.) Respect – for yourself and others. Remembering that respect is not just *given away* it is EARNED through hard work and dedication to your studies, your friends, your loved ones, and your community. 2.) Responsibility – to yourself and others. Remember the Golden Rule: Treat others as you would like to be treated. 3.) Reality – no two people are the same. That is what makes life worth living. Diversity is not something to be “cherished” or “prized,” like some dusty antique on a shelf. Diversity should be LIVED, as it is a fact of our modern world. No (woo) man is an island. He looks forward to working with everyone during the upcoming 2009-2010 academic year.

Senator Blum...

- Semester Goals - to get suggestion boxes up around campus to help the Government better understand the concerns of the students on the Brighton campus.
- Fundraising – she will work on events to raise money for some of the scholarships that have been neglected and for Water for Sudan.

Senator Cohen...

- Last year, as Director of Legislative Affairs, he rewrote the Student Government Constitution which was approved by the Senate and by the student body; it took effect on May 28, 2009. He is confident that it can provide a stable, solid, base framework for operating student governments here for years into the future.
- This year, as At-Large Senator, he will continue to work on the By-Laws. Last year's Senate approved 15 different By-Law changes; there will be many more this year. Two other major targets are the Election Rules and CAB's By-Laws.
- Auto Club Constitution - a second draft has been submitted.

- Constitution Day, September 17, will feature a Constitution Bowl trivia competition from 12:30 to 2:00, a reading of the Preamble in the Atrium at 2:00, and an all day Scavenger Hunt. Prizes will be awarded for both Constitution Bowl and the Scavenger Hunt, the top prize will be an iPod for the winner of the Scavenger Hunt; free pocket-sized copies of the United States Constitution will also be given away.
- SUNY Student Assembly – he represents MCC and four other schools as a Community College Representative on the Executive Committee of SUNY Student Assembly. At the request of Will Madera, Director of Community College Affairs, he will be introducing a resolution for the Senate to consider next week. He will also be asking the Senate to consider a resolution that will be presented to the full Assembly at Fall Conference, so that the voting delegates have a feel for what they are collectively thinking. He believes that MCC is entitled to a fifth voting delegate, but he still needs to work out whether it would belong to Brighton or Damon.

Senator Mac...

- Social Clubs Senator – she applied for this position because she wants to have a closer connection with students. Social Clubs are places where students join in for their interest, their creation and contribution. Working closely with Social Clubs, she will be able to understand what the students want, how they want it and how it can bring them the most benefit. She hopes to create a friendly environment in the student community, encourage them to get involved in student activities in a wider range, and let them know that the SGA is here and that their opinions and voices are heard for their benefit.
- Summer Project – she has been working on an international exhibition charity event. A gallery in Vietnam has agreed to be a sponsor for this event. They will send some paintings to MCC which will be auctioned off at the event. Before the auction, a video about people infected, during the Vietnam War, by dioxin/Agent Orange will be shown. The video will help visitors and MCC students understand more about war and its consequences to humans and nature. The gallery agrees to give MCC 20% of the profit from this exhibition. She would suggest that 10% be given to the Agent Orange Fund in Vietnam to help support the victims and the other 10% to some organization for children in Rochester. Some links for reference:
http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-6216549138883855069&ei=L_KkSqzgLZqIqQKYqYTiBA&hl=en#
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GctBfubN14>

Senator Malin...

- Media Senator - he looks forward to working with the media organizations.
- Blood Drives - last year he coordinated the blood drives and hopes to do that again this year.

Senator Monroe...

- Service Clubs Senator – this is her first year at MCC and she is very excited to be part of the student government. All through high school she held various positions on student government, was President of the clubs Future Teachers of America and Kids for the Community, participated in the Big Buddy program and was part of the BOCES 2 International Model United Nations Team. She enjoys being involved in school, planning events, and helping to make every students' experience the best it can be. She is looking forward to learning her position and doing the best job she can. This year on student government she would like to plan new and unique events, increase participation, and make sure every student has a fun and fulfilling school year.

Senator Raja...

- Academic Clubs Senator – he selected this position to help all students improve their learning abilities and to make them aware and capable with the help of different academic clubs. He is planning to do many projects which will help students work together, discuss subjects, share knowledge and ideas with each other and make the subjects very interesting and easy. Through such group activities and projects students will be more socialized and involved in their academic activities which will be a great asset for their career.

Senator Ruhindi...

- Science, Health and Business Senator – this is his second term in this position; he is honored to have been chosen to be the Deputy Speaker, after confirmation. He plans to do as much as possible for the students of MCC with the help of his fellow student government members and faculty advisors. The SGA is off to a great start and he hopes it continues to get better; Student Government will make a very huge and positive impact this year and he looks forward to learning, helping and listening to everyone who may cross his path.
- September 11 Ceremony – he encourages every student to attend at 8:00 a.m. behind building 10 to pay respect to those who lost their lives.

Senator Worcester...

- Liberal Arts Senator – he thanked the Student Government Association for giving him the opportunity to serve Monroe Community College as a whole, and specifically the students who make up the Liberal Arts program. He would like to hear from the Liberal Arts students regarding their concerns, their hopes, their dreams, and their vision for the future of MCC. He, as their representative and MCC as a driving force, wants to ensure that their academic expectations are met, and that their time at MCC is both positive and fulfilling. He would like to see increased involvement from his peers and mentors so they know who their representatives are; he would like to see them attend meetings and become a part of the process which influences the academic environment. If this fall's dramatic rise in admissions, and the lack of vacancies within the SGA are any indication, this year has unlimited potential. A quote from Joel Barker takes this a bit further: "Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world." Let that be our call to arms for 2009 and beyond.

E. Campus Center Advisor

Campus Center Advisor Stewart...

- Thank you to everyone for becoming involved in Student Government, to those who were here during the summer for orientations, and for everything that has been done so far. A great year is shaping up.
- Homecoming – she received an email from Karen Shaw, Director of Alumni Giving, offering the clubs and organizations the opportunity to have information tables between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the soccer games and before the evening event.
- H1N1 Virus Concerns – Aramark will be putting hand sanitizers in the Marketplace and they are looking for student leaders to be present to encourage students to use the sanitizers. Tony Struzik, Director of Aramark, will provide a free lunch for your help. Let Betty know if you are interested.

F. Faculty Advisor

Faculty Advisor McCauley...

- Welcome back – he is impressed with the amount of vision coming from everyone and encourages all to take part in the action required to make that vision become a reality; it can happen if you stay persistent.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. ACTION ITEMS (Items requiring a Senate vote)

a. Resolution to approve Elli Kuhn as the Director of Communications

Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate consents to the appointment of Elli Kuhn to the position of Director of Communications in the Presidential Cabinet for the 2009-2010 academic year. **Speaker Carey** called for a motion to approve Elli Kuhn as Director of Communications.

Senator Cohen so motioned, seconded by Senator Blair.

Discussion:

Senator Cohen informed the Senate that Elli held basically the same position last year and she has a long history with the student government.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves Elli Kuhn as Director of Communications in the Presidential Cabinet for the 2009-2010 academic year.

b. Resolution to approve Hoang Chau as Director of Clubs & Organizations

Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate consents to the appointment of Hoang Chau to the position of Director of Clubs & Organizations in the Presidential Cabinet for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Speaker Carey called for a motion to approve Hoang Chau as Director of Clubs & Organizations.

Senator Blum so motioned, seconded by Senator Worcester.

Discussion:

Hoang informed the Senate that she is in her 3rd year at MCC working on a second degree. She is a past Treasurer in the Global Union and wanted to try something new this year.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves Hoang Chau as Director of Clubs & Organizations in the Presidential Cabinet for the 2009-2010 academic year.

- c. **Resolution to approve Mazen Elrayes as Director of Student Technology**
Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate consents to the appointment of Mazen Elrayes to the position of Director of Student Technology in the Presidential Cabinet for the 2009-2010 academic year.
Speaker Carey called for a motion to approve Mazen Elrayes as Director of Student Technology.
Senator Worcester so motioned, seconded by Senator Blair.
Discussion:
Mazen informed the Senate that he has been at MCC for almost 2 years and he works with the ETS department. He feels his experience in ETS will help him address technology issues and problems students may have.
A vote was taken.
Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves Mazen Elrayes as Director of Student Technology in the Presidential Cabinet for the 2009-2010 academic year.
- d. **Resolution to approve Sara Idris as Director of Legislative Affairs**
Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate consents to the appointment of Sara Idris to the position of Director of Legislative Affairs in the Presidential Cabinet for the 2009-2010 academic year.
Speaker Carey called for a motion to approve Sara Idris as Director of Legislative Affairs.
Senator Ruhindi so motioned, seconded by Senator Blum.
Discussion:
Senator Cohen motioned to table this confirmation for 1 week allowing him time to meet with Sara before her confirmation since some of his projects will be joint projects with the Director of Legislative Affairs. President Ijaz stated that Sara is in class which is why she is not present and he can represent her if there are any questions.
Senator Worcester seconded the motion to table.
A vote was taken.
The motion to table the resolution for one week passes.
- e. **Resolution to approve the appointment of Amanda Thompson as Director of Physical Activities**
Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate consents to the appointment of Amanda Thompson to the position of Director of Physical Activities in the Presidential Cabinet for the 2009-2010 academic year.
Speaker Carey called for a motion to approve Amanda Thompson as Director of Physical Activities.
Senator Ruhindi so motioned, seconded by Senator Cohen.
Discussion:
Senator Mac asked why the candidates being appointed were not present. President Ijaz explained that many of them have class at this time so they cannot be here. Speaker Carey stated that he believes that President Ijaz and Vice President Childers would not recommend candidates if they were not capable of doing the job. Senator Cohen stated that in most cases he would defer to the President's judgment, so if he says she has a reasonable excuse for not being here he would defer to that.
A vote was taken.
Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves Amanda Thompson as Director of Physical Activities in the Presidential Cabinet for the 2009-2010 academic year.
- f. **Resolution to approve Tony Proietti as Director of Inter-Campus Relations**
Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate consents to the appointment of Tony Proietti to the position of Director of Inter-Campus Relations in the Presidential Cabinet for the 2009-2010 academic year.
Speaker Carey called for a motion to approve Tony Proietti as Director of Inter-Campus Relations.
Senator Blair so motioned, seconded by Senator Cohen.
Discussion:
Tima Marathe, Director of Student Services in the Presidential Cabinet, informed the Senate that Tony was in class and that she would like to speak on his behalf. She stated that Tony is a fantastic candidate for this position. He has a gift which enables him to talk with and have a conversation with anyone. He is the best candidate because he has the ability to get people to talk to each other, not at each other. By having someone like him in this position we will have better relations with the Damon Campus students.

Advisor McCauley stated that he had Tony as a student in class and he noticed that he has the ability to generate conversation where there might not be one. He is a very positive person and very gifted in his ability to talk with people.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves Tony Proietti as Director of Inter-Campus Relations in the Presidential Cabinet for the 2009-2010 academic year.

g. Resolution to approve the appointment of Fred Brown and Malcolm Cohen to the MCC Association, Inc. Board of Directors

Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate consents to the appointment of Fred Brown and Malcolm Cohen to the MCC Association, Inc. Board of Directors.

Speaker Carey called for a motion to approve Fred Brown and Malcolm Cohen as student representatives on the MCC Association, Inc. Board of Directors.

Senator Worcester so motioned, seconded by Senator Blair.

Discussion:

Senator Cohen stated that he is honored to have been asked to serve as a student representative on the MCC Association, Inc. Board of Directors and he will carry out the responsibilities of the position to the best of his abilities.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves the appointment of Fred Brown and Malcolm Cohen to the MCC Association, Inc. Board of Directors for the 2009-2010 academic year.

h. Resolution to approve Science, Health & Business Senator Simon Ruhindi as Deputy Speaker

Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approves Science, Health & Business Senator Simon Ruhindi for the position of Deputy Speaker for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Speaker Carey called for a motion to approve Science, Health & Business Senator Simon Ruhindi as Deputy Speaker.

Senator Cohen so motioned, seconded by Senator Blair.

Discussion:

Speaker Carey mentioned that he had three very qualified candidates for the position of Deputy Speaker. He chose Senator Ruhindi because he believes he will do the job to the utmost of his ability, above and beyond the call of duty; he is very particular and he knows what he is doing.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves Science, Health & Business Senator Simon Ruhindi for the position of Deputy Speaker for the 2009-2010 academic year.

IV. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Advisor McCauley mentioned that the Campus Environment Coordinator last year worked on a worm bin for composting and he wondered if anyone knew what was happening with that and if it should be looked in to. Advisor Stewart mentioned that the Biology Department was working with that and there were some things that had to be accomplished.

V. ADJOURNMENT

At 3:40 p.m. Speaker Carey called for a motion to adjourn. Senator Blum so motioned, seconded by Senator Cohen. The Senate meeting was adjourned.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Brennan
SA Secretary