



MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING MINUTES
FOR
Tuesday, March 8, 2011
2:15 p.m. – Forum (3-130)

Student Senators:

At-Large Senator Abdi-**Absent**
Interdisciplinary Studies Senator Wassel-Saxe
Liberal Arts Senator Hale
Media Senator Moore-**Absent**
Science, Health & Business Senator Snyder
Social Clubs Senator Yost

President:

Jason Childers

Vice President

Christopher Hollander

Speaker/At-Large Senator

Jack Hills

Deputy Speaker/At-Large Senator

Michael Gray

Campus Center Advisor:

Elizabeth Stewart

Faculty Advisor:

Joseph McCauley

Campus Center Advisor:

Rebecca Herzog

Visitors: Dick Ryther, Student Services, Shirley Batistta-Provost, Office of Student Life & Leadership Development; Eddie Visagie, Student Trustee; Janet Zinck, Tina Douangdara, Sara Wirth, Travel Club; Jonathan Muniz, CAB; Chris Brown, Zach Brown, ASL Club; Josh Coppinger, John Haubner, Andrew Citarella, Kenne Hammond, Stephanie Gill, WMCC the Fuse; Chad Peters, Lisa Armstrong, Kelly Bynes, Mike Snyder, Presidential Cabinet; Sam Isaacs, Student; Donna Brennan, SA Secretary.

I. CALL TO ORDER (2:20 p.m.)

A. Roll Call

(See attendance above)

B. Approval of March 1, 2011 Senate Meeting minutes.

Speaker Hills called for a motion to approve the March 1, 2011 Senate Meeting Minutes.

Senator Snyder so moved, seconded by Senator Hale.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves the March 1, 2011 Senate meeting minutes as written.

II. SPEAK TO THE SENATE

Eddie Visagie, Student Trustee, explained that he and Vice President Hollander have a petition protesting the cuts to Community Colleges and SUNY which they will be taking to SUNY Palooza on Tuesday, March 15 to give to the New York State Legislatures. They are asking for students to help collect signatures on the petitions. The deadline is Friday, March 11 at 5:00 p.m.

Jon Muniz, CAB Director, talked about upcoming events: March 17 at noon in Main Dining – chicken wing eating contest, prizes include an iPod Touch and a \$25 gift card; March 23 – Sustainability Game Show to promote April 6 Addicted to Plastic event which is co-sponsored by SEGA; April 11 at noon in the Campus Center Atrium – Picture Perfect which is where you can have a picture taken and put on a bag.

He also spoke, as an MCC student living in the Res. Halls, about an issue with the WiFi in the halls. The WiFi is not working which is preventing the Resident Assistants from sending their reports and students from being able to contact their professors and do their class work. The Res. Hall staff knows about the problem but as far as he knows nothing has been done. President Childers suggested that it is an overload problem

and said that if the students cut down on their smartphone usage during the busy times that might help. Vice President Hollander suggested that Jon collect as much information as possible regarding the problem and get it to the Student Government who will then talk to the Housing Director. Mr. Ryther recommended that Jon get on Dr. Salvador's calendar to discuss the issue with her.

III. REPORTS

A. Speaker

Speaker Hills...

- ✓ **By-Laws Committee** – he has participated with the committee to refine and revise many of the By-laws in order to define the SGA members' roles with the college and to better define ways in which they serve the students.
- ✓ **MCC Association Board meetings** – he has found his position on the Board to be highly rewarding and is very excited to continue to work, learn and collaborate with such a distinguished panel. He took particular satisfaction in approving funding of the National Championship rings for the Women's Lacrosse team and Men's Golf team.
- ✓ **Currently** the SGA is working on what they hope to be a weekly news program, essentially something filmed, produced, written, and directed by students. This news program will not only showcase highlights of MCC's numerous and successful athletic programs, but also cover state and local news as well as events and programs that are put on by CAB. It is a program that they hope will not only enrich this college and community but something that all involved can enjoy. He looks forward to beginning and continuing collaboration with the media, such as WMCC the Fuse, Monroe Doctrine, Cabbage & Kings and the Cinema Society.

B. Vice President

Vice President Hollander...

- ✓ **Petition Drive** has started. There will be a table in the Terrace Lounge on March 9-11 from 9-2 to collect signatures. The Senate's help is greatly needed with this project.
- ✓ **Budget Resource Committee** met on March 7th. They went over the presentations that will be presented on the 15th to Dr. Kress and her staff. The committee's priorities still include student success and work force flexibility.
- ✓ **SUNY Palooza** - sign-ups have been going strong; there is still room for at least 10 more students. If anyone would be interested in going to Albany to help advocate the need to continue funding for public higher education, please let him know.
- ✓ **Travel and Finance Committee** is still receiving requests for funds. Most recent requests have been from the Campus Ambassadors and BASIC requesting money to bring in a hip-hop artist and the MCC Pride Alliance for a Pride Week. Funds in the Senate Contingency account are getting very low; he asked the Senators to take into consideration whether or not any funds being requested are for trips or for events on campus.
- ✓ **Roundtable Meetings** - the March Roundtable meeting is March 9. Reporting on behalf of Megan Scott, Roundtable Coordinator, he mentioned that they have a list of clubs that have not been to Roundtable; the MC Klub and Hospitality Club have not been to Roundtable since they received funding from the Senate. He recognized the clubs and organizations that have not missed a single roundtable meeting this year: Campus Ambassadors, Cinema Society, Health Information Technology, Holocaust Genocide and Human Rights Project, Honors Institute, Pool and Billiards, and the Psychology Club. Thank you to those groups for their impeccable attendance record.
- ✓ **Presidential Cabinet Coordinator Update:**
 - **Adult and Evening Students Coordinator Patricia Giverson** has been promoting Student Government while she has been working in the Counseling and Advising department. She is also trying to setup a coffee hour that will either be in the evening or on Saturday morning.
 - **CAB Director Jonathan Muniz** and his team are currently working on Spring Fling. They are also recruiting for next year's Director and E-Board positions. CAB has been very active; the turnout for their events has been meeting or exceeding their expectations.

- **Campus Environment Coordinator Chad Peters** has been actively trying to get SGA suggestion forms back up and running. The forms have been revamped and new boxes are being ordered. He is also in the process of investigating lighting issues on campus.
- **Campus Technology Coordinator Zachary Renn** and VP Hollander have been working on getting wired internet connections available in the Student Government office.
- **Elections Coordinator Kelly Bynes** has started the elections process. Applications are available for students to pick up in the Office of Student Life and Leadership Development. She has assigned duties to her commissioners. Election workshops have also started.
- **Recruitment Coordinator Michael Snyder** has started speaking in both Political Science and College Orientation classes explaining what the SGA is and also trying to gain interest for students to run in the elections.
- **Legislative Affairs Coordinator Rimsha Kahn** has been very busy with the by-laws committee.
- **Promotions Coordinator Luis Perez** has created SGA Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube accounts. These have been setup so they can be passed down from year to year.
- **Student Services Coordinator Lisa Armstrong** has been the cabinet's main contact for the AAWCC, American Association of Women in Community Colleges, as well as the Richard M. Guon Day Care.
- **Veterans' Affairs Liaison John Huther** has been looking into the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life which will take place overnight at the Veterans Park in Henrietta. This would be a great opportunity to give back to the community. He has also been consistently communicating with the Veterans office in Counseling and Advising to see how SGA can serve the incoming veteran students.

C. Senators

Senator Hale...

- ✓ **By-laws Committee** – he has been working with the committee making revisions to the current by-laws.
- ✓ He will try to meet with Mr. Ring, who spoke to the Senate about his desire to motivate the student body in a direction towards activism for peace.
- ✓ **Advisor Herzog** challenged the SGA, at the beginning of the semester, to talk to two people about Student Government every day; he has reaffirmed his desire to fulfill that challenge, especially with elections coming up. He is trying to motivate people to not only vote but to find and meet the people who are running, that way they are not only voters but informed voters.

Senator Snyder...

- ✓ **Finance Committee** has worked on proposals from: The Travel Club for a Trip to the Dominican Republic, the Enough is Enough Campaign on MCC Brighton Campus for a full week of activities, the American Sign Language Club for a trip to Gallaudet University, and the Engineering Leadership Council for a trip to an aeronautical competition.
- ✓ **Reminder:** the Chinese Culture Club presentation “Splendor of China” is scheduled for April 16th.

Senator Wassel-Saxe...

- ✓ **Promoting SGA** – as a Student Ambassador, she has been promoting the Senate when she gives campus tours. She is now recruiting for next semester and explaining what the Student Government does. Many people have shown interest and she has given them her contact information.
- ✓ **Interdisciplinary Studies Department** – she has emailed the department dean asking if there is anything they need and asking them to come to SGA public meetings on Tuesdays; she hopes to hear back shortly.
- ✓ **Brainstorming** – she and Jon Cahill from CAB have been brainstorming on a dance Jon is trying to bring together.

- D. Office of Student Life & Leadership Development Advisor Stewart** talked about the importance of the petition drive that Eddie and Chris are coordinating. She asked that as many students as possible take a clipboard around to collect signatures.
- E. Office of Student Life & Leadership Development Advisor Herzog** mentioned that we are half way through the semester and she hopes that those who started the Leadership Certificate take the initiative to complete it; everything is due April 11.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. ACTION ITEMS (Items requiring a Senate vote)

a. Resolution to amend the SGA By-Laws by revising Sections 1 – 6

Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approve the revisions to Sections 1-6 of the SGA By-Laws.

Speaker Hills called for a motion to amend the SGA By-Laws Sections 1-6.

On behalf of the By-Laws Committee, Senator Hale moved the adoption of the resolution.

Discussion:

Senator Yost offered a friendly amendment to Section 1.1 – add “on the Brighton Campus” after “Monroe Community College Student Government Association.” Senator Snyder seconded; Senator Hale accepted the friendly amendment; the friendly amendment passed.

President Childers offered a friendly amendment to correct the numbering of all sections. Senator Gray seconded; Senator Hale accepted the friendly amendment; the friendly amendment passed.

Advisor Stewart asked that “Campus Center” be changed to “Office of Student Life & Leadership Development” throughout the entire document. The Senators acknowledged the change to allow the by-laws to coincide with the official college name of the department.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves the revisions and amendments to Sections 1-7 of the SGA By-laws.

b. Resolution to approve the funding of \$2,640.00 to the Travel Club

Resolved, that the Senate consents to the funding of \$2,640.00 to the Travel Club.

Speaker Hills called for a motion to approve the funding of \$2,640.00 to the Travel Club.

On behalf of the Travel/Finance Committee, Senator Snyder moved the adoption of the resolution.

Discussion:

Sara Wirth and Tina Douangdara spoke on behalf of the Travel Club. Sara explained that the funding is being requested to help subsidize some unexpected charges for the trip to the Dominican Republic. She explained that a \$200 fuel surcharge per person has been added to the cost of the airline tickets; the students signed up based on the advertised price of \$625. The club changed to a less expensive hotel but that still means an additional \$120 per student. They feel they cannot ask the students for the additional charge because it is not the price that was advertised.

Speaker Hills explained the status of the funds remaining in the Senate Contingency account.

Advisor McCauley explained that the Senate is looking at distributing the remaining funds proportionally to the amount of all of the requests.

Vice President Hollander asked if the club had money in either their private account or their SA account to help subsidize the increased cost. Tina confirmed that they do but she didn't have that information with her.

President Childers stated that proportionally the reduction would be \$393.60 which would change the amount of the request to \$2246.39.

Deputy Speaker Gray offered a friendly amendment to change the amount of the Travel Club request to \$2246.39; seconded by Senator Snyder. The members of the Travel/Finance Committee present agreed to the friendly amendment; the friendly amendment passed.

Senator Hale made a motion to table the approval until the next Senate meeting to give the club time to research how much they can subsidize from their private and/or SA accounts; seconded by Senator Yost.

A roll call vote to table the resolution was taken as follows: Senator Hale, yea; Senator Snyder, yea; Senator Wessel-Saxe, yea; Senator Yost, yea; Deputy Speaker Gray, yea.

The motion to table passed.

c. **Resolution to approve the funding of \$1,400.00 to the ASL Club**

Resolved, that the Senate consents to the funding of \$1,400.00 to the ASL Club.

Speaker Hills called for a motion to approve the funding of \$1400.00 to the ASL Club.

On behalf of the Travel/Finance Committee, Senator Yost moved the adoption of the resolution.

Discussion:

Chris Brown, ASL Club President, stated that the funds are being requested to subsidize a trip for 14 students and one advisor to Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. The trip is being planned with 6 other local colleges.

President Childers stated that proportionally the request would be reduced by \$203.36 which would change the request to \$1196.64.

Chris stated that would mean a difference of \$14.00 per student; he will work on getting the students to pay that difference today.

Vice President Hollander stated that the club has done some things to reduce the cost of the trip including putting 5 people in each hotel room.

Deputy Speaker Gray offered a friendly amendment to change the fund request to \$1196.64; seconded by Senator Yost. A majority of the Travel/Finance Committee present agreed to the friendly amendment.

A vote to approve the amended request was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves the funding of \$1,196.64 to the ASL Club.

d. **Resolution to approve the funding of \$2,500.00 to the students representing Enough is Enough Campaign Committee**

Resolved, that the Senate consents to the funding of \$2500.00 for a keynote speaker: Students Fight Back.

Speaker Hills called for a motion to approve the funding of \$2,500.00 for a keynote speaker: Students Fight Back.

On behalf of the Travel/Finance Committee, Senator Wassel-Saxe moved the adoption of the resolution.

Discussion:

Jon Muniz explained that the Enough is Enough Campaign addresses the whole student population. It provides programs on campus to promote civility and anti-violence; the program will address all types of violence that can happen on school campuses. This is a week long program from April 25 – 29. The funds will be used to subsidize the cost for the keynote speaker, Fight Back Productions.

Advisor Herzog gave a background of the event: 27 events will be happening on the Damon and Brighton campuses; the Department of Res. Life, Career and Transfer Office, the Peer Mentors and others will be participating.

Vice President Hollander stated that the SGA can put in \$1,250.00 from the Programming Budget to lower the request to \$1250.00 but asked that the SGA be considered as a co-sponsor.

Senator Snyder offered a friendly amendment to change the fund request to \$1,250.00. The members of the Travel/Finance Committee present agreed to the friendly amendment; the friendly amendment passed.

A vote to approve the amended request was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves the funding of \$1,250.00 for a keynote speaker: Students Fight Back.

e. **Resolution to approve Talibah Timothy as the Physical Activities Coordinator**

Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association approves Talibah Timothy as the Physical Activities Coordinator for the remainder of the 2010-2011 academic year.

Speaker Hills called for a motion to approve Talibah Timothy as the Physical Activities Coordinator.

Senator Gray so moved, seconded by Senator Yost.

Discussion:

Vice President Hollander explained that Talibah is a first semester student; she was involved in class council and athletics in high school. She is very interested in getting involved with the Student Government and athletics at MCC.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves Talibah Timothy as the Physical Activities Coordinator.

V. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Advisor Stewart offered a point of information - the Travel Club brought back the Club account information the Senate asked them for. She asked that the Senate deal with it today.

Deputy Speaker Gray motioned to call the Travel Club request for funds back to the table; seconded by Senator Yost.

A vote to approve the motion was taken.

The motion passed.

Discussion:

Speaker Hills stated that the new request is for \$2,115.00.

Lisa Armstrong, speaking on behalf of the Travel Club, explained that they raised over \$3000 through fundraising and it was an unexpected increase in charges. On behalf of the Travel club, she asked the Senate to approve the request.

Vice President Hollander stated that their fundraising efforts are not being questioned. He asked the Senators to decide if the Student Government paying for the increased fuel charges is justified.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves the amended Travel Club request of \$2,115.00.

President Childers talked about the line up for the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Sam Isaacs stated that he is running for an At-Large Senator position for next year and is finding, as he collects his 100 signatures, that many students are not aware that there is voting for the Student Government. He suggested getting more posters out and possibly a big banner in the atrium to advertise elections.

Advisor Stewart thanked Sam for bringing that issue to the Senate.

Senator Snyder stated that one of the advantages of each candidate for the Senate needing to collect 100 signatures will help to spread the word.

Deputy Speaker Gray suggested that Sam share his ideas with Presidential Cabinet Recruitment Coordinator Mike Snyder.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

At 3:38 p.m. Speaker Hills called for a motion to adjourn. Senator Gray so moved, seconded by Senator Hale. The motion passed; the Senate meeting was adjourned.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Brennan
SA Secretary