



**MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING  
MINUTES FOR  
Tuesday, September 22, 2009  
2:15 p.m. – Forum (3-130)**

**Student Senators:**

Academic Clubs Senator Raja  
At-Large Senator Blum  
At-Large Senator Cohen  
CAB Senator Wysote  
Interdisciplinary Studies Senator Blair-**Absent**  
Service Clubs Senator Monroe  
Social Clubs Senator Mac

**President:**

Qasim Ijaz

**Vice President:**

Jason Childers-**Late**

**Speaker/At-Large Senator:**

Ted Carey

**Deputy Speaker/Science, Health & Business Senator**

Simon Ruhindi

**Campus Center Advisor:**

Elizabeth Stewart

**Faculty Advisor:**

Joseph McCauley

**Visitors:** Dick Ryther, Student Services; Shirley Batistta-Provost, Campus Center; Justin Young, CAB; Tima Marathe, Fred Brown, SGA Presidential Cabinet; Bob Wirth, Junaya Nakhal, Students; Donna Brennan, Secretary.

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

**A. Roll Call**

(See attendance above)

**Senator Blum** motioned to amend the agenda to add, under Reports, Deputy Speaker Report; seconded by Senator Monroe.

**A vote was taken.**

**The motion passes.**

**II. REPORTS**

**A. Speaker**

**Speaker Carey...**

- ✓ Thank you to everyone who helped out and attended the Constitution Day festivities; he enjoyed being emcee.
- ✓ On Friday, September 18, he and Senator Wysote visited area businesses leaving fliers and posters advertising the Caroline Rhea appearance at MCC on Saturday, September 26.
- ✓ RTS has confirmed that they will have a table at the Peer Mentor's "Welcome to the Neighborhood" program on October 15. RTS has asked him to be on their Customer Service Advisory Board which is made up of community leaders whose members have a huge customer base for RTS; the first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September, 29.
- ✓ The first Blood Drive of the year is scheduled for Thursday, October 1, from 10am to 4pm in the Forum. He has been in contact with MCC's Red Cross representative; SGA is hoping to get prizes donated for a drawing for people who donate at the drive.

**B. Deputy Speaker**

**Deputy Speaker Ruhindi...**

- ✓ SEGA's Public Meeting – he had the opportunity to attend the SEGA meeting on Friday, September 18. He was very impressed with how they got right down to business; they discussed their current & upcoming events. He was most impressed by Lisa, one of SEGA's advisors, because she stressed the importance of keeping communication open. The word communication is always being brought up, Betty and Joe say this very often, and it is good to know that advisors on the Damon Campus are saying the same thing as our advisors. He offered his assistance to Chris Hollander, the Budget Coordinator, who is planning a Halloween event and wanted to pass the word along to the child care center. He hopes that sharing ideas and getting feedback from one another is something that can be done between the campuses. He feels it will make things better for both campuses.

### **C. President**

#### **President Ijaz...**

- ✓ MCC Association Board of Directors meeting is Thursday, September 24; SGA's student representatives will be there.
- ✓ SGA and SEGA are at a great level of unity; it looks to be a great year as one college.
- ✓ Amanda Thompson, Director of Physical Activities, has been given a deadline as she has been absent for three weeks and has missed four cabinet meetings.
- ✓ We, SGA Senators and Directors, were elected or selected to serve the students and he does not want to see the students disappointed. Classes should be first priority and if classes conflict with leadership positions, it is a leader's moment to make a decision; that decision should benefit classes.

### **D. Senators**

#### **Senator Blum...**

- ✓ She is still trying to find inexpensive suggestion boxes; there are a couple in the storage room that can be used. The next step is to meet with the advisors to discuss how to keep the suggestion boxes going and how to purchase more boxes if needed. She is working on a general form for students to fill out and also on how to report the data that comes in.

#### **Senator Cohen...**

- ✓ The Auto Club's Constitution is nearly complete; it should be ready for next week's agenda.
- ✓ Constitution Day festivities went well. Thank you Speaker Carey and Advisor McCauley for helping with Constitution Bowl, and all of the professors who helped with the Scavenger Hunt. He also thanked everyone who participated in the Reading and Signing ceremony, especially Director-Candidate Huther. He congratulates the prize winners in both Constitution Bowl and the Scavenger Hunt; he hopes everyone learned something new about our Constitution. He closed the Constitution discussion with an interesting fact to ponder; in the last clause of the Fifth Amendment, called the "takings clause" as it deals with eminent domain and the ability of the government to seize private property, there is a mark on the original that is impossible to determine whether it is a comma or a smudge.
- ✓ After talking with several members of Damon's SEGA at Dr. Salvador's picnic, he believes that there is a mutual desire for the two MCC student governments to work together more than they have in the past. He was quite encouraged and believes that the two student governments can do great things this year. It is important to keep communication between the two groups and to encourage attendance when possible at each other's meetings. He looks forward to attending one of SEGA's meetings.
- ✓ The theme of the Amazing Maize Maze at Long Acre Farm this year is "Music to Our Ears." He has more information if there is still interest, including dates, hours, and prices. There is a group discount available, but with a 20-person minimum.

#### **Senator Mac...**

- ✓ The Roundtable meeting is mandatory for all clubs and organizations on campus but not all were represented at the first Roundtable meeting on Wednesday, September 16. The leaders who attended were excited and motivated about what they will bring to MCC this academic year. At the meeting, she introduced herself as the Social Clubs Senator and also as a member of the Finance/Funding and Travel Committee. She is hoping to help the clubs she represents with the paperwork and/or the procedure for setting up an event or anything related to the clubs activities.
- ✓ Constitution Day, in her opinion, was not a well-prepared event probably because it is the beginning of a new semester and everything is not settled yet. Not a lot of students knew about the event and even she thought it was a ceremony or some big celebration in public. If there had been more time to talk about it and to promote it, more students would have gotten involved.
- ✓ She appreciated and thanks Dr. Salvador for holding the picnic for student leaders; it was a great chance for everybody to get to know each other and make connections.

#### **Senator Raja...**

- ✓ He will be meeting with Shirley Batista-Provost to confirm the list of academic clubs and to get more information about the clubs. He will then have a meeting with the presidents of those clubs.

#### **Senator Wysote...**

- ✓ She and Jon, from CAB, have been working on displaying posters and getting tickets for Caroline Rhea donated to local high schools and churches in the hopes of bringing in more community members.

- ✓ She is working on a procedure for internal awareness amongst the senators so all of the senators are more aware of the events taking place. Some suggestions are: email senate before meeting, have a hard copy for everyone on the day of the meeting, have a list of active senators involved, use board for a reminder (date, whose involved, to do list), notify everyone of the current status, and email senate two days before event. She would like input from everyone and hopes to discuss and finalize a procedure that will help keep everyone on track and involved.

**E. Campus Center Advisor**

**Campus Center Advisor Stewart** thanked everyone for their participation in Constitution Day, Dr. Salvador's Picnic, and the retreat next week. Alumni/Homecoming Weekend is this weekend, she reminded the senate to offer to help CAB with the Caroline Rhea event.

**F. Faculty Advisor**

**Faculty Advisor McCauley** stated that he enjoyed participating in Constitution Day. He is pleased to hear the government members talking about communication with each other. It should be recognized as an important issue and should be followed up on to be sure it is happening. It is also important to be aware of both internal communication with each other within the organization and external communication, letting those outside the group know what you are doing.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. ACTION ITEMS (Items requiring a Senate vote)**

**a. Resolution to approve John Huther as Director of Veterans Affairs**

*Resolved*, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate consents to the appointment of John Huther to the position of Director of Veterans Affairs in the Presidential Cabinet for the 2009-2010 academic school year.

**Speaker Carey** called for a motion to approve John Huther as Director of Veterans Affairs.

**Senator Cohen** so motioned, seconded by Senator Blum.

**Discussion:**

**Vice President Childers** stated that John was in class and could not attend the meeting. He read some notes from John: he graduated from Webster High School in 1989 and was in the service until 2005. He served in the 1<sup>st</sup> Gulf War and in Bosnia. Upon leaving the service he has worked a variety of jobs. He is looking forward to serving as the Director of Veterans Affairs.

**Senator Cohen** mentioned that John has been very helpful to him answering questions he had regarding the military in the lead up to Constitution Day. He believes John possesses a dedication worthy of the student government and he endorses his candidacy.

**A vote was taken.**

**Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate** unanimously approves John Huther as Director of Veterans Affairs.

**b. Resolution to approve Amanda Merkel as Director of Electoral Affairs**

*Resolved*, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate consents to the appointment of Amanda Merkel to the position of Director of Electoral Affairs in the Presidential Cabinet for the 2009-2010 academic school year.

**Speaker Carey** called for a motion to approve Amanda Merkel as Director of Electoral Affairs.

**Senator Cohen** so motioned, seconded by Senator Raja.

**Discussion:**

**Vice President Childers** read information about Amanda from her application: she believes it takes strong leadership to run a successful University and she believes she has the qualities to help those running for offices know what they are getting into. She has worked in a number of volunteer positions and has collected donations and assisted in organizing four charities.

**President Ijaz** mentioned that they look for enthusiasm, dedication and time commitment when considering anyone for a Director position. He said that Amanda is enthusiastic and wants to dedicate time to this position.

**Senator Cohen** stated that a number of things in regards to the elections could have gone better last year; the rules need to be completely rewritten this year. He has not met her yet but he believes the President's choice is the best and he looks forward to working with her.

**A vote was taken.**

**Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate** unanimously approves Amanda Merkel as Director of Electoral Affairs.

**c. Resolution to approve Bob Wirth as Director of Multicultural Affairs**

**Resolved**, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate consents to the appointment of Jason Wilson to the position of Director of Campus Environment in the Presidential Cabinet for the 2009-2010 academic school year.

**Speaker Carey** called for a motion to approve Bob Wirth as Director of Multicultural Affairs.

**Senator Blum** so motioned, seconded by Senator Cohen.

**Discussion:**

**Bob** explained that he was a Peer Mentor for 4 years and has worked with a wide variety of diversity. He feels this position will give him the opportunity to step up and do something new and different. He has already started doing some research into the possibility of an Interfaith Chapel on campus.

**A vote was taken.**

**Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate** unanimously approves Bob Wirth as Director of Multicultural Affairs.

**d. Resolution to approve Jason Wilson as Director of Campus Environment**

**Resolved**, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate consents to the appointment of Jason Wilson to the position of Director of Campus Environment in the Presidential Cabinet for the 2009-2010 academic school year.

**Speaker Carey** called for a motion to approve Jason Wilson as Director of Campus Environment.

**Senator Cohen** so motioned, seconded by Senator Monroe.

**Discussion:**

**Jason** explained that he has been interested in Student Government since attending Orientation and he has already started looking into ways to recycle; he has some good ideas to put forward.

**A vote was taken.**

**Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate** unanimously approves Jason Wilson as Director of Campus Environment.

**IV. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

Fred Brown, Director of Financial Affairs stated that there is a club called the Men of Excellence Club. It is a club for African American and Latino men; they meet to discuss issues they face on a daily basis. Everyone is welcome.

Tima Marathe, Director of Student Services, has contacted Dr. Salvador and Dr. Baker regarding the H1N1 flu and concerns about getting information out to the student population. She will be meeting with Dr. Baker and Donna Mueller, Director of Health Services. If anyone has any thoughts, questions, concerns they would like her to share at the meeting please let her know.

Justin Young, CAB Co-Director, added to Advisor Stewart's report: Saturday, September 26, CAB and the Alumni/Homecoming Committee are sponsoring Caroline Rhea; Wednesday, September 23, is a free movie night in the Res. Hall Quad.

Advisor Stewart mentioned that the college is trying to provide information about the H1N1 flu. She encouraged everyone to read the Student Tribune and asked that they encourage their peers to read it. This is an important issue and it is a good way to keep up to date.

Senator Cohen stated that he previously reported that he believed MCC should have 5 voting delegates at the SUNY Student Assembly Conference, but he has received corrected information which verifies that MCC will stay with 3 Brighton delegates and 1 Damon delegate.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

At 2:49 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