



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

**Student Senators:**

Academic Clubs Senator Acosta  
At-Large Senator Carey  
At-Large Senator Kuhn  
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:** Dr. Tyree, Interim President; Dr. Salvador, Dr. Baker, Dick Ryther, Student Services; Craig Proctor, Campus Center; Annette Agness, MCC Association, Inc.; Craig Learn, WMCC; Christopher Ornt, Electronic Gaming Society; William Costello, Computer & Gaming Club; Carl Ross, Global Union; Malcolm Cohen, Presidential Cabinet; Donna Brennan, Secretary.

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

**A. Roll Call**

(See attendance above)

**B. Approval of December 2, 2008 minutes**

**Speaker Darrow** called for a motion to approve the minutes for the December 2, 2008 Senate meeting.

**Senator Carey** so moved, seconded by Senator Bauman.

**A vote was taken.**

**Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate** unanimously approves the minutes for December 2, 2008 as written.

**II. SPEAK TO THE SENATE**

**Interim President, Dr. Tyree**, was present to have a conversation with the Senate to address issues/concerns.

**Senator Carey** – in light of the budget cuts we are facing, do you see a need for more Public Safety officers as a result of the November incident?

**Dr. Tyree** – Public safety is a very high priority at MCC; budget reductions or the fear of budget reductions now or in the future will not get in the way of providing the safest possible learning environment. The November incident was very unfortunate. The background research done since the incident verifies that it could not have been avoided. It was immediately contained. MCC was criticized for not using the SUNY NY Alert System; that system is to be used when there is an ongoing threat. There was no ongoing threat. The alleged perpetrators were apprehended almost immediately and the situation was well under control. With the present Public Safety staff and the availability of other agencies, specifically the Brighton Police Department, at a moment's call, MCC is in good shape. If anyone has feelings to the contrary, please do not hesitate to share them.

**Deputy Speaker Lawson** – in previous recessions or economic downfalls, MCC and other Community Colleges have done better in enrollment. Has there been any evidence of that with the upcoming spring semester?

**Dr. Tyree** – enrollment is looking very positive. Whenever the economy is sinking, community college enrollment is escalating. We are looking forward to a good spring enrollment.

The Governor called a special session of the NY legislature on November 18 which ended in a political standoff. He had made recommendations that would have reduced our funding during this current fiscal year 12%, around 6 million dollars. The leadership of the NY State legislature chose not to act on those recommendations and bounced the

problem forward until the new year. The new legislature which will be seated in 2009 will have to deal with the issue. The question which has not been answered for us as a system of community colleges is if there will be mid-year reductions for this current fiscal year or if the situation will continue to be pushed forward into the next fiscal year. More will be known about the next fiscal year on December 16 when Governor Patterson's budget will be released. Some short term measures have been implemented to reduce the level of expenditures at the college; all vacant positions have been frozen and will be filled only if the Vice Presidents concur that they should be filled, overtime must be preapproved by a vice president, travel has been reduced back to last year's level, and a huge portion has been taken out of the 08-09 technology plan. Those are only tips of the iceberg kinds of things given what we may be facing in terms of budget reductions and revenue shortfalls for next year. It would be a major miracle if there is not a tuition increase proposed for 2009-2010; not for the remainder of this fiscal year.

**Senator Kuhn** – with the increase in enrollment for the spring, will there be any remedies for the parking issues?

**Dr. Tyree** – his theory, which has never been successful, about parking is the Tyree Fitness Plan for Parking – you get here 15 minutes earlier than you normally would and park as far away from the building as possible then use that opportunity to enhance your own physical fitness. The long term solution is not surface parking, but a parking garage which is cost prohibitive.

**Speaker Darrow** – how does MCC plan to monitor the state funding?

**Dr. Tyree** – they read everything they can; Dennis Golladay, the Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges in the SUNY system, communicates with them regularly; Michael Trunzo, the Vice Chancellor for Government Relations emails updates every few days; there is a state SUNY campaign to try to influence legislatures in anticipation of them convening early in 2009. Until the Governors budget is known and until the legislature convenes our funding will not be known. The projections for the state are very clear - a 47 billion dollar revenue shortfall over the next five years; a 2 ½ billion dollar revenue shortfall this year and a 2 ½ billion dollar revenue shortfall for 2009-2010. The operations for this institution will have to be very conservative. The core of this institution, the teaching and learning process, will be protected. What is on the periphery of the core is at risk. Nothing will be done to affect the quality of the education experience in the classrooms and laboratories.

**Vice President Robinson** – what are your early on thoughts of the Presidential Search?

**Dr. Tyree** – the committee will be appointed on Monday, December 8; the first meeting of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee will be Tuesday, December 9 at 9:30 and the process unfolds from there. The Presidential Search consultant is stirring things up nationally getting people aware and interested; advertisements have gone out in national paid publications and a good response and a successful search is anticipated.

**Mr. Ryther** commented on the spring semester enrollment and the parking issue – parking should not be as big a challenge as it was this semester because even with the spring enrollment looking strong that does not mean that there will be as many or more students than this fall semester.

**Dr. Salvador** referencing Dr. Tyree's comments about a parking garage, mentioned that the only way we could go is up but we are restricted by the department of transportation in regards to funding. As student enrollment shifts more in the SUNY system there may possibly be changes in the way funding comes to MCC. If we get that, we go up. Right now, the cost per parking space is 10-12,000 dollars.

### III. REPORTS

#### A. Speaker's Report

##### Speaker Darrow...

- ✓ There are only two more weeks of the semester, please make sure your grades are good because we want to keep this group together.
- ✓ Thank you, Interim President Tyree for coming to the meeting.
- ✓ The SGA Blood Drive is Thursday, December 4, from 10am – 4pm.

#### B. Senators

##### Senator Bauman...

- ✓ Pond Clean-up Project – he is still waiting to hear from the grounds staff about the idea; an e-mail has been sent to Timothy Tatakis of the Biology Department about making it a joint effort and involving their classes; he replied with a few suggestions. He and Campus Environment Coordinator John Gordon will be taking a look at Professor Tatakis's suggestions.

**Senator Carey...**

- ✓ RTS – he forwarded Mary Dewitt's ENG 250 class survey and Senator Rice's survey to Ann Nichols at RTS who will forward them on to the scheduling department; they are still waiting for approval for placement of the RTS kiosk.

**Senator Malin...**

- ✓ Blood Drive – he met with Sam Liotta, from the Red Cross, to discuss what made the last blood drive so successful. Sam is also interested in working with SEGA to get students involved in the blood drives at the Damon Campus. Senator Malin talked with Nia Jones, President of SEGA, and she is very interested in meeting with Sam.
- ✓ Reminder - the next Blood Drive at MCC is Thursday, December 4, from 10-4 in the Forum (3-130).

**Senator Rice...**

- ✓ Res. Hall RTS Survey – he presented the results of the Residence Hall survey (see attached) which focused on the feasibility of weekend shuttles for the Residence Hall Students; this is in support of At-Large Senator Carey's efforts on improving RTS service at MCC.

**Senator Ruhindi...**

- ✓ Non-violence project – he met with Coordinator Yost and Senator Rice to discuss having a Non-violence Rally on the Brighton campus; they would also like the Rochester community to be involved in this. He is in the process of working with Slater's Raiders for Peace who have done rallies in the Rochester community and who strive to mentor the youth that violence is not the answer, there are other options.

**IV. Campus Center Advisor**

**Campus Center Advisor Stewart...**

- ✓ With the end of the semester coming soon, she asked the students to make sure they pay attention to their classes/academics; if anyone feels they are in trouble please see either her or Advisor McCauley.
- ✓ She informed the students that an email regarding the Winter Leadership Retreat scheduled for January 12 would be sent soon and to RSVP when they get it.

**V. Faculty Advisor**

**Faculty Advisor McCauley...**

- ✓ suggested that it is time for the SGA to evaluate the progress that has been made as a group/organization, to plan for next semester and prioritize the goals that were set at the beginning of the fall semester.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

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

**a. Resolution to charter the Computer and Gaming Club**

**Resolved**, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approve the charter for the Computer and Gaming Club.

**Senator Darrow** called for a motion to approve the charter for the Computer and Gaming Club.

**Senator Rice** so moved, seconded by Senator Ruhindi.

**Discussion:**

**President Elliott** asked about a sexual harassment clause.

**William Costello**, President of the club, stated that Article XIV has been added referencing the sexual harassment policy on the MCC Website. Violation of the policy will be grounds for expulsion from the club.

**Deputy Speaker Lawson** asked Senator Malin to work with the club to make sure the Senate receives a new copy of the constitution with the new amendments.

**Senator Acosta** stated that in the purpose for organizing there is nothing about gaming. Since there is already a gaming club he asked if this new club would be doing something different from the club that exists for the sole purpose of gaming.

**William Costello** explained that the club will be doing more with the knowledge and technology needed to support the gaming. They will not be meeting for the purpose of bettering gaming skills. They will be meeting with the purpose of developing the knowledge and the technical aspects behind the gaming.

**Senator Kuhn** offered a friendly amendment to change the name of the club to The Computer & Gaming Technology Club. William accepted the friendly amendment.

**A vote was taken.**

**Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate** unanimously approves the charter as the club has agreed to modify the constitution. The club will submit a revised constitution to the Senate.

**VII. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

**Deputy Speaker Lawson** stated that he will be working with the MS Committee to fundraise and get walkers committed to walking in the MS Walk in May. He will be organizing a competition between the clubs and organizations to fundraise and get walkers.

**Carl Ross**, Secretary of Global Union, asked if there was any progress made in how SUNY school credit will transfer to the CUNY schools. Advisor McCauley suggested he talk to Chris Belle-Isle in the Career Center.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

At 2:55 p.m. Speaker Darrow called for a motion to adjourn.

Senator Carey so moved, seconded by Senator Bauman. The Senate meeting was adjourned.

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Brennan  
SA Secretary