



**MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING MINUTES FOR
Tuesday, February 28, 2012
2:15 p.m. – Forum (3-130)**

Student Senators:

Academic Clubs Senator Valone
At-Large Senator Isaacs-**Late**
Athletics Senator Coulombe-**Absent**
CAB Senator Snyder
Media Senator Bynes
Social Clubs Senator Jackson-Harris

President:

Michael Gray

Speaker/At-Large Senator

Scott Blue

Deputy Speaker/Service Clubs Senator

Jason Childers

SL&LD Advisor:

Elizabeth Stewart

Faculty Advisor:

Joseph McCauley

SL&LD Advisor:

Rebecca Herzog-**Absent**

Visitors: Dick Ryther, Student Service; Virginia Geer-Mentry, MCC Association, Inc.; Bert Gamory, Mini Baja Advisor; Shirley Batista-Provost; Taylor Johnson, Mia Daniels, Honors Council; Justin Woodhouse, Dan Steiner, Mini Baja; Selamon Bashu, Africa United; Brian Hawes, BASIC; Hassan Ali, Presidential Cabinet; John Dooley, Sara Zeitz, Students; Donna Brennan, SA Secretary.

I. CALL TO ORDER (2:21 p.m.)

A. Roll Call

(See attendance above)

B. Approval of the February 14, 2012 Senate Meeting Minutes

Speaker Blue called for a motion to approve the February 4, 2012 Senate Meeting Minutes.

Senator Snyder so moved, seconded by Senator Bynes.

There was no discussion.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the MCC Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves the February 14, 2012 Senate Meeting Minutes as written.

II. SPEAK TO THE SENATE

There was no one to speak to the Senate.

III. REPORTS

A. Speaker

Speaker Blue...

- ✓ Thank you to Deputy Speaker Jason Childers and Media Senator Kelly Bynes for filling in for him at the February 14 Senate meeting. He needed the time to prepare his speaking points for an event at the Edgerton Stardust Ballroom where he was to speak on the benefits of extracurricular programs and activities.
- ✓ Projects:
 - Talk About Something That Matters forum – this is the brilliant brainchild of Veteran Affairs Liaison Ben Serbicki with help from the Diversity Committee and SGA Advisor Rebecca Herzog. These discussions will allow the student body to come together to talk about some of the most pressing issues college students and Americans face. The Committee and Liaison Serbicki have asked him to moderate the discussions. The first discussion will be on March 7 in the Campus Center Atrium. He encourages all to attend.
 - Green Week – a collaborative effort between SGA and OAU. He, Social Club Senator Bo Jackson, and OAU President Will Barker have had multiple brainstorming and planning sessions for the event. Green Week will be a week full of green and environmental presentations, games and much more that will show how we can not only go green but Live Green.
- ✓ Media Senator - he filled in as Media Senator for Senator Bynes and, as Speaker of the Senate, he is not only extremely impressed but extremely grateful for all the hard work Senator Bynes does.

B. Deputy Speaker

Deputy Speaker Childers...

- ✓ Sports Events:
 - NJCAA Regional Swimming Tournament, February 17-19 - he watched Senator Coulombe and the Tribunes wreck havoc over the rest of the Region III teams.
 - NJCAA National Hockey Championship, February 26 & 27 – MCC hosted the Community College of Morris (NJ), Erie Community College (the defending champion), and Welliston State College (ND). MCC beat the CC of Morris 9-2, while Welliston beat Erie CC 6-3. On Sunday, Dr. Susan Salvador dropped the ceremonial face-off puck for the championship game with MCC vs. Welliston. MCC was the winner with a score of 4-2; goals were scored by Dan Turgeon, Zach McDonald, Bobby Thomaris, and Dan Going. Turgeon, Thomaris, and Tim Young made the All-Tournament Team, while Coach Craig Chamberlin was awarded Coach of the Year, and Goalie Tom Dehr won Tournament MVP. College dignitaries in attendance were former President Flynn, former SGA Presidents Kyle Madden and Dan Elliott, Vice Presidents Susan Salvador and Jeff Bartkovich, Associate VP Dick Ryther, Athletic department staff, parents of the hockey players, and members of the MCC Women’s Lacrosse and Softball teams.
 - Women’s NJCAA National Lacrosse Championship – MCC will be hosting the tournament May 12 & 13.
- ✓ Celtic Society and Phi Theta Kappa movie series - *The Englishman Who Went Up A Hill, But Came Down A Mountain* is showing, February 28, at 6pm in Room 12-113. *The Wind That Shakes the Barley*, set in Ireland during its Independence and Civil Wars from 1919-23, is showing on Tuesday, March 13. Fionnuala Regan and Professor Jeff Jones will be leading the discussion afterwards.

C. Office of Student Life & Leadership Development Advisor

Advisor Stewart...

- ✓ SGA Election Packets are now available in the Office of Student Life & Leadership Development.
- ✓ Emerging Leaders Reception will be held on March 15 in Monroe A & B from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. This is a reception for students nominated by faculty and staff who have demonstrated leadership potential. Each club and organization is invited to setup a table to display information and to recruit new members.

D. Committee Reports

- ✓ **Rock the Vote Committee** – Senator Snyder announced that a voter registration drive will take place in the Terrace Lounge on March 14 & 21 from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm.

- ✓ **Parade Committee** – Deputy Speaker Childers announced that there are currently 53 lined up to march in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

- ✓ **Constitution Committee:**

The following resolution came from committee - Senator Jackson-Harris read the resolution.

Resolution to Charter the United Africa-United African Student Organization

Resolved, that the Senate approves the draft Constitution as submitted by the United Africa-United African Student Organization members and the Constitution Committee, and further be it

Resolved, that the Senate approves the petition for charter as submitted, and accepts the chartering of the United Africa-United African Student Organization.

Discussion:

Selamon Bashu, President, explained that there are a lot of students from Africa on campus and they wanted to be united and to represent their culture on campus. They plan to help communicate with new African students and to help them succeed.

Senator Jackson-Harris explained that they are a club, not technically an organization, but can use organization in their name.

Senator Bynes stated that the resolution reads United Africa – United African Student Organization but the constitution states the name of the club is United Africa – United African Student Club.

Selamon Bashu stated that they would prefer United Africa – United African Student Organization.

Shirley Batista-Provost explained that they can be an organization in name only.

Senator Bynes offered a friendly amendment to change the name to United Africa – United African Student Organization.

The committee and Selamon Bashu accepted the friendly amendment.

The friendly amendment passed.

Senator Snyder offered a friendly amendment for Article 4 - under duties of the President where it states that the President only votes in case of a tie. He asked that it be changed to “the President only votes in “the” case of a tie”.

The committee and Selamon Bashu accepted the friendly amendment.

The friendly amendment passed.

He also asked that under duties of the Treasurer in the last clause it states “shall work with Vice President” to add “the” between with and Vice President.

The committee and Selamon Bashu accepted the friendly amendment.

The friendly amendment passed.

Senator Bynes offered friendly amendments to add “and assistant” in the last line of the Duties of the Vice President as well as in Duties of the Treasurer “organization” should be changed to “club”.

The committee and Selamon Bashu accepted the friendly amendment.

The friendly amendment passed.

President Gray mentioned that in Article 4, Section 3 the elected officials are listed as President, Vice President, Secretary General, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Social & Artistic Coordinator, and Public Relations Officer. The constitution is missing job descriptions for Financial Secretary and Social & Artistic Coordinator.

Speaker Blue asked the advisors if the Senate could charter the club and have the constitution brought back to the committee after the amendments have been made.

Advisor McCauley stated that they can be chartered but it would have to be approved “subject to proposed amendments”.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the MCC Student Government Association unanimously approves the charter and accepts the chartering of the United Africa – United African Student Organization subject to proposed amendments.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. ACTION ITEMS (Items requiring a Senate vote)

a. **The following resolution came from committee - Senator Valone read the resolution.**

Resolution to approve the funding of \$4431.50 to the Honors Council

Resolved, that the SGA Senate consents to the funding of \$4431.50 to the Honors Council to sponsor the event The Northeast Regional Honors Conference.

Discussion:

Mia Daniels, Honors Council Treasurer, informed the Senate that 8 students and 2 advisors will be traveling to the conference and 4 of the students will be presenting at the conference. This will be a great learning experience for the students as they present what they have been working on for the past academic year.

President Gray asked about their fundraising efforts.

Mia stated that they have raised about \$100.00.

Deputy Speaker Childers asked how much each student would be contributing to the trip.

Mia stated that they had not discussed that because they wanted to see how much the SGA would approve. The money being requested will cover the cost of travel, hotel, and conference tickets. She also stated that the students will be paying for their own food and any extras.

Senator Jackson-Harris stated that the Finance Committee approved the full amount because this is both educational and a good representation of the college.

Senator Valone stated that she stands by the Finance Committee decision to fund the full amount.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved the MCC Student Government Association approves the funding of \$4431.50 to the Honors Council to sponsor the event The Northeast Regional Honors Conference with 4 years and 1 nay.

b. **The following resolution came from committee – Senator Bynes read the resolution.**

Resolution to approve the funding of \$2,593.00 to Mini Baja Club

Resolved, that the Senate consents to the funding of \$2,593.00 to Mini Baja Club to sponsor the event SAE Mini Baja Competition.

Discussion:

Justin Woodhouse, Mini Baja President, thanked the SGA for their support. He informed the Senate that the competition is April 19 – 23. The club is putting \$3000.00 from their accounts towards their expenses. Each student has to have a membership and individual medical insurance in order to participate; each student is responsible for that. The students have done fundraising to cover the cost of parts needed for the car. He stated that there will be 8 students, 1 advisor and 1 coach attending the competition.

Senator Isaacs mentioned that this trip is one that represents MCC and its students; MCC is one of the few Community Colleges who participate in the competition. He feels it is worth it to sponsor a trip where MCC’s name gets out there.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the MCC Student Government Association unanimously approves the funding of \$2,593.00 to Mini Baja to sponsor the event SAE Mini Baja Competition.

V. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Senator Snyder reminded everyone that there are seats still available for the SUNY Student Assembly SUNY Palooza. Students will be advocating for an increase in the TAP award, to insure a greater increase from the state and fair funding for colleges. He mentioned that SUNY Chancellor Zimpher and possibly Governor Cuomo will be addressing the students.

Speaker Blue stated that the deadline to sign up to attend SUNY Palooza is Wednesday, March 1. He also mentioned that the students attending will meet with Legislatures and students from other SUNY Colleges. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided by the MCC SGA and Hudson Valley CC will be providing a grab and go pizza lunch.

President Gray mentioned that the Office of Student Life & Leadership Development can provide a letter to professors to explain what the day is all about but students must work with their professors.

President Gray mentioned that the position of Vice President of the SGA is currently vacant; anyone interested in the position can apply and those interested do not have to be a member of the SGA to apply.

Speaker Blue thanked former Vice President Ciaccio for the work she did while in the position.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

At 3:12 p.m. Speaker Blue called for a motion to adjourn. Senator Snyder so moved, seconded by Senator Bynes. The motion passed. The Senate meeting was adjourned.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Brennan
SA Secretary