



MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING MINUTES FOR
Tuesday, November 1, 2011
2:15 p.m. – Forum (3-130)

Student Senators:

Academic Clubs Senator Valone
At-Large Senator Isaacs
At-Large Senator J. Snyder
CAB Senator M. Snyder
Media Senator Bynes
Social Clubs Senator Jackson-Harris
Residence Hall Senator Sears - **Absent**

President:

Michael Gray

Vice President

Theresa Ciaccio - **Absent**

Speaker/At-Large Senator

Scott Blue

Deputy Speaker/Service Clubs Senator

Jason Childers

SL&LD Advisor:

Elizabeth Stewart-**Absent**

Faculty Advisor:

Joseph McCauley

SL&LD Advisor:

Rebecca Herzog-**Absent**

Visitors: Karson Laforce, Latin Dance Club; Robin Lalisie, WMCC; Evan Ling, Monroe Doctrine; Dick Ryther, Student Services; Catherine Higgins, SA Secretary.

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

A. Roll Call

(See attendance above)

B. Approval of the October 25, 2011 Senate Meeting Minutes

Speaker Blue called for a motion to approve the October 25, 2011 Senate meeting minutes. The motion was moved by J. Snyder and seconded by Kelly Bynes.

Discussion:

President Gray requested changing “Senator” to “President” Gray in the third paragraph of Speak to the Senate.

He also requested that the Spanish Club be added as co-sponsoring the Washington DC trip with Global Union in Senator Valone’s report and adding a “J” to Senator Snyder’s name in Questions and Comments.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, that the MCC Student Government Association unanimously approves the October 25, 2011 Senate meeting minutes as amended.

II. SPEAK TO THE SENATE

Evan Ling, from the Monroe Doctrine spoke to the Senate with concerns about WiFi access in the Residence Halls and with students smoking near the entrances. He asked whether these concerns are being addressed by the Senate.

President Gray indicated that there is a meeting with the Student Services and Campus Technology Coordinators, Dr. Salvador and Jeff Bartkovich on the 21st of the month to discuss the Wifi issues on campus and at the Residence Halls. Senator J. Snyder stated that he serves on the Personal Health and Safety Committee and the smoking policy is currently under review and should be completed by January.

Mr. Ryther recognized that these concerns are valid and suggested that Mr. Ling meet with Housing and Residence Life staff and not rely on Public Safety to be the sole monitor of the situation.

Mr. Ling observed that recently in the Residence Halls, there were Senator sit-ins with various clubs and wondered why there was a sudden interest and investigation of current clubs.

Speaker Blue explained that the Senate represents the specific interests of Student Life on campus. There are Senators that are specific to certain clubs and the Senate has always had a vested interest in clubs and organizations.

Advisor McCauley stated that the current Senators are taking more of an interest than in the past, and there is no investigation that he is aware of.

III. REPORTS

A. Speaker

Speaker Blue...

Speaker Blue has been very busy traveling. On October 14th, he attended the annual Leadership Retreat at Camp Stella Maris. The Retreat brought together leadership students from both campuses and gave them a chance to bond and bridge our communication. Speaker Blue and President Gray look forward to collaborating with SEGA President Teresa Velazquez in the future. He believes the Retreat has brought the leaders of MCC closer, especially the SGA Leaders. Thanks to Rebecca Herzog and her True Colors survey, we understand our strengths and weaknesses. He just returned from the SUNY Student Assembly Conference on Sunday, so expect a detailed report on that experience soon. SUNY Student Assembly President, Kaitlyn Beachner has asked him to serve as her Parliamentarian for the remainder of her term. He is taking this under heavy consideration. Both the student body and President Beachner can expect an answer from him within the week.

B. Deputy Speaker

Deputy Speaker Childers...

This weekend he attended the Fall SUNY Student Assembly Conference in Latham, NY, his fifth SUNY Conference. He participated in a few icebreakers, and in a workshop on communication. The rest of the time, he was observing the business meeting, and also transporting the other students between the Conference and our hotel, assisting Advisor McCauley.

Tomorrow morning, he leaves, with Advisor Herzog, President Gray, Veterans Affairs Liaison, Serbicki, CAB Director Sharp, and two other members of CAB for Miami. We will be taking part in the National Conference of Student Leadership. We will be observing motivational speakers to see if there are any that would be of interest to the MCC Community. We will get back next Monday evening.

The Celtic Society is co-hosting a Movie Night with Phi Theta Kappa on Tuesday, 15th November at 5:30, in Room 12-229. The film, based in Ireland, is *The Nephew*, with Pierce Brosnan and Hill Harper, and there will be a discussion afterwards. Popcorn and soda will be on hand.

C. President

President Gray...

He has had the opportunity to sit in on a By-Laws Committee Meeting, and is very impressed with the leadership of Senator Kelly Bynes. The strategic planning for the rest of the year is quite impressive. He commended the By-Laws team on a good job. He also commended Senator Isaacs for his hard work on the Club Constitution Committee, and for taking on the challenge of the Cinema Society, and the Filmmakers Guild.

He attended a dinner at the home of Dr. Kress with several of the MCC Foundation members. The discussion included positive things that the Foundation, and its members have done for the college, such as scholarship efforts. The Foundation is planning to maintain and increase the amount of scholarships that are offered to MCC students.

He attended the Open House put on by the Office of Student Life and Leadership Development. It was a well attended event, and he had the opportunity to meet many students, and talked with them about SGA, and First Year Experience as a Peer Mentor. He thanked Vice President Ciaccio, and Senator Valone, who attended the event.

He met with Advisor Herzog to discuss the purpose and major goal of the SGA Advisory Boards. He then held a meeting with the Club, and At-Large Senators to discuss their thoughts on the topic. He charged the By-Laws Committee to review these actions that would affect the By Laws. After reviewing the topic of the Advisory Board, the By-Laws Committee felt that we should test them out, so it does not turn into another Media Committee. Roundtable Coordinator Estrella will break down the Clubs and Organizations into divisions, and then go from there.

President Gray, Student Services Coordinator Ukatu, and Campus Technology Coordinator Aruya will be having a meeting with Vice President Salvador, and Vice President Bartkovich, on Thursday November 21st 2011 to discuss the issues of the WiFi within the Residence Halls. Thank you to Donna Brennan, and Student Services Coordinator, Ukatu for coordinating this meeting.

SGA partnered with the Childcare Center and provided help for the Fall Foliage event with the children. He had fun with playing with party streamers, corn, and acorns. He was unable to attend on Friday, but he will report back on how things went.

President Gray attended the SUNY Student Assembly Conference as a voting delegate, along with Speaker Blue, Senators Sears, M. Snyder, and Bynes, and Coordinators, Ukatu and Ash. The business meeting was run efficiently, under the leadership of SUNY Student Assembly President, Kaitlyn Beachner. We heard opening remarks from the new Chairman of SUNY's Board of Trustees, H. Carl McCall, with remarks about his new position within SUNY, as well as how he will do his best to maintain the excellence in education that SUNY is known for. The business meeting included a discussion with the SUNY CFO about Shared Services, as well as, Shared Presidents. Resolutions were passed

recognizing President Anne Kress for attending, and speaking at a SUNY Student Assembly event, as well as MCC, and our Student Leaders for hosting the SUNY EC meeting in January of 2011. A special congrats goes out to the newly elected Community College Representative, Michael T. Snyder. He would publicly like to say that Senator M. Snyder will be a great addition to the SUNY Student Assembly EC, and we look forward to hosting the EC here at some point in the coming year. He reminded everyone to take some time for themselves and to keep up the amazing work.

President Gray stated that Vice President Ciaccio is currently serving as the Inter-Campus Liason. If Senators have any topics they would like addressed at the Cabinet meeting, please email him before the Friday afternoon 4:00pm deadline. She is also serving on the Civility Committee, and working with Dr. Baker and SGA Advisors to offer a Sexual Harassment training on campus.

President Gray indicated that the Budget is down from 3.3 million to 3 million. Everything is frozen right now. He also attended the MCC Association Board meeting and Dr. Salvador will be sending emails to clubs and organizations to thank them for a cooperative effort.

D. Committee Reports

President Gray indicated that the **Master Plan Committee** is exploring issues such as decreased enrollment and parking for the future. The **Budget Resouce Committee** is working on how to increase graduation numbers to meet SUNY requirements.

E. Faculty Advisor McCauley...

Advisor McCauley thanked Deputy Speaker Childers for his help in driving students at the SUNY Conference this weekend. He was a big help. He believes that Speaker Blue, in his role as Parliamentarian will help focus the group and this will be a benefit to the students. He encouraged Senators to take this opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns to their SUNY Trustee.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. ACTION ITEMS (Items requiring a Senate vote)

a. Resolution to Charter the Latin Dance Club

Resolved, that the MCC Student Government Association Senate approves the draft Constitution as submitted by the Latin Dance Club members and the Constitution Committee, and further be it

Resolved, that the MCC Student Government Association Senate approves the petition for charter as submitted and accepts the chartering of the Latin Dance Club.

This resolution came from committee; Senator Isaacs read the resolution.

Discussion:

Karson Laforce, who is trying to get this club started, commented that he feels this club will be an asset to the college. He has put publicity on Facebook, as well as distributed flyers to get members. Deneen Rhode will be the Advisor.

Senators M. Snyder and M. Valone both supported the idea of this club.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the MCC Student Government Association Senate approves the resolution to charter the Latin Dance Club.

b. Resolution to Approve Appointments to Faculty Senate Committees

Resolved, that the MCC Student Government Association Senate consents to the appointment of the above named Senators to sit on the said Committees for the 2011-2012 academic school year.

Speaker Blue called for a motion to approve appointments to the Faculty Senate Committee.

Deputy Speaker Childers so moved, seconded by Senator Bynes.

Discussion:

Deputy Speaker Childers stated that he feels they are all proper candidates who are capable, committed and willing. Advisor McCauley stated that the Curricular Committee directly affects the courses that will be taught at the college. He encouraged these Senators to take their participation in these committees seriously.

A vote was taken, with three abstentions, and passed.

Be it resolved, that MCC Student Government Association Senate approves the following appointments to the Faculty Senate Committees: Marie Elizabeth Valone and Rabbil Jackson-Harris to the Curriculum Committee; and Sierra Sears as the Voting Member, and Shmuel Isaacs as the Non-Voting Member, on the Academic Policies Committee for the 2011-2012 academic school year.

IV. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

President Gray indicated that Dr. Salvador is working with Campus Events to get Monroe A and B for the State of the Student address. The date will depend on the availability of the space.

Robin Lalisie, WMCC, shared that the MCC Soccer team won Regional 3 this weekend. He also wondered if the Winter Retreat will have anything similar to the golf theme from the Student Life Fair. President Gray suggested asking Shirley Batista-Provost.

Speaker Blue personally recognized Senator M. Snyder for speaking eloquently at the SUNY Student Assembly.

V. ADJOURNMENT

At 3:00 p.m. Speaker Blue called for a motion to adjourn. Senator M. Snyder so moved, seconded by Senator Bynes. The motion passed; the Senate meeting was adjourned.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Higgins
SA Secretary