



**MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE MEETING
MINUTES FOR
Tuesday, April 27, 2010
2:15 p.m. – Forum (3-130)**

Student Senators:

At-Large Senator Carey
At-Large Senator C. Hollander
Athletics Senator Pizarro
CAB Senator Young
Liberal Arts Senator Hale
Res. Hall Senator Pritchard
Service Clubs Senator Monroe
Social Clubs Senator J. Hollander-**Absent**

President:

Jason Childers

Vice President:

Tima Marathe-Late

Speaker/ Science, Health & Business Senator

Simon Ruhindi

Deputy Speaker/Media Senator

Douglas “Mirlin” Moorefield

Campus Center Advisor:

Elizabeth Stewart

Faculty Advisor:

Joseph McCauley

Visitors: Dr. Susan Salvador, Dr. Susan Baker, Dick Ryther, Student Services; Lee Struble, Public Safety; Brian Legg, Controller’s Office; Annette Agness, Joe Marchese, MCC Association; Shirley Batista-Provost, Rebecca Herzog, Campus Center; Alice Wilson, BRI Library; Malcolm Cohen, student and Director of Community College Affairs, SUNY Student Assembly; Donna Brennan, SA Secretary.

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

A. Roll Call

(See attendance above)

B. Approval of April 13, 2010 Senate Meeting Minutes

Speaker Ruhindi called for a motion to approve the minutes for April 13, 2010.

Senator Carey so moved, seconded by Senator Monroe.

Discussion:

Deputy Speaker Moorefield asked that the discussion section of New Business item 1b be changed as follows: “Corey Kesselring represented Anelyse Wojick of Cabbages and Kings. Nate Moore of WMCC stated that the purpose of the group is to unite the media portions of the clubs and organizations at MCC. They also want to create events and details to connect all the clubs at MCC for a more synergetic experience between clubs. Deputy Speaker Moorefield read a statement of support from Madasyn Czebiniak, Editor of the Monroe Doctrine, regarding the forming of a Media Committee. Senator Christopher Hollander stated that he felt creating a committee for this purpose was an excellent idea.”

Senator Christopher Hollander asked that in the Senator Reports section he be listed as Senator C. Hollander since there are two Senator Hollanders.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves the minutes for April 13, 2010 as amended.

II. SPEAK TO THE SENATE

Brian Legg, Assistant Controller, informed the Senate that beginning in September, students will be able to have their financial aid refund checks direct deposited into their bank accounts. Nelnet is the vendor chosen to handle the electronic transfer of student refunds. They are hoping to have the system ready in June so that the

students can begin entering their banking information into Banner. Once the information is in and the verification process is complete, the college will process the automatic deposit into the student account and the student will receive an email notification that the deposit has been made. Information about the financial aid refund direct deposit will be included in the new student orientation folders, at financial aid workshops, and in the Monroe Doctrine. Brian is asking the students to suggest other ways to get the word out. If anyone has suggestions, give them to Betty Stewart in the Campus Center.

Senator Carey asked if it would be possible to have a portion of the refund deposited into a checking account and the rest into a savings account. Brian stated that splitting the deposit would not be available; it can only be deposited into one account.

Senator Hale suggested that information about direct deposit be included as a link in the on-line registration process.

Speaker Ruhindi thanked Brian for bringing this information to the Senate.

Malcolm Cohen stated that the spring SUNY Student Assembly Conference which took place April 9-11 was the most Community College centric in history. The Director of Community College Affairs has been made a mandatory position in the Presidential Cabinet. They passed a resolution about the Nutrition Outreach in Education Program which Malcolm co-wrote and which was sponsored by Hudson Valley Community College. A Community College student was elected to the Executive Board; Mary Alice Brown from Onondaga CC is the secretary elect. This is the first time in the organizations history at the business meeting that Community College quorum was reached before 4-year quorum. The fall conference will be held October 22-24 in Syracuse. Malcolm has applied to keep his current position for the next year; a new slate of Community College representatives has been elected, Senator Christopher Hollander has been elected as a Community College representative.

The Community College Financial Bill of Rights will be an on-going project for next year. The NYCCT produces a directory of Community College Boards of Trustees. He suggested that MCC's next Student Trustee take a look at it to make sure the information in the directory for Monroe Community College is correct. There were many errors in this year's edition.

Senator Monroe stated that Malcolm was asked to run for the Vice President position at the conference but lost by 5 points. She congratulated Malcolm for all of his hard work.

Senator Carey stated that he would like to see a community college student be chosen as Director of Community Colleges, but if one is not picked he cannot think of anyone better than Malcolm to be in that position.

III. REPORTS

A. Deputy Speaker

Deputy Speaker Moorefield...

Media Committee reports:

- ✓ **Monroe Doctrine** (Submitted by Madasyn Czebiniak) - the next issue of the Doctrine will be out on May 10, 2010; they will be participating in Spring Fling; new officers for next semester are currently being decided on, so far an Editor-In-Chief (President), a News Editor, and a Lifestyles Editor have been selected. If anyone is interested in a position letters of intent for Fall 2010 are being accepted. They are looking for all advertisements of any shape and size and would be happy to work with anyone who has an event planned, or class scheduled for the rest of the semester and next year.
- ✓ **WMCC** (Submitted by Nate Moore) – they are planning to repeat Fear Pong at Spring Fling; on May 17 they will be helping with a Hip Hop show designed to raise money for Cystic Fibrosis; they have a new DJ named DJ Macalicious, his show will take place from 11am-12pm on Mondays. The e-board for next semester will be Tom Quinn, General Manager, Tim Stam, Assistant General Manager, and Chrissy Flanagan, Program Director; they are still looking for a business and sales representative. They are in the planning stages for an end of year event.
- ✓ **Cabbages & Kings** (Submitted by Anelyse Wojick) - Editor-In-Chief, Elizabeth Loudermilk went to the American Writer's Program (AWP) Awards in Colorado and talked to other colleges about setting up a writer's swap in which they will share, online, each other's magazine. She has been emailing things to Fawn who is acting as an art director and putting together the magazine. After that it will be sent to Pinnacle Paul. They are still collecting books for the book drive and working on getting a date for the event.

Senate Office Storage Room - has been cleaned and organized; he was assisted by Directors Huther and Raja.

Nothing other than damaged items or trash was thrown away. He asks that no one add or take away any items from the backroom without checking with him so that it can be accounted for in the inventory. He also asks that no items be stored on the floor except for the Christmas items and shoes in the back corner. If anyone needs help finding an item, see Mirlin.

Project Gazebo - the concept of Project Gazebo is being reviewed by Commissioner Anthony Jordan and his staff.

SUNY Conference – he was very impressed with the courteousness and kindness of the SUNY delegates and leadership team and pleased with the workshops he attended, especially the ones on Service Learning and Student Government.

Office Hours – his office hour is changing to Wednesday, 2pm to 3 pm.

B. President

President Childers...

SUNY SA Conference - he attended the conference in Saratoga Springs with Vice President Marathe, Deputy Speaker Moorefield, Director Idris, and Senators C. Hollander, Monroe, and Pizarro. One of the biggest problems he sees is that only 14 of the 30 community colleges attended this conference. As a result, he, with the cooperation of the SGAs of Nassau and Rockland Community Colleges, is creating the Community College Council. Its purpose is to communicate with the other community colleges, create a common platform, and contact the non-attending Community Colleges. The council will work to find out why those colleges are not attending and to figure out how they can help. If a college still will not attend the conferences they will still keep them involved. They envision a monthly phone conference to talk about goals and how to present a united front within SUNY.

Rochester Intercollegiate Council (RIC) – met at Genesee Valley Park on Sunday, April 25. Two students from MCC attended along with students from RIT and U of R. A new RIC Chair was elected for 2010-2011. He plans to keep MCC prominently involved within the Greater Rochester Colleges.

C. Vice President

Vice President Marathe...

SUNY SA Conference – she attended the conference as a voting delegate; participation in the process was both an honor and an amazing experience. Some of the lowlights of the trip included 13-15 hour a day business meetings, a rogue strobbing light bulb in the business meeting room, and not getting the language changed in the bylaws for the position description of “Director of Community Colleges” which, as it stands now, allows anyone to obtain the position regardless of whether or not they have ever attended or currently attend a community college. Some of the highlights include Senator Christopher Hollander being elected as a Community College Representative; a coalition being formed with Nassau Community College President St. Jermaine Endeley; a bond formed with the other Community Colleges at SUNY; and Faculty Advisor McCauley who was there whenever we needed him.

D. Senators

Senator Carey...

Blood Drive – at the two-day drive on April 7 & 8, 87 units of blood were collected and there were 15 first time donors. Jenny Pratts, MCC’s Red Cross representative has suggested having a recruiting table the week prior to the blood drive next year. Senator Carey suggested to her that incentives such as free t-shirts or free movie tickets would probably increase participation. He is hoping that the drives next year will be on Wednesdays instead of Thursdays when more people are on campus. Thank you to everyone who donated blood and/or volunteered at the blood drives this year. Because of all of you more lives will be saved when the need for blood arises.

E. Senator Hale...

Liberal Arts Senator – he is very excited to be a part of student government here at Monroe Community College and plans to work hard and to be a productive part of SGA. He has begun reaching out to the heads of the branches of the Liberal Arts department in order to better serve this position and he welcomes any Liberal Arts major to present their ideas and concerns to him so that he can work to bring them to light.

F. Senator C. Hollander...

SUNY Student Assembly – at the conference, he was not part of the voting delegation so he had the opportunity to attend workshops to bring back to his peers in Student Government as well as the general student body. During the weekend, he was nominated and elected to be a community college representative. He will be representing MCC and 4 other schools next year to the SUNY Student Assembly. There was a raffle at the conference and Senator Monroe won a package that includes the registration fees for the fall conference in Syracuse; this will save nearly \$400 that can be used elsewhere.

DCC Pride Alliance - the event at the Damon City Campus was a huge success; a special thank you to Senator Monroe and the executive team of the Criminal Justice Club for coming out to help the DCC Pride Alliance. Next year he plans to bring this event to the Brighton Campus so students here can celebrate the diversity Monroe Community College has to offer.

G. Senator Young...

Laser Tag Event - has been postponed until Monday, May 3, due to bad weather; it will take place in the PAC Quad outside the Resident Halls from 7:00 – 10:00pm.

Accessibility Goal – he has been working hard on making MCC accessible for all visually impaired individuals. He thanks Annette Agness, Director of the MCC Association for her assistance in helping him to make the ATM machines more accessible for people with visual impairments. They are being fixed to better assist those with visual impairments by making sure the audible feature is working.

H. Campus Center Advisor

Campus Center Advisor Stewart...

President Kress's Inauguration – thank you to everyone who participated in the inauguration.

SGA Elections – elections are next week; wear your election t-shirts and get the word out, encourage all friends and class mates to vote. Meet the Candidates is Wednesday, April 28 in the Terrace Lounge from noon – 1:00 p.m.

Awards Banquet – May 21 - student invitations have been sent out; pick up your ticket by the deadline date. Remaining tickets will go on sale on Monday, May 17. If you are not planning to attend do not give your ticket away to anyone else.

I. Faculty Advisor

Faculty Advisor McCauley...

End of Year – there are only 3 meetings left. If there are any projects being worked on but which will not be complete before the end of the year he suggested that notes be left for those coming in.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. ACTION ITEMS (Items requiring a Senate vote)

a. Resolution to approve committee members to the Constitution Committee

Resolved, that the Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate consents to the appointment of Senator Kevin Pizarro to sit on the Constitution Committee for the remainder of the 2009-2010 academic year.

Speaker Ruhindi called for a motion to approve Senator Kevin Pizarro to the Constitution Committee.

Deputy Speaker Moorefield so moved, seconded by Senator Carey.

There was no discussion.

A vote was taken.

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate unanimously approves the appointment of Senator Kevin Pizarro to sit on the Constitution Committee for the remainder of the 2009-2010 academic year.

b. Resolution to approve the 2010-2011 Academic Year Student Association Budget

Resolved, that the 2009-2010 Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approve the Student Association Budget prior to it being brought for final approval by the Monroe Community College Association Inc. Board of Directors for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Speaker Ruhindi called for a motion to approve the 2010-2011 Academic Year Student Association Budget.

Senator Carey so moved, seconded by Senator Monroe.

Discussion:

Joe Marchese, MCC Association, Inc. Finance Manager, explained that the budget is a breakeven budget based on maintaining student life fees with no increase. Groups on the programming side have been asked to reallocate, not increase. There is an increase in the Media budget for WMCC for new technology and upgrades so they can start broadcasting to more listeners simultaneously. There is an increase in the Athletics budget due to an increase in NJCAA & Regional dues and PAC Center equipment maintenance costs. DCC SEGA has received an increase to allow for the ASACC Conference and start up funds for new clubs. Other increases are in overhead expenses.

Senator Carey stated that the Travel Contingency and the Senate Contingency budgets ran out of money this year and he would like to see a \$2500 increase in both of those budgets. Many students had to pay out-of-pocket to cover some of their trip expenses this year. These budgets have not had an increase since at least 07-08.

Dr. Salvador suggested that the Senate reflect on the process; look at how and when requests are made and take a look at annual requests and anticipate for those. She explained the process she goes through when working with the Student Services travel budget. She asked the Senate, as stewards of the budget, to look at the system, at how requests come in, the deadline for requests, and not allocating any money until all ground has been covered. Then by taking a look at open money areas she believes more may be found. She stated that this will show the President that the student government has an awareness of the economic issues and the issue of staying flat.

Vice President Marathe suggested that maybe the SGA should be more careful with deadlines and the money; maybe there is better and more concrete criteria that can be put into place.

Malcolm Cohen stated that, as a student, he supports Senator Carey on this position.

Senator Young asked if there would be enough money to increase one budget line if not both.

Advisor Stewart asked where the money would come from. She suggested that there are ways to look at things differently in regards to the number of students who travel and the amount spent per student. She believes that if the SGA re-evaluates they will find that there is enough money to do what they want and need to do.

Advisor McCauley stated that it is not a bad thing to be out of money; a lot of students were supported in getting experience in off-campus travel. Student travel is a privilege and the student government should sit down and discuss the fact that if students want the student government to help with travel then maybe the student should also be doing something to contribute to the cost of that travel.

Senator Carey suggested that some of the money that was not used on some of the programming lines be moved to the travel or senate contingency lines.

Senator Monroe suggested that they take a look at the process and see what the clubs are being asked to do and see what is in the travel contingency. That way, next year they can show what the clubs are doing and prove that more money is needed.

Deputy Speaker Moorefield suggested that maybe next year there will be the flexibility to take from where money is not being used and put it in the travel or senate contingency.

Mr. Ryther stated that a list Annette Agness gave him shows all of the clubs and organizations that were funded and there was one club that received over 1/3rd of the travel budget.

Senator C. Hollander stated that he cannot vote for a budget that will increase student life fees. At this time in the year, all contracts should have been finalized and the SGA should be out of money. Regarding the increase in the Damon budget, he stated that he worked very hard as the Budget Coordinator at Damon to see that they get an increase; this is an increase they deserve.

Speaker Ruhindi suggested that a list of the clubs/organizations that go on annual trips be put together so that those expenses can be anticipated.

Malcolm Cohen asked if the clubs who travel were eligible for government rates.

Joe Marchese stated that the MCC Association is not a government entity therefore is not eligible for government rates. He does make sure that if a club/organization is traveling within New York State they take a tax exempt form with them.

A roll-call vote was taken as follows:

Senator Carey – nay; Senator Hale – yea; Senator Monroe – yea; Deputy Speaker Moorefield – yea; Senator Pizarro – yea; Senator Pritchard – yea; Senator Young - nay

Be it resolved, the Monroe Community College Brighton Campus Student Government Association Senate approves the Student Association Budget, prior to it being brought for final approval by the Monroe Community College Association Inc. Board of Directors, for the 2010-2011 academic year.

V. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

President Childers reminded everyone that the International Film Festival, sponsored by Global Union, is Monday, May 3. The Syrian Bride will be the movie and MCC Alumnus, Mazen Elrayes, will lead a discussion on the current affairs of Syria today.

Rebecca Herzog, Campus Center Program Coordinator, reminded everyone that Spring Fling is May 12; 13 clubs/organizations are signed up to participate; volunteers are still needed.

Malcolm Cohen, commenting on Vice President Marathe's perspective of the SUNY Student Assembly Conference business meeting, stated that of all of the business meetings he has attended, this one was the best by far.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

At 3:28 p.m. Speaker Ruhindi called for a motion to adjourn. Senator Young so moved, seconded by Senator Hale. The Senate meeting was adjourned.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Brennan
SA Secretary