

# Student Senate Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 12, 2015

12:30-2pm in Room 314

## Meeting Facilitated by:

Derrick LaBranche (Student Senate President)

## Attendees:

Derrick LaBranche (President)

Julia Milos (Vice President)

Maha Dahms (Treasurer)

Ashley Northrup (Secretary)

Nathan Soucy

Andrew Powers

James Dickson

Sam Caswell

Aileen Clay (advisor)

Justin Herrin (advisor)

Zachary Plante (guest)

Bonnie Gorman (guest)

Augustus Hilmer (guest)

## Meeting Items:

1. Meeting called to order at 12:50pm by President LaBranche
2. Vice President Milos presented an update on the Thanksgiving Feast event coming up on 11/19
  - a. Tidewater is confirmed and ready to go as our primary vendor.
  - b. Market Basket quotes for pies will come in under budget.
  - c. Volunteers needed for setup:
    - i. VP Milos, Treasurer Dahms and Senator Dickson will arrive for setup starting at 10am on Thursday, November 19, 2015.
  - d. President LaBranche spoke about Senators and Executive Officers wearing name badges (to be produced with help from Major Wheelock and the Academic Success Center) at the event and help "talk up" Senate to the attendees.
  - e. There will not be a pie tasting/judging contest this year due to time constraints.
3. Treasurer Dahms and the Finance Committee (Senators Soucy and Dickson) presented two budget requests...
  - a. Budget Proposal: Student Nurses Association
    - i. SNA revised their previous budget proposal at the request of the Finance Committee.
    - ii. New total ask from Senate is \$12,448.00
    - iii. Motion to approve: Vice President Milos
    - iv. Second Motion: Senator Powers
    - v. (none apposed)
    - vi. The motion and budget of \$12,448.00 is passed

- b. Budget Proposal: MCC Pride
      - i. Pride revised their previous budget proposal at the request of the Finance Committee.
      - ii. New total ask from Senate is \$1,285.69
      - iii. Senate discussed removing the line of "lunch for 10 people for \$60.00" from the proposal due to lack of provided information.
      - iv. Motion to approve the budget minus the \$60 for lunch for a new total of \$1,225.69: Senator Dickson
      - v. Second Motion: Senator Soucy
      - vi. (none apposed)
      - vii. The motion and budget of \$1,225.69 is passed
4. President LaBranche presented information and an update from the situation with the Manchester Transit Authority (MTA)
  - a. Brief history...
    - i. MTA usually charges \$2.00 per trip leg to ride the bus
    - ii. MTA and MCC years ago partnered together to offer a big discount to students to ride at \$0.75 per leg
    - iii. Student Senate has always paid that bill to MTA, allowing students to ride for free
  - b. Had a meeting with MTA representatives to discuss MTA's new business/billing model which has raised the cost of the MCC UPass bus program from \$5,000 to \$11,000.
  - c. Statistical data from MTA shows that MCC's ridership numbers have been trending upward and MTA has been loosing money for a while on the UPass option.
  - d. 75% of the MCC ridership is done on Bus Route #11 (which brings people to/from campus) and roughly the remaining 25% of MCC ridership is done on Bus Route #8 (which brings people to/from the Mall)
  - e. Main questions to be discussed are:
    - i. Is it Senate's responsibility to fund the MTA bill allowing students to ride the bus for free or should that responsibility fall on MCC?
    - ii. Should Senate pitch in a certain amount towards the MTA bill instead of the full amount? *(Note that the full amount of \$11,000 would be roughly 20% of Senate's allocation funds each year)*
  - f. Another question of if MTA has the ability to limit the UPass rides to MCC campus only and not allow free trips to the mall, etc. was raised.
  - g. Due to time limitations, discussions about the MTA partnership were tabled until the next meeting.
5. President LaBranche also recapped the recent Executive Officers' meeting with MCC President Susan Huard
6. Evening Students Appreciation Week was discussed and proposed by Aileen and Bonnie...
  - a. Proposed dates are Nov 30<sup>th</sup> through Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> during the evenings (roughly 5-8pm).
  - b. Idea is to show some kind of appreciation to our evening students who typically do not get to partake in the daytime activities that get scheduled during the semesters.
  - c. It was discussed by Senate and decided that it is a good idea to do something.
  - d. Aileen will send out a Doodle to everyone to get blocks of time availability and hopefully be able to come up with a solid schedule of coverage.
  - e. Budget Proposal: Evening Students Appreciation Week
    - i. Request for a cap of \$400 per night for 3 nights.
    - ii. Total request of \$1,200.00
    - iii. Motion to approve request: Senator Soucy
    - iv. Second Motion: Treasurer Dahms
    - v. (none apposed)

- vi. The motion and budget of \$1,200.00 cap is passed
- 7. Augustus Hilmer spoke about expanding the upcoming Service Showcase event (scheduled for March 31, 2016) to include Community Service recognition in addition to the Service Trips usually showcased during the event.
  - a. Discussion ensued and Senate approved the request

Meeting adjourned at 2:02pm.

**Next Meeting:**

Thursday, December 3rd at 12:45pm in Room 314