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Election Valid, O’Farrow, Mulheren, Weigand Win

Preztunik Wins SGA Declares

By Rich Fial

The SGA Legislature voted overwhelmingly against invalidating the election results in a special session Friday despite strong protest by a candidate and one member of the Elections Committee. The results tabulated last Wednesday will give MSC its first all woman SGA Executive Board in 32 years.

Prior to the tally of votes there had been much criticism of the "too strict" election controls and ironically, the lack of control over the elections.

Charges of possible voting violations and the closeness of the vote for President prompted the Elections Committee to forward the results to the Legislature for validation.

Twenty three Legislators voted against invalidating the results while 10 voted in favor of not invalidating the results and rerun the elections. 25 Legislators would have had to vote in favor of invalidation. Four of the winning candidates are currently SGA Legislators and voted against invalidating the election results.

Ken Rothweiler expressed bitter disappointment in the election process which turned many potential voters away because of "bureaucratic technicalities" as one candidate put it. Presidential candidate Rothweiler lost to Maryanne Preztunik by only 82 votes-less than 7% of the 900 votes cast.

Frank Robinson, a member of the Elections Committee, resigned because of the Legislature’s decision. The Vice President of External Affairs called the Legislature’s failure to invalidate the results "irresponsible."

MANNY C. Menendez, SGA President, and Ken Malmud, SGA Attorney General, argued that there was no proof of substantial violations that would have altered the election results.

Next year’s SGA Treasurer, Katie Mulheren, summed up the feelings of the newly elected all women Executive Board. She said, "The bureaucracy ran away with the corporation (SGA). Candidates were intimidated by the campaign rules and the inconsistencies by the SGA.”

YVONNE O’FARROW, who ran unopposed for Vice President, added, “Voting was made a privilege instead of a right.” Les Jacoby’s "official" victory makes him next year’s Student Representative to the Board of Trustees and Tina Weigand, a freshman, will become Secretary.

Throughout the campaigning, candidates cried that the loose election controls-controls that told candidates where they could or could not put posters and even how large those posters could be. According to the rules, any violation meant immediate disqualification. Despite several instances of violations, no one was disqualified.

Other inconsistencies were similarly evident in the voting procedure. Although the "proper identification" was an MSC ID card with validation sticker, there was confusion over the acceptance of ID cards without validation stickers, temporary ID cards and library cards as proper identification. Consequently, many students were turned away—enough at least one student voted without identification whatsoever, according to Rothweiler.

MEETING WITH her officially elected Executive Board for the first time, Preztunik emphatically sighed, "It's over. The junior Political Science major felt that the charges of invalidity should have been made before the vote count was taken.

Preztunik said she doesn’t expect her all woman Executive Board to encounter problems because of their sex. The last woman SGA President at MSC was in 1944 when the Montclair State Teacher’s College was predominantly female. It was also the last time the SGA Executive Board was all female.

In the early 1940’s the SGA budget was barely over $8000. Today the SGA controls nearly $500,000 with assets that make it almost a million dollar corporation. A major issue during this year’s campaigning was the SGA's image as an increasingly bureaucratic corporation. Shortly after the election results were confirmed, O’Farrow and Preztunik promised that their administration will be based on more personal involvement and communication with students.

AS COMPENSATION for their duties, the SGA Executive Board receives free room and board at MSC over the summer and they can take up to 6 free credits at that time.

The newly elected officers take over on Tues., June 1 and will remain in office until May 30 of next year.

A POINT TO PONDER: Merited with election difficulties, Maryanne Preztunik becomes the first woman President in the first all woman Executive Board in 32 years of MSC’s history.

EDITORIAL

MONTCLARION Prints Cross Reference

By Donald Scurinci
Editor-in-Chief

A small group of unpaid students accomplished in just three days what an entire office of paid professionals could not accomplish in two weeks.

On pages 2,3 and 4 of this special issue, the MONTCLARION is providing a cross reference of faculty names and course reference numbers. Though this list is subject to change and is by no means complete, we feel as we did on April 1—a partial list is better than no list at all.

The printing of the cross reference is not the responsibility of the MONTCLARION. Since, however, there are only three master lists for over 15,000 students, we felt that it should be the responsibility of someone.

Marshall Butler, Registrar, said that a faculty cross reference list, such as we are providing, would not be possible due to time and cost factors. He also said the commitment to include an insertion in the schedule booklets was not his.

The commitment was not Butler’s. It was Irwin H. Gawley, Vice President for Academic Affairs, who guaranteed the MONTCLARION and Manny C. Menendez, SGA President, two weeks ago that an insert would be provided.

Now Gawley says the printing of 14,000 lists was "not possible."

Gawley might have been justified making the decision not to include faculty names in the schedule booklets in early February because of the layoff problems and the uncertainties of the Higher Education budget.

It is understandable that Deans might have been reluctant to make the decision on who is to be left out of next year’s booklet before the Board of Trustees made it. However, after the Trustees made their decision, a good administrative decision for Gawley would have been to reverse the February decision and assign a secretary to gather and insert faculty names in the booklets.

This could easily have been done before the booklet even went to the printer. If a few students could do it in 3 days, why couldn’t an employee do it in two weeks?

As far as questioning the importance of faculty names in the schedule booklet; contrary to Butler’s beliefs that not many students will make use of it, next to the time a class is offered, the most important factor in class selection is the instructor.
The SGA Legislature, Friday, voted to validate the Executive elections held May 3, 4 and 5.

The validation came despite the evidence of corruption in the voting rules that were passed by the Legislature last week.

Not only were their accusations of misconduct made true, there were loopholes in the voting procedure.

WMSU dramatized the election disappearances last week when one of the stations' correspondents attempted to vote in order to show how easily it could be done.

The station demonstrated that not only were the election rules poorly designed but that the election itself was poorly run.

What follows is a verbatim account of WMSU's news broadcast which played a great part in illuminating the inconsistencies in the SGA.

By Loui Gulino  WMSU 5/3/76

For the first time, the SGA held its elections for executive offices in two different places, the traditional Student Center polling place and the library of College Hall.

The reason being that the SGA was trying to allow access to more students in doing so, the SGA did not take the proper precautions to insure that the students didn't vote twice.

The SGA bought two walky-talkies to communicate between the two polling places so that students who voted at one location would be crossed off both lists.

But the $300.00 plus walky-talkies didn't quite do the job. According to SGA sources, the reason for walky-talkies not working properly was that there was a lack of trained people and a failure on the part of the people involved.

It is also to the attention of WMSU News that some students have two ID cards which could conceivably allow them to vote twice. In checking with the Office of Admissions, we found out that all a student needs to do to receive a second ID card is to go to the Admissions Office, claim his regular ID card, present proof that he is a full-time undergraduate and in minutes can receive another ID card.

A student with malicious intent could have easily followed this procedure, gotten a second card and voted twice. According to SGA sources, the reason for walky-talkies not working properly was that there was a lack of trained people and a failure on the part of the people involved.

Although our correspondent's ID card was punched she could have easily presented her library card yesterday, transferred her sticker to her ID card and voted again, considering there was a great deal of confusion over taking library cards as proof. Although WMSU News has NO EVIDENCE that students have voted twice, it is a possibility that should be brought to the attention of the SGA, its candidates for office and the students of SMC.

Just before the polls closed at 5 pm this afternoon, another WMSC News correspondent who voted yesterday afternoon in the Student Center, presented his library card to the election officials at the College Hall location, a library card which he presented the previous day when voting and was not punched because the hole punchers couldn't cut through the plastic and found that his name was not crossed off the list as having voted. He informed the election officials that he had already voted and was questioning the system without voting a second time.

This made our attention from sources within the SGA. Our attempt in this special report was to either confirm or find these rumors false. From our investigation, we have the impression that there was certainly possible for people with malicious intent to vote more than once.

Lou Gulino is the Director of News and Public Affairs for WMSU