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Secretary of Education Suggests Changes to Title IX

ALEX HUTTON
PROVISIONAL WRITER

Secretary of Education, Betsy Devos proposed changes to Title IX, the federal civil rights law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs, this past fall. These changes may have a negative impact on MCC.

These regulations include a narrower definition of what constitutes as sexual assault, due process rights for all involved, and a live cross-examination of both the victim and the accused.

Due to New York State's Education Law 129, Enough is Enough, there will be minimal effect on ensuring fairness. There is already due process protection set in place for both the accused and the reporting individual.

Changes like the live cross-examination may deter students from coming forward with complaints of sexual misconduct. According to the Annual Campus Security & Fire Safety Report 2018, there have been five reported rapes on the Brighton campus every year from 2015-2017. In the coming years, this number may decrease, not because the campus is becoming a safer place, but because students are unwilling to come forwards due to the new regulations.

The reason why many students say that they don't want to make a criminal report is because they don't want to sit on a stand, they don't want to face their accuser in a courtroom, and be cross-examined. That's often why they go through a school process because we offer alternatives," Kristin Lowe, Title IX coordinator at MCC, said. If the proposed regulations are enacted, there will be no alternative options for reporting students who wish to take action.

The proposal has been met with large amounts of backlash. There were over 104,000 comments received by the Department of Education during the public comment periods. SUNY submitted an 80-page comment on the proposed changes. Lowe suggests the way to make MCC a safer environment is not through these new regulations, but focusing on prevention, education, awareness, and helping students have conversations about healthy relationships and consent.

The Prevention and Education Advisor, Shelby Gallars, created an Instagram account, @lovebetterMCC, to spread information to students. "The only way we can let people know about the reporting options and resources is by getting the word out, and we need students to engage in getting that word out," Lowe said.

Harassment accusations are not being taken seriously by MCC Public Safety.

Harassment on the MCC Brighton campus, namely cat-calling, has been a steadfast issue for the college not just this semester, but every semester since its founding. While this offense may pale in comparison to more egregious forms of harassment, those derogatory comments still hold the power to make students, "not want to come to school ever," a returning MCC female student said.

That same female student said, "on average I would say I experience cat-calling about 5 times a day." This number is of course an estimate, and subject to variation, but another female student attending MCC said, "usually once or more a day I will have someone call out a demeaning comment at me."

Finding a concrete statistic as to how often this form of harassment occurs is tricky, and the annual MCC Security and Safety report further complicates things. Since 2015, there has only been two documented incidents of stalking between all MCC campuses.

Looking into MCC's Student Code of Conduct and Title IX policies surrounding harassment, show that this number cannot be correct.

As defined by MCC, stalking is "intentionally engaging in a course of conduct (two or more acts) directed at a specific person [wherein the stalker] follows, communicates, or threatens a person—when such conduct is likely to cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety."

Both female students said that on more than one occasion cat-callers were not dissuaded by being ignored and persistently asked comments on more than one occasion. What's more, both students concurred that this form of harassment has made them feel unsafe more than a few times.

So, two of possibly countless other MCC students can recount multiple experiences that fit the given definition for stalking, and yet MCC has only officially reported two cases since 2015.

There seems to be a discrepancy between the reported cases of harassment and the potential number of students who experience it which is a serious distraction from the gratification of attending MCC.

Chief of Public Safety, Tony Perez, sheds some light on the situation. Perez said, "we try to address any and all complaints of this nature, we want individuals to word out, and we need students to engage in getting that word out," Lowe said.
DIVERSITY LACKING IN MCC EMPLOYEES

Diversity between MCC employees and the student body is at odds, with 20 percent of employees identifying as minorities compared to 41 percent of students.

Academic Diversity Is a National Issue

A lack of diversity plagues many schools today. The New York Times reports that most teachers are and will continue to be white women, which may be one of the reasons why there is such a gender and race gap.

Schooling through high school is where 77 percent of teachers are white women and 60 percent of the teaching force is white. To have role models and people who understand them, students need teachers who look like them and have walked through similar paths of life.

JOE FINLEY
EDITOR IN CHIEF

After 10 hours of negotiations on Feb. 12, a tentative, two-year agreement was forged that addresses the issues of raises for faculty, and the early start dates of the academic calendar that originally brought about contract violations for the fall 2018 semester. The negotiations required concessions on both sides, and it's only the first hurdle in a series that will include further arbitration to cover the other issues that the FA is fighting for, such as salary equity and faculty retirees' health care.

"It's not everything that we had hoped for, but it is a positive step," said FA President Bethany Gizzi.

"The primary reason that we were able to get an agreement was because we finally agreed to back off of [salary equity] temporarily." The agreement gives straight percentage increases over the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years, 1.75 percent for full-time faculty and 2 percent for adjuncts. Just as important, though, is that the mediator had the College agree to work on the salary model with the mediator over the next two years.

"We will continue to have those conversations about all of the issues that we believe are still significant and need to be resolved," Gizzi said. "That's an important win for us to be able to continue to have those conversations and get the college to commit to talking about those issues with us.

Members of the FA will vote on the contract during the last week in March, and a majority is required to ratify it. It will be presented to the Board of Trustees on March 4, and if it's ratified by FA members the BOT will vote on it during their April 1 meeting.

"While there are important steps yet to be taken to ratify the contract, I am grateful that a tentative contractual agreement has been reached," said President Anne M. Kress in an official response to the agreement. "The MCC Board of Trustees and administration greatly appreciate Faculty Association members for their unwavering commitment to MCC and our students during the negotiation process."
SHIFT IN SGA LEADERSHIP

The Student Government Association welcomes Alec Waight-Morabito as their new president for Spring 2019.

Despite membership holes, new leadership in the Student Government Association has the students' best interests at heart.

JOE FINLEY
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The previous leadership within the Student Government Association at MCC has come to an end with the promotion of Alec Waight-Morabito. Originally Vice President of Governance, Waight-Morabito was next in line for succession when the previous President could no longer attend Senate meetings. He is bringing a fresh perspective and an eagerness to make progressive changes on campus.

One of the initiatives Waight-Morabito has on his agenda regards SGA's outreach to the student population, utilizing the MCC student homepage to mobilize students and allow them to play a stronger role in the politics of student government by allowing them to make anonymous comments and participate in polls.

"When you first step into Blackboard, I want to have something from SGA right there so it's first thing students see," Waight-Morabito said.

The new President also wants to focus on issues that directly affect the future of MCC and its students by acknowledging the increasing student financial burden.

"At the previous Board of Trustees meeting, the auditor's report... stated that 48.9 percent of MCC's financial resources are from the students; it's supposed to be 30, 30 and 40, between students, the county and state," Waight-Morabito said. He hopes to advocate at the SUNY Student Assembly to bring student financial contribution down to 30.

As the previous student representative of SGA for Faculty Senate meetings, Waight-Morabito got inspiration to focus on shared governance issues.

"At our last Board of Trustees meeting in December, [SGA] announced that we had sent our own shared governance issues to Dr. Kress that we're hoping to work on throughout the semester," he said.

The new SGA President might have many action items on his agenda, but he believes that overall there is one consistent issue with MCC.

"In terms of MCC as a whole, I would say open communication would probably be one of the big ones," said Waight-Morabito. "It's a precious commodity."

Most importantly, SGA President Waight-Morabito is dedicated to the students and hopes to build on what already makes MCC great by bringing everyone together on campus, encouraging students to approach him or the SGA office with any of their concerns.

"I would really like to see a time here that the administration, the faculty and the students can have a real common ground and have a real community," said Waight-Morabito. "We may disagree on certain things, but it should still feel like a community, and I'm not sure that it does."

SGA will be holding elections to fill positions this semester and into next year. Stop by their office in Building 3 for more information.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

1/27/19
Resident student admitted to smoking marijuana in his suite bathroom and turned over a small marijuana blunt in Alexander Hall.

Public safety responded to a fire alarm in Alexander Hall caused by an air freshener, in Canal Hall caused by cooking and in Pioneer Hall caused by several violations.

1/28/19
Motor-vehicle-accidents in lot Q and AA.

Contraband was found in two separate suites in Canal Hall, and one in Tribune Hall during a Residence Life search.

1/29/19
Student and a Sodexo employee were verbally arguing.

Student was yelling and using profanities directed at a bookstore employee.

A counterfeit bill was used to purchase goods in the bookstore.

A report was received of a female panhandling in building 1.

A resident student from Canal Hall was transported to the hospital after using marijuana.

1/30/19
A vulgar text was sent to a bookstore employee by a student.

A small bag of marijuana was found on the floor in the Sodexo serving line.

2/1/19
Item in the bookstore was taken by a student.

2/4/19
Residence Life found drugs during a weekly room inspection in Canal Hall.

2/4/19
Public safety responded to a fire alarm in Pioneer Hall caused by the smoking of marijuana.

2/5/19
A student reports a group of males being disruptive to female students.

MVA in lot M.

2/6/19
MVA in lot J.

2/7/19
Three vehicle MVA in lot J.

Five employees and three students slipped and fell due to ice.

2/8/19
A vehicle went off the roadway and into the woods.

Faculty found a bag of marijuana on the floor in building 10.

2/11/19
A student reported a hit-and-run in lot Q.

Two restroom doors were found damaged in a third floor men's room in building 2.

2/12/19
Three MVAs occurred: one on Campus Dr, one in lot M and one in lot M1.

2/15
A hit-and-run occurred in lot Q.

A resident student admitted to smoking marijuana in the bathroom in Alexander Hall.

2/17/19
MVA at entrance D.

2/18/19
A resident student cut two fingers and an ear with scissors in Alexander Hall.
WHEN STUDENTS COME TOGETHER, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

MCC will march in the St Patty's Day Parade despite the memberless Celtic Society that started MCC's participation. Several student clubs have come together to organize the effort.

JOE FINLEY
EDITOR IN CHIEF

With the difficult schedules and retention issues that plague two-year community colleges, student clubs at MCC often struggle, giving advisors the brunt of the weight to rebuild their volunteer-based roster and take on event planning and coordination to make sure that the club lives on.

Last year, the Celtic Society wasn’t able to take part in their annual St. Patrick’s Day parade march for the first time in eight years, much to the chagrin of their advisor, Jason Childers, who started the student club as a student himself, back in 2010.

"At one point we did have students wearing kilts all the time, but that was six years ago, now," Childers said. "It all depends on who’s interested, and people don’t want to join a non-functioning club.”

The former Chief for the Celtic Society, Morgan Schoff, was running the parade committee last semester and designed this year’s parade t-shirts with the help of MCC's Publications Coordinator, Pam Hutton. Schoff had helped with many parade marches in the past, as well.

"Spring of 2014, which was my first parade, I managed to work with Student Government and we got a float built," Schoff said. "A couple years we took in people's cars. One year, we borrowed a car from someone in Veterans' Club, did a rainbow design on it. The other year, we took my car and bought a bunch of decals and stuff, put it all over the car and decorated it for the parade.”

Schoff had to leave her position in the Celtic Society as her schedule with work and school switched between fall and spring semesters. Without a Chieftain, Scribe or Keeper, it became necessary to seek out other help, and former SGA President T. Bernard Butler, now working with the Campus Activities Board, quickly added the parade to his plate.

"I've already talked to Custom Ink and we’re planning to get at least, like, 50 shirts," Butler said. "I’ll be in the parade, and I just talked with one of the members from Patriot Guard. I'm going to send them an email and see if they have time to put it on their schedule to actually participate with us.”

The Veterans' Club has helped out the Celtic Society with their last few years of marching, carrying flags for the parade and walking in formations, so the current President, Phil Magnus, also stepped up to take on some responsibility.

"We were going to be involved with the parade last year and things kind of just didn’t go right for the timeframe," Magnus said. "This year, they basically don’t have a club at the moment, and pretty much everybody left. And we like Jason [Childers]; he’s a good guy. So, we said, 'sure, we’ll throw some people your way. We’ll do whatever we can to help out.'”

As of yet, the French Club and the Anime Club have volunteered to assist as well, and every club is encouraged to participate. The St. Patrick’s Day parade takes place at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 16, starting at the corner of East Ave and Alexander St, traveling west down Main St to Plymouth Ave. The event includes around two hours of walking or marching with a group shot at end of parade, with every participant given an event t-shirt.

This year, students from multiple clubs and organizations across the campus are coming together to keep other future events on track, too.

The Veterans’ Club is looking for volunteers to help with the Honor Flight ceremonies, that aims to give Vets who never got the celebration they deserved after their service ended in past wars, takes place on April 6-7, and students can email President Phil Magnus at pmagnus@student.monroecc.edu or visit the Veterans' Club office in 3-138 for more details.

Global Union is working on putting together the celebration for World Day in association with CAB, Black Student Union, Men of Excellence and PRISM, on March 20 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. There will be food, dance and history from different cultures on display. Food prices range $1 to $3 depending on the cuisine.

Cabbages & Kings and CAB are working together to put on this year’s Bonfire Flare, which is looking for activities and participation from all student groups, with a date TBA.
MCC has participated in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade march since 2010, with assistance from multiple student clubs and average past attendance of over 50 students.

Jason Childers, the advisor to the Celtic Society, said the club used to have more events in its peak membership days.

“We had Celtic movie nights, performers and food, bagpipers; we had a Celtic rock band show up and play, Sisters of Murphy, which, half of them are MCC grads,” Childers said.

Student-run clubs at two-year institutions suffer from retention issues and constant turnover as students graduate or transfer on a regular basis. This problem has plagued MCC since its inception, and Jason Childers, advisor to the Celtic Society, knows it’s an uphill battle when membership gets low.

“A lot of people don’t want to start from scratch or rebuild from scratch,” Childers said. On top of these issues, schedules can get tight when it comes down to required classes. This has even affected SGA, as the new President of SGA, Alec Waight-Morabito, took over due to scheduling, and it has affected membership, as well.

“One of our requirements for SGA members is that they can attend our meetings. Unfortunately, the previous president had a mandatory class during the senate time,” Waight-Morabito said.

“The senate is supposed to have 10 members—we currently have three, and there’s five executive board members, and we only have four,” Waight-Morabito said. “And then, we only have one of our appointed positions filled, and there should be six.”
A LITTLE BIT OF MAGIC FROM MCC

Anthony Presciutti is getting ready to audition for NBC's America's Got Talent next year with his mentalism act.

Anthony Presciutti, MCC student, has been interested in mentalism since he won his high school talent show.

Current MCC student and touring magician, Anthony Presciutti, is on the radar of America's Got Talent producers. Presciutti said, "I did not get approved but I'm going to be working with the producer for my audition for next year."

Presciutti performs a genre of magic called Mentalism. A mentalist magician tries to predict the outcome of audience choices. He got serious about his career after he won his high-school talent show. "It doesn't sound like a big achievement, but it literally changed my whole life."

In 2017, Presciutti submitted a video to America's Got Talent and received a "front-of-the-line pass" from a producer. Presciutti said, "With America's Got Talent, you have to wait in this long line, like hundreds of people waiting in this line. With this pass she gave me, it allowed me to jump in front of everybody." He didn't get further than the audition, but he kept in contact with the producers.

In November 2018, he auditioned again. Presciutti said, "This time I had an appointment. I did not have to wait in a line." Alden Harbi, a casting producer for America's Got Talent, showed videos of Presciutti's act to executive producers. "My audition was sent to NBC, so I was approved by America's Got Talent, but NBC has to approve the act." His act was not approved.

In 2018, Presciutti toured with the Uncle Louis Variety Show as an opener. "I've done around 30 stage shows in the past 11 months."

Presciutti wants the audience to know mentalists should not be confused with psychics. "As a mentalist, I try and deceive you to think that I'm reading your mind. I don't tell people that I have superpowers or something like that."

Mentalism is a descendant of second sight acts common in the 19th and early 20th century.

Second sight acts were performed in teams, typically of a husband and wife. The act would be advertised as a telepathic connection between the two members. One member would be blindfolded. The other would ask audience members to perform tasks hard to guess. The blindfolded member would then correctly describe the task.

Sydney and Leslie Piddington performed second sight acts live with a studio audience over BBC radio in the 1940s. One act involved Leslie flying "...at a great height, [and] at great speed..." in a passenger Boeing 377 over England. On the ground, Sydney asked audience members, "...to insert anything at all..." into numbered envelopes. An audience member was chosen at random and instructed not to open their envelope. Leslie then accurately described the contents of the envelope.

Presciutti is currently working on an hour-long headline show.
NEW LACROSSE COACH

Coach Debra Delfino hopes to live up to her father's legacy, as she prepares the women's lacrosse team for the new season.

Debra Delfino previously coached Women's Lacrosse at the Aquinas Roman Catholic Institute, where she played her high school lacrosse, and she went on to play her college lacrosse at MCC and Roberts Wesleyan College.

Debra credits much of her love for lacrosse and coaching success to her father who she says has been an exemplary role model to her from a young age.

Women's basketball

TYLER SCHIFF
SPORTS EDITOR

Thanks to 17-point games from sophomores Zorria West and Samarah Henderson, and the 13 points each provided by freshman Lyirk Jackson and sophomore Kendra Lawton, MCC's Women's Basketball team beat Jamestown Community College on Feb. 23, bringing the team's record to 17-5.

The victory was the team’s fifth in a row, their tenth win in the last 11 games to close the regular season. This success was buoyed by stellar performances from the floor, with the team’s final season average coming to nearly 40 percent.

Men's basketball

The 2018-2019 season came to an end for MCC's Men's Basketball team with a disappointing loss to Jamestown Community College, coming on the back of a prior victory just a few days prior on Feb. 23 over the Jamestown team.

In his swan song for the MCC program, Majesty Brandon scored a season high 35 points, finishing an exceptional career with 1041 points.

Also playing in their final game were Gilberto Cae and Omar Brown, both of whom contributed their best to the game with 14 and 12 points, respectively.

The final statistics show a season of ups and downs, with a home record of six wins to two losses, and a dismal road record of three wins and 10 defeats. Neutral ground proved friendly with five wins out of six, making the final tally a 14-13 record.

MCC Swimming and Diving

WOMEN’S SWIMMING

The MCC Women’s Swimming and Diving team was untouchable over the weekend of Feb. 15-17, taking home the Regional and District titles.

Cranulations go to Samantha Pratt, Emily DeClerck, Katarina Sherry, and Amanda Miller for their 200 free relay team, finishing in second place on Friday. DeClerck went on to score victory in the 100 back, which moved the team into first place on Saturday, and a victory in the 400 free relay on Sunday helped MCC take first place with a final score of 369 points.

MEN’S SWIMMING

The MCC Men's Swimming and Diving teams took home both the regional and district swimming and diving championships on Feb. 17, finishing first in their home pool.

Tyler Bischofing was named Co-Male Swimmer of the Meet, winning in the 500 free, 200 free, and the 1650 free. Loren Searle pulled out a victory in the 1-meter competition on Friday, and won the 3-meter event on Saturday. Cameron Wagner and Greg Sanders took the 200 back and 200 breast, respectively, while also winning the 400 medley relay with Bischofing and Sean Mahaney.

The Tribunes finished with a score of 490 points.
Climbing to New Heights

Rochester is home to a variety of ways to stay fit in the winter from CrossFit to Yoga, and Central Rock Gym is out to be the new one-stop location for everyone.

JOE FINLEY
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Boasting the largest climbing facility to open in Rochester, Central Rock Gym is bringing yoga, CrossFit, weight training and positivity to one space when it opens its doors downtown later this month. Started by brothers Joe and Ed Hardy, the soon-to-be Rochester location of the largest rock-climbing gym chain in the U.S. is led by dedicated climbers, Jason Kraybill and Monroe Community College alum, Brad Lakew.

Kraybill and Lakew hope to bring about inclusivity in their approach to finding their niche in the crowded gym scene of downtown in its location at 725 Averill Ave. off Monroe Ave. between Alexander St. and Meigs St., with opportunities for veterans and families.

“The biggest thing for us is community,” Lakew said. The pair have already spoken to many groups in the Pearl-Monroe-Meigs neighborhood and plan to use their facility to bring people together, in hopes to become a staple of the area.

According to Kraybill, members of Central Rock Gym say they like the chain for a few significant reasons. As far as the overall fitness level that can be obtained from climbing, progression can really be seen, and it feels like a difference is being made. Climbing gives a person’s body tremendous core strength and helps to work on balance, giving climbers practical strength that can be used for everyday life, which can be powerful and helpful for people of all levels of experience.

“We aim to help people create their own identity in climbing,” Lakew said. He stressed that it’s not a one-size-fits-all kind of sport, and at Central Rock Gym, the trainers will work to specialize programs for anyone to feel successful in their progress as a climber.

“People think of climbing as something that’s exclusive, or only for the elite,” Kraybill said. “We want to expose people to climbing, in a judgement-free facility.”

Climbing is a growing sport that has gained worldwide attention as of late, sparking the addition of Sport Climbing to the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympic Games for the first time in the history of the Olympics. The Games will include speed climbing, bouldering and lead climbing.

As Central Rock Gym has grown over the last 10 years, their reputation has begun to precede them, leading the U.S. Climbing Team to decide on using this upcoming location as a training facility. This is partially due to the inclusion of a speed wall at the facility, which will be the only one in New York.

According to a new study recently published by JAMA Psychiatry, physical activity can actually help prevent depression as well as aid in combating it, and climbing may be the perfect physical activity for mind and body. As Kraybill says, due to the need to focus and limitations on what can be accomplished while working on what climbers call ‘boulder problems,’ climbing is considered ‘moving meditation.’

Climbing classes for experienced and beginners will take place multiple times per week, alongside yoga and CrossFit. Day passes and monthly packages are offered for membership, with special discounts offered for Veterans and students alike, with plans to do the same for faculty in the future. Central Rock Gym’s goal is to have a grand opening later this month, and pre-purchasing membership comes with its own discounts. More information can be found on their social media profiles or their website, https://centralrockgym.com.