

From: Cummings, Jane (ETS: Computing) on behalf of MCC Broadcast
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2001 9:41 AM
Subject: Animal Dissection Requirements

Expires: Friday, July 13, 2001 3:30 PM

SendReplies: Janet Glocker

To: The MCC College Community
From: Janet J. Glocker, Vice President, Academic Services

Dear Colleagues,

As many of you know, the college's animal dissection requirement in certain biology courses was recently the subject of an interesting and difficult debate, inside and outside the college. The issue was prominently covered in the local press and generated a number of letters-to-the-editor and e-mail communications on the subject.

Trulie Nobis, a student at our institution, challenged dissection in a biology course based on her expressed religious objections.

The college's position has been that animal dissection is a fundamental component in coursework that promotes the understanding of life and the relationships between anatomical structures and systems. Further, our biology courses are accurately described in the Monroe Community College Catalog and Student Handbook; these courses are designed to meet the needs of clinical students in accredited programs. ?

Clearly, an issue such as this was bound to raise many difficult questions, and it did. At times, the philosophical, scientific and emotional divide seemed larger than any solution could bridge.

Our faculty and staff excelled. Their professionalism was tested, and it is with a sense of respect and gratitude that I convey my pride in their work. The resolute fairness and sober approach they demonstrated throughout the academic grievance process are precisely what makes our institution great. I applaud their integrity, patience and determination in seeing this matter through.

I would especially like to thank Biology Instructor Rachel Simons, Ms. Nobis' teacher, for her patience, professionalism, and willingness to assist the student and the College as we waded through this trying situation. And, lastly, my gratitude also extends to MCC General Counsel Diane Cecero, whose leadership and people skills played a crucial role in shepherding all parties to a fair and equitable outcome.

Ms. Nobis, and Dr. Richard Connett, MCC Biology Department Chairman, jointly authored the words that follow, detailing the resolution to Ms. Nobis' challenge. I wanted to share the results of their labors, not only to close this chapter for all of us, but also to show that we can creatively resolve thorny issues through careful discourse.

Thanks to all who have helped bring closure to this matter.

Sincerely,

Janet J. Glocker

Dean, Science, Health and Business

Vice President, Academic Services