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Suit accuses MCC of bias

An ex-professor says he was fired for being conservative, white, male, heterosexual and Christian. **Page 3B**

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LOCAL

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MCC faces discrimination suit

MATTHEW DANEMAN

STAFF WRITER

BRIGHTON — A former Monroe Community College faculty member is suing the school for firing him allegedly because of his conservative political beliefs and “because he is white, male, heterosexual and Christian.”

The suit, filed Monday in U.S. District Court by political science professor Michael Filozof, paints a picture of MCC as rampantly politically correct, where conservative faculty members are harassed and

ridiculed and where hirings and promotions are weighted toward women, gays and minorities. He was a full-time teacher at MCC from September 2002 to June 2004; his yearly contract was not renewed for 2004-05.

Filozof, in his lawsuit, asks for lost wages and back pay, unspecified punitive damages and civil penalties. He also asks for his job back. He currently is working as an adjunct lec-

ture in the political science and international studies department at State University College at Brockport.

In the lawsuit, Filozof claims he was paid less than “several less- or equally qualified African-American professors,” that a sexual harassment complaint against him was concocted, and that he was fired after advertising his support of President Bush and the Iraq war.

“I never intended to rock the boat,” Filozof said Monday. “I intended to teach to the best of my ability. But the boat found me and rocked me.”

MCC declined to comment Monday, saying it had not been served with the suit and that it could not comment on personnel matters. However, in a statement, the college said it “has a well-established history of embracing diversity and is committed to di-

versity of all kinds.”

Representing Filozof is Rochester firm Dolin, Thomas & Solomon. The defendants in the suit are MCC, Monroe County, the college board of trustees, MCC President R. Thomas Flynn, Vice President of Academic Services Janet

Glocker, Vice President of Student Services Susan Salvador, liberal arts department Dean Chet Rogalski, anthropology/history/political science/sociology

department Chairwoman Susan J. Belair and department secretary Diana Rayner, and anthropology professor David Day.

Filozof’s firing was written about earlier this year on CampusReportOnline.net, a Web site that brings attention to alleged political bias on college campuses. Filozof was also one of a handful of teachers from around the nation who talked at a May conference in North Carolina about supposed anti-conservative bias on campuses. □

MDANEMAN@DemocratandChronicle.com