

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Utica and Rome, New York

SENATE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 1, 2005, PH 300

Present: S. Bice, T. Capraro, N. Caputo, D. DiGiorgio, R. Feola, A. Friedberg, A. Glidden, C. Harrington, K. Hartman, W. Hysell, B. Kurtz, D. Larson, U. McLean, J. Myers, M. Pearson, W. Perrotti, B. Quist, N. Rutishauser, B. Scantlebury, M. Sewall, R. Spetka, W. Zogby. Students: S. Bish, A. Dean.

Excused: A. Broski, E. Dailey, M. Schafer.

Absent: F. Elias, B. Evans, K. Mokry, S. Senior, J. Zegarelli.

Guests: K. Bernstein, J. Brown, J. DeWeerth, S. Frisbee, R. Jubenville, N. Rosero, S. Rosati, D. Willner.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:36 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Dan Larson moved, and Barbara Scantlebury seconded, to approve the minutes of the February 1st meeting. The motion carried by common consensus.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Bice thanked Vice-Chair Bill Perrotti for filling in for her while she was absent and asked Bill to introduce the two new Student Senators that he was able to recruit. She reported that she:

- met with the Senate Advisory Committee;
- conferred with Beverly Quist concerning the Diversity/Global View Committee's membership and terms of membership;
- received two late agenda topics which will be introduced but not discussed until the April meeting. This will allow the Senators the opportunity to discuss the issues with his/her respective department/division members;
- invited Dr. Jubenville to today's meeting to discuss the Academic Bill of Rights;
- attended the Senate-Sponsored Open Forum on academic computing issues. Sue asked Bill Perrotti to summarize what the issues were (computer lab policies and enforcement problems, platforms—Mac or IBM, the importance of having software required for courses available on computers in the labs) and offered to write a more lengthy summary of the Forum. This summary will be placed under the College Senate's Public Folder.

Bill Perrotti moved, and Rosemary Spetka seconded, to accept the Chairperson's report. The motion carried by common consensus.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ad hoc Memorial Committee: None.

Diversity/Global View Committee: Beverly Quist, Chair, reported that the committee had met but had not yet made any decisions on their composition or terms of office. Beverly stated that when the committee meets again and has these decisions made, she will send

a report to Chairperson Bice, who will distribute it to the Senators via email.

Safety and Security Committee: Krista Hartman requested, on behalf of the Safety and Security Committee that they be allowed to post their minutes in a sub-folder under the College Senate's Public Folder in Microsoft Outlook. The Committee is the only Senate Committee mandated by the State, and deals with issues of concern to the entire campus community; therefore, the Committee members felt that this would be one way of keeping everyone abreast of their activities. After discussion, Beverly Quist moved, and Tom Capraro seconded, to allow the Safety & Security Committee to post their minutes in the public folder as discussed above. The motion carried with one opposed and one abstention.

In the course of the discussion, Denise DiGiorgio, VPSS, asked whether or not all Senate Committee meetings should be open to the public. Discussion of this issue was tabled until the next Senate meeting due to the length of the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

College Senate Awards Committee proposal: Chairperson Bice reported that this proposal has been dealt with in a previous Senate meeting and therefore should be removed from the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed calendar: Art Friedberg, Chairperson of the College-wide Academic Calendar Committee, presented the proposed calendar for the academic year 2006-2007. Dan Larson, VPI, requested that the Spring 2007 commencement be moved up one week, to May 19th. He also requested that the December 2006 commencement date be added to the calendar. By common consensus the calendar was remanded back to the College-Wide Calendar Committee for revision. Art will report at the April Senate Meeting.

Student representation on the College Senate: Bill Perrotti stated that we need to do more to get students to participate in the College Senate and its committees. He felt that the President of Student Congress should be a standing member. Chairperson Bice reported that traditionally she has emailed an invitation to Student Congress at the beginning of every academic year. Andrew Dean, President of Student Congress, replied that a personal contact from a Senator would be more effective than emailing, and that this invitation should occur at the beginning of every semester, as the nature of Student Congress changes with the changes in the student body composition. Andrew moved that a representative from the Senate come to the Student Congress Office every semester to recruit members. Bill Perrotti seconded that motion, which carried with no one opposed and no abstentions.

Academic Bill of Rights: Bob Jubenville, MVCC's representative to the FCCC presented the Academic Bill of Rights, proposed by a SUNY Board of Trustees member. The bill is supported by the Students for Academic Freedom in Washington, D.C., which says that teachers are not politicians and should not be stating opinions in class or grading based on a student's political affiliation. As MVCC representative on the Faculty Council of Community Colleges, Bob requested the Senators' opinions on this bill. Chairperson Bice reported that President Schafer thinks that the bill is an overreaction and does not have any other perspective on the proposal. Tom Capraro questioned who would enforce it. Bill Perrotti stated that it moves decision-making away from the faculty and adds factors (one's political affiliation) to the hiring process that don't belong. Mike Sewall felt that Middle State's concern with diversity was being used against us with this bill. Andrew Dean believed that

the bill greatly underestimates the students' ability to discern rhetoric from fact. Bob thanked everyone for their input.

College-Wide Senate-Sponsored Open Forums: Bill Perrotti requested that Open Forums should be held more regularly, and suggested monthly. After discussion, it was decided to hold them at least twice a semester, with topics published ahead of time.

Proposed Promotions Review Committee for Administrators: Jerry Brown, Dean of Human Resources, explained that with the current promotion committee setup faculty serving on the committee could end up making recommendations for their own department heads, which they may not feel comfortable doing and which may not be fair. Since the new contract for administrators (AMVA) requires a process for promotion, he proposes a Promotions Review Committee for Administrators modeled after the two existing promotion review committees. This would include the current 37 department heads and non-teaching administrators, the latter of who have no mechanism for promotion. After discussion, Tom Capraro moved to accept the proposed charge, composition, terms, and reporting for the Committee. Jim Myers seconded, and the motion carried, with 10 in favor, 4 opposed, and 4 abstentions.

Fall College-Wide Senate Committee reports: Chairperson Bice presented the Committee reports for Fall 2004. Mike Sewall moved and Andrew Glidden seconded to accept the reports. The motion carried by common consensus.

Formation of Ad hoc Nominating and Elections Committee: After failing to receive any volunteers, Chairperson Bice appointed Rosemary Spetka and Mike Sewall to the Ad hoc Nominating and Elections Committee. Andrew Glidden and Nelissa Rutishauser subsequently volunteered to serve. Rosemary Spetka agreed to chair the ad hoc Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

April meeting in Rome: Chairperson Bice asked if Senators needed the time for the start of the April Senate meeting in Rome to be moved back. Tom Capraro suggested that 3 p.m. would be better. It was agreed, by common consensus, that the College Senate would meet at 3 p. m. on the Rome campus.

Reading Level/Competency: Nelissa Rutishauser expressed concern that some students lack the ability to read on a college level, and therefore are unable to succeed in their course work. While the College has a reading placement test, students are not required to take a remedial reading course prior to taking other college courses, nor do the majority of courses have reading level requirements. Ralph Feola, VP for Administrative Services, pointed out that this is a critical factor in retention. Nancy Caputo suggested that this be an Open Forum topic. Further discussion on the topic, if necessary, will be held until the April Senate meeting.

Senate Committee membership: Due to time constraints, the proposal received by the Staffing/Salary/Morale subgroup of the Strategic Planning Committee was tabled until the April College Senate meeting.

REPORT BY PRESIDENT SCHAFFER OR DESIGNEE

None.

REPORT BY STUDENT CONGRESS

Andrew Dean requested that rules, particularly in the gym, be posted in writing for students' information. This would avoid incidents where students are disciplined for violating policies they did not understand or were unaware of. Chairperson Bice asked that Morris Pearson, Assistant to the VPSS, follow-up on the appropriate postings in both the gym and computer labs.

ADJOURNMENT

Nancy Caputo moved, and Barbara Scantlebury seconded, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned by common consensus at 4:36 p.m.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next College Senate meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 5, at 3:00 p.m.** on the **Rome** Campus, room TBA.

The next Senate Advisory Committee meeting will be **Thursday, March 17, at 10:00 a.m.** in **PH 391**.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista E. Hartman
Senator and Recording Secretary