

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Utica and Rome, New York

COLLEGE SENATE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 7, 2006, PH 300

Present: S. Bice, T. Capraro, D. DiGiorgio, G. Donato, R. Feola, K. Hartman, W. Hysell, D. Katz, B. Kurtz, D. Larson, J. Maio, D. McDermott, M. Pearson, W. Perrotti, B. Quist, N. Rutishauser, B. Scantlebury, S. Selden, S. Senior, M. Sewall, R. Spetka, R. Stempien, R. Thomas, and J. Zegarelli.

Students: N. Kotary and P. Malinowski.

Excused: A. Broski, N. Caputo, E. Dailey, W. Lewis, M. Schafer, G. Slade.

Absent: J. Farrell, A. Glidden, and K. Mokry.

Guests: J. Brown, P. Fox, R. Jubenville, D. Kennelty, K. Lynip, R. Pucine, M. Radlowski, N. Rosero, D. Willner.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:38 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Dr. Larson moved, and Paul Malinowski seconded, to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2006, meeting. The motion carried by common consensus.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Bice:

- attended Executive Committee meetings with one exception, when Vice Chair Perrotti attended in her place;
- attended the February Board of Trustees meeting;
- met with the Senate Advisory Committee;
- held a meeting with the Promotion Review Task Force;
- followed up with any/all Committee Chairpersons who had not submitted their Fall reports;
- sent out a call for volunteers for the Continuing Appointments Task Force;
- contacted Dr. Larson and three Department Heads regarding Senator terms that expire May 2nd; requested that elections occur in their respected areas to fill the expiring terms by May 1st;
- reviewed the Senate Committees' listing to determine any expiring terms;
- announced that it is still not too late to contribute to the Faculty and Staff Memorial Fund, which still stands at \$520.00 collected.

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

REPORT BY PRESIDENT SCHAFFER OR DESIGNEE

No report.

REPORT BY STUDENT CONGRESS

SC President Nikki Kotary reported that club memberships are still down, and so the focus will continue to be on recruitment. The possibility of some kind of faculty/student competition is being discussed. They will be putting together their budget for the 2006-2007 academic year soon.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fall 2005 Senate Committee reports: Sue Bice presented the Committee reports for Fall 2005, with only the Promotion Review Committee for Administrators submitting no report. Rosemary Spetka reported that the Affirmative Action Committee will be sending recommendations to the Senate shortly. The Safety and Security Committee asked for Senate support for additional lighting for the Rome campus.

Beverly Quist announced that she has resigned as chair of the Committee on Diversity and Global View, and that Sandy Engel will take up the chair for the remainder of the term. Beverly reported that there needs to be student representation on the committee, and said that the Committee recommends that some kind of compensation be given to the chair and that a full-time person needs to be hired to deal with these issues on campus.

Dick Thomas commented that there was only one sabbatical proposal submitted this year, due to requirements that are so hard to meet that it discourages people from applying. He feels this should change.

Rosemary Spetka announced that the International Initiatives Committee will be holding a festival on Friday, March 24, from 12 to 5.

Dick Thomas moved, and Tom Capraro seconded, to accept the 2005 Fall Committee reports. The motion carried with none opposed and no abstentions.

OLD BUSINESS

Promotion Review Task Force report: The Task Force's three subgroups met and proposed to disband the current Task Force and form two task forces: one to review the current promotion process and propose a time-line; and one to develop a review mechanism for promotion denials. Tom Capraro felt that this is the work of the current Promotion Review Task Force, and that they should present what they create with rationales to back it up. Dick Thomas moved that the report be sent back and that the Task Force be asked to create these things themselves and to submit them to the Senate with rationales. Tom Capraro seconded this. The motion carried, with none opposed and two abstentions. Question was raised as to why a time-line was needed. Jerry Brown replied that if a faculty member is denied promotion because of a need for collegiality, the promotion process needs to be finished before the Senate makes its annual call for committee members so that faculty have the opportunity to join if they wish.

Academic Calendar 2007-2008: Tabled until the April meeting.

College Senate meetings open to the public: Dick Thomas moved that the Senate continue as it always has until meetings open to the public becomes an issue or is mandated by the state. Bill Perrotti seconded. The motion carried, with none opposed and one abstention. Sue Bice said she would report this decision back to President Schafer.

Continuing Appointments Task Force: Sue Bice reported that five non-faculty and four faculty have volunteered to serve on this task force: Kate Barefoot, Jerry Brown, Delores Caruso, Jonathan Meeter, Christine Miller, Pam Nigro, Rich Stempien, Fran Vitale, and Jean Wagner. Mike Sewall moved, and Dick Thomas seconded, to approve the members of the task force. The motion carried with none opposed and no abstentions.

Dual Credit: on hold (tabled)

NEW BUSINESS

Academic Policy Committee proposals: The Academic Policy Committee submitted two wording changes for the College Catalog: p. 10, first paragraph should start “Change of Major (Program)”; p.173, second column, seventh line down, should read “Change of Major (Program)”. This would enable the topic and the term to coincide. Dick Thomas moved, and Jim Maio seconded, to accept the changes. The motion carried with none opposed and no abstentions.

The Committee also recommended several additions to the College Catalog to reflect the following policy:

Students placing in required developmental/ESL coursework must commence the required course(s) their first semester and enroll in required developmental/ESL courses in subsequent semesters until all developmental/ESL requirements are satisfactorily completed.

A complete list of these changes is available in the official College Senate minute book held by the Senate Chair. After discussion, Dr. Larson moved, and Dick Thomas seconded, to accept the additions with two wording corrections (p.1 of the proposal: “Basic Writhing” should be “Basic Writing”; “Introduction Mathematics is required*” should read “Introductory Mathematics or Basic Math Skills is required*”). The motion carried with none opposed and no abstentions.

Graduate Surveys: Mark Radlowski reported on two graduate surveys administered by the college. One is a survey given one to one and a half years after graduation, the results of which go into a brochure. This year there was about a 37% return rate for the survey; add to the some partial information from transfer students, and the return rate is 51%. Of those responding, 73% are working and still living in Oneida County. The most common complaint was that students couldn't get the courses they wanted when they wanted them. Many transfer students felt MVCC was too easy, and didn't prepare them adequately for the rigors of a higher institution.

A second, longer survey, in which students are asked their satisfaction levels with various departments and services on campus, is given as they are graduating. The biggest complaint is with the inadequate parking. Mark reported that once every three years they also administer the SUNY Student Opinion Survey, which will be given this year. It is interesting to note that the students' satisfaction level with course availability has not been raised by the increase/addition of online courses. Nelissa Rutishauser pointed out that survey results should go to relevant Senate Committees.

Ad hoc Nominations and Elections Committee: Sue Bice called for volunteers to serve on the ad hoc Nominations and Elections Committee. Beverly Quist, Dave Katz, Dawson McDermott, Jim Maio, and Scott Selden volunteered. Dawson agreed to call the first meeting. The call for nominations should go out by the end of March.

OTHER BUSINESS

Sue Bice reported her Chairperson's report in the February Senate meeting that, at an area Legislative Reception, it was noted that 80% of full-time faculty on all SUNY campuses is over the age of 50. The statistic is actually 62% over the age of 50, and 21.7% over the age of 60.

Nelissa Rutishauser reported that the Math Department has sent a proposal for a 15 + 0 academic year calendar, based on that used by Corning Community College, and including two full-week breaks in the fall and spring semesters, to the College-Wide Calendar Committee. The Math Department feels that these breaks are needed in order to prevent student burnout. Nikki Kotary commented that a whole week off may not be necessary, but at least a few extra days would be helpful.

ADJOURNMENT

Gideon Donato moved, and Dave Katz seconded, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m. by common consensus.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next College Senate meeting will be on Tuesday, **April 4**, at **2:45** p.m. at the **Rome** Campus.

The next Senate Advisory Committee meeting will be Wednesday, March 22, at 2:00 p.m., place TBA.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Hartman
Senator and Recording Secretary