

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Utica and Rome, New York

COLLEGE SENATE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 7, 2015, IT 225

College Senate web page: <http://www.mvcc.edu/senate/senate-home>

Present: J. Baumann, C. Bolton, K. Capone, K. Capuana, L. Charbonneau, A. Doughtie, D. Elseth, A. Haines-Stephan, K. Hartman, M. Henningsen, D. Ianno, L. Kahler, P. Katchmar, D. Kelly, R. Labuz, M. Leahy, D. McDermott, M. McHarris, C. Miller, R. Mink, S. Myalik, A. Radlowski, M. Radlowski, J. Rahn, M. Taverne, M. Tyoe, G. Warchol, J. Wilcox, J. Woodrow, and President R. VanWagoner.

Student Senators: E. Sharrow.

Absent/Excused J. Brown, N. Chrisman, J. Coleman, S. Dar, J. Livadas, B. Molinaro, R. Rosero, E. Sharrow, R. Spetka, and M. Treis.

Guests: R. Dominic, S. Engel, D. Katz, Q. Luong, M. Snyder and T. Squires.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m. S. Engel introduced this year's visiting professor from Kien Giang Community College in Vietnam, Ms. Quyen Luong, who arrived on March 22 and will leave on May 22. She and Roman Santos will be giving a talk about Vietnam on Wednesday next week.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

C. Bolton moved, and L. Charbonneau seconded, to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2015, meeting, with two minor corrections. The motion passed with no objections and no abstentions.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

D. Kelly reported that the bylaws were reviewed at a special Senate Advisory Committee meeting two weeks ago. He thanked everyone who participated. A cleaner version of the draft bylaws revision will be sent out later, and voting on the changes will take place at the May meeting.

The charter reviews requested from Senate committees have started coming in. The Senate will probably vote on any changes to charters in the fall.

J. Rahn reported on the status of Senate elections. D. Kelly reminded everyone that there will be two Senate meetings in May, one on May 5th, the first Tuesday of the month, and a second one on the third Monday, the 18th, so as not to conflict with Summer Institute which starts on the 19th. The second May meeting will be the first meeting of the "new" Senate, where newly elected Senators will be welcomed. Senate officers will be chosen at this second meeting, so anyone who would be interested in serving on the Senate Advisory Committee or as Vice Chair should contact D. Kelly before May 5th.

Senate Faculty Caucus charter: D. Kelly presented the latest draft of the Senate Faculty Caucus charter. M. Radlowski stated that the bylaws state that the FCCC alternate does not have to be a Senator, but the membership in the charter suggests otherwise. He also suggested that the language "provided this representative is not an administrator and holds faculty rank" be stricken from the statement about the FCCC representative. R. Labuz suggested taking out the FCCC alternate all together, as the alternate may not be a Senator and the members must be. D. Katz enquired if any operating rules have been created. R. Labuz suggested that, under the "Does" section of the charter, a statement be added: "Operates according to the

bylaws of the Senate.” The question of quorum came up, and D. Kelly replied that there are no specific quorum requirements for committees in the Senate bylaws.

Question was raised as to why the caucus’ members are only Senators. D. Kelly replied that first, it’s a subgroup of the Senate, and second, if all faculty were members of the caucus, it would be difficult to find a time and place in which to meet. Meetings will be open to all full-time and part-time faculty members. Only members would be able to vote but anyone can speak. R. Labuz added that, if non-Senators were to attend, they may not be familiar with the issues, and time would be wasted on bringing them up to speed. M. Leahy asked if this group’s minutes will be posted on the Senate web page and in the Senate public folder. D. Kelly replied in the affirmative, and that he hoped that the caucus would communicate with the rest of the faculty in the same way that the Senate does. G. Warchol asked if there were a timeline on this and what happens if it doesn’t work. D. Kelly replied that he would expect the caucus to start meeting in the fall, and if it doesn’t work, they can amend the charter. Some concern was expressed that issues discussed by the caucus might better be channeled through the VPLAA or deans’ offices, and that the caucus could cause fracturing in the Senate. J. Wilcox moved, and R. Mink seconded, to accept the Faculty Caucus charter with the two suggested changes by M. Radlowski and the suggested change by R. Labuz (above). After further discussion, D. McDermott called the question. The motion carried, with 19 in favor, none opposed, and seven abstaining. D. Kelly stated he would send out the amended charter. He will also call for an organizational meeting of the caucus before the end of the spring semester.

STUDENT CONGRESS REPORT

M. Tyoe reported that next year’s budget is currently being developed, but it is a lot smaller than last year’s. He also reported that many clubs are taking end-of-the-year trips. Rachel Dominic, Student Trustee, reported that Student Congress has decided to withdraw its proposed amendment to the college’s smoking policy in light of the Board of Trustees’ desire to ban smoking on campus by August 2016. Twelve community colleges in the SUNY system have banned smoking, and all of the CUNY colleges have done so as well. The coming year will see discussion of the details of implementation. M. Leahy suggested that a disclaimer of the upcoming policy and the date of its effectiveness be placed on the college web site and, perhaps, in notices posted around campus. Smoking shelters will not be erected, and it has been found that students prefer to smoke in their cars rather than in shelters. Smoking will be banned on all campuses and properties owned by the college. President VanWagoner requested a round of applause for Rachel’s efforts.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

In addition to answering some of the questions about the upcoming smoking ban, President VanWagoner reported that the college will receive \$100 per FTE in next year’s budget, which is \$25 more than last year but not the \$250 per FTE the college had requested. The budget gap is down to \$800,000. In order to get performance-based funding in the coming year the college will need to develop a performance improvement plan. Campus budget conversations will begin at the end of April.

The President also thanked those who attended the strategic plan forums. The Strategic Planning Council will be developing the next strategic plan for presentation to the Board of Trustees later this spring. He also announced that MVCC has gotten its first proposal for Start-Up New York—an unmanned aerial business employing two people. It guarantees internships for MVCC students and will give priority to MVCC students in hiring.

VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

VP T. Squires reported on the capital projects for the coming summer. The rest of the Payne Hall podium will be replaced, and the columns will be retouched. The crumbling steps leading up to the PH podium will temporarily be replaced by wooden steps while the college tries to get its money back from the manufacturer. New

concrete steps are expected to replace the wooden steps in May. Work will also be done on the doors and entrances to the Academic Building. The college is asking the county for new automatic door openers. If there is money the interior of the Academic Building will be painted. Also, the tennis courts and the track will be resurfaced. The Wayfinding and Signage project is in the process of determining the design of the new signs. Dormitory renovations are planned for summer 2016. The Rome Campus project is set to begin on June 10, following the awarding of contracts in May. Paul Katchmar sent out an email soliciting software needs from faculty.

FACULTY COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES REPORT

R. Labuz will attend the Spring 2015 Plenary at Finger Lakes Community College in Canandaigua this coming Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and will report on it at the next Senate meeting. D. Kelly will attend on Friday.

OLD BUSINESS

Academic freedom statement: D. Kelly reported that the Ad-Hoc Freedom Policy Committee has drafted a statement with supporting documentation. This will be sent out to all Senators and discussed at the May 5 Senate meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Inclusion of syllabus statement on Learning Center: D. Kelly presented a request from Ibrahim Rosic that a statement about the services of the Learning Center be included in all syllabi. The Senate Advisory Committee have two questions as a result of this. First, who decides what is required to be included in a syllabus? Second, who is keeping track of this? D. Kelly will check on these questions with the VPLAA. It was pointed out that the language seems to be addressed to faculty rather than to students, and it was suggested that that be addressed. L. Kahler stated that he would be happy to distribute this statement to his faculty.

ADJOURNMENT

M. McHarris moved, and J. Woodrow seconded, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by common consensus at 4:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the College Senate will be **Tuesday, May 5, 2015, at 2:30 p.m. in IT 225.**

The next meeting of the Senate Advisory Committee will be Monday, April 27, 2015, at 3:00 p.m. in PH 304.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Hartman
Senate Secretary