

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Utica and Rome, New York

COLLEGE SENATE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 3, 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, C. Miller, R. Mink, B. Molinaro, S. Myalik, A. Radlowski, M. Radlowski, R. Spetka, G. Warchol, J. Wilcox, J. Woodrow, and President R. VanWagoner.

Student Senators: M. Tyoe.

Absent/Excused J. Brown, N. Chrisman, J. Coleman, S. Dar, J. Livadas, D. McDermott, M. McHarris, J. Rahn, R. Rosero, E. Sharrow, M. Taverner, M. Treis, and President R. VanWagoner.

Guests: M. Eannace, S. Engel, P. Fess, J. Heintz, D. Katz, J. Myers, S. Reynolds, N. Rosero, G. Searles, and T. Squires.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:32 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

J. Wilcox moved, and C. Bolton seconded, to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2015, meeting, with one minor correction. The motion passed with no objections and no abstentions.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

D. Kelly announced that this year's visiting professor from Vietnam will be attending the April Senate meeting. A reception for her will begin at 2:00 in IT 225.

D. Kelly put out a call to the Senate's standing committees to review their charters. They are due by March 21st. This week he will contact the other committees to review their charters as well. The Senate Advisory Committee will have a separate meeting to review the bylaws.

The Facilities Committee met with the consultants hired to conduct a review of the need for signage for wayfinding on both campuses. The first meeting focused on exterior signs. Future meetings will discuss interior signage.

Senate Recording Secretary K. Hartman presented a brief tour of the revised Senate web page, pointing out its features and soliciting suggestions for improvements and additions. R. Labuz requested that a quick link to the Senate web page be added to the faculty and staff web page. K. Hartman said she would ask Chrono Ho if this could be done. D. Kelly thanked her for her efforts.

D. Kelly presented the proposed charter for the faculty caucus. Questions were raised about the nature of the membership, with suggested wording changes, about the overlap with the Academic Policies and Procedures Committee and other entities/offices, and about communication with the deans, VPLAA, and other offices/entities. Based on this discussion, the proposed charter will be revised and sent to the Senators for

further discussion at the April meeting. The revised charter will also be discussed at a meeting of the Academic Deans.

STUDENT CONGRESS REPORT

M. Tyoe reported that student clubs are up and running, with lots of trips planned for the future. They are still seeking faculty advisors and volunteers to work with these clubs. Student Congress officers and other students will be attending the upcoming SUNY Student Assembly in Binghamton in April. Student Congress has a proposed amendment to the college's current smoking policy, adding a \$10 fine for violation of the 25 feet rule. A copy of the proposed policy amendment will be sent to D. Kelly for distribution to the Senators.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President VanWagoner reported on the proposed state budget, which includes \$75 per FTE to SUNY colleges. SUNY is asking the state for \$250 per FTE. SUNY continues to work on the SUNY Excels rubric, which would be used in the determination of performance-based funding. At the present time, it appears that some of the measures used will be applied system-wide and that additional criteria will be institution-specific. The college's Institutional Effectiveness Committee has been asked to propose institutional measures. Tomorrow the President and a group of administrators will go to Albany. The Strategic Planning Council has been working on changes to the Strategic Plan and will be holding campus conversations to discuss the plan with the campus community. The newly formed Futures Group will be engaging with faculty and staff to identify innovations affecting the college.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

VP S. Reynolds noted three new personnel to Student Affairs. She reported that 15 members of the Achieving the Dream (AtD) Core and Data Teams attended a recent meeting in Baltimore. The AtD will be focusing on low-income students and will identify interventions aimed at improving success as well as methods to implement these innovations.

VP Reynolds presented a proposed Title IX statement for inclusion in course syllabi, below:

"Title IX means no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to, discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Protections also extend to sexual harassment and sexual assault or violence that impairs or interferes with access to equitable educational and employment opportunities. For more information please visit: (will include link to MVCC Title IX page when launched)"

Question was raised as to whether this was the best way to communicate this information. VP Reynolds replied that it would be just one of several means of raising student awareness of this important law. After further discussion, R. Labuz moved, and R. Spetka seconded, to approve that its inclusion be required in all course syllabi. The motion passed, with 2 opposed and 4 abstentions.

VP Reynolds also announced that Student Affairs has begun discussion with Academic Deans on ways to improve advisement. Future Intercultural Conversations, facilitated by faculty and staff, will include such current, timely topics as dismantling racism, the impact of poverty, and the immigrant experience. The first topic will be dismantling racism.

For a complete report from VP Reynolds, see the appendix at the end of these minutes.

VP T. Squires outlined college procedures for closing due to inclement weather. The grounds crew arrives at 3:00 a.m. and provides Director of Facilities and Operations M. McHarris with a report on the state of the roads around campus and the campus parking lots and walkways. If they can be kept clear of snow, the college will open. M. McHarris will also consult local authorities on school closures and the condition of outlying roads. If he determines that the grounds crew needs more time to clear snow, he will recommend a delay in opening. However, if he feels that the grounds cannot be kept clear, he will recommend closure. K. Capone asked if low temperature is a factor. The answer was no. D. Elseth asked why no snow days were built in to the academic calendar. J. Baumann stated that her center filed a petition to add a snow day to the calendar. K. Hartman asked if weather conditions were also monitored on the weekends, as the Library and other offices on campus may be open then. T. Squires replied that the same procedures, with perhaps a slightly different timeline, are applied on the weekends as during the weekdays.

FACULTY COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES REPORT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

MVCC's SUNY Excels Performance System resolution: At the February Senate meeting an ad hoc committee of five was formed to draft a resolution on the SUNY Excels Performance System. D. Kelly presented that resolution, which recommends that SUNY suspend the implementation of this performance-based funding system until consultation with faculty and staff from its constituent colleges and universities has been completed and recommendations have been presented. J. Baumann moved, and R. Labuz seconded, to approve the resolution. The motion carried with 2 opposed and 2 abstentions. R. Labuz added that he felt this resolution will not have any impact on SUNY's implementation.

Academic freedom statement: D. Kelly stated that the Statement on Academic Freedom Committee, which was formed at the February Senate meeting, has not yet met formally. However, the group has begun collecting the college's various statements dealing with academic freedom. The FCCC statement and white paper on academic freedom will be discussed at the FCCC Spring Plenary in April.

NEW BUSINESS

Values Work Group: R. Labuz reported that the Values Work Group has created a Values Statement for the college listing 64 behaviors under 4 values. These behaviors and values were composed by faculty and staff. The work group recommends that these efforts continue, and some time in the future will be proposing a charter for a Values Committee, which could follow in the footsteps of the Civility Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

A. Haines-Stephan moved, and K. Capuana seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the College Senate will be **Tuesday, April 7, 2015, at 2:30 p.m. in IT 225.**

The next meeting of the Senate Advisory Committee will be Monday, March 30, 2015, at 3:00 in PH 304.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Hartman
Recording Secretary

MARCH 2015

VP Stephanie Reynolds

SENATE REPORT

- I want to begin by making sure that you know we have a new director of Financial Aid. Mike Pede began with us in January. We also have a new admissions counselor, Kalynn Birdsall and Susan Johnston transferred from CSTEP to the First in the World grant.
- Achieving the Dream – 15 employees representing both the Core and Data teams traveled to Baltimore the week of February 16th. Remember that we were able to take this many people because this is sponsored by the County and not our operating budget. This group debriefed at the end of the week and in summary felt that there was a much greater understanding of the intent of AtD. One of the most powerful aspects of this conference is the student panels as they share hard fought journeys to achieve their academic goals. These students are our students and we walked away understanding the work that we are taking on is for all students and it will take all of the college in order to make a difference.

The Core Team, based on the Data Team's work has determined that we will be focusing on our low-income students. The number in that group and the demographics of it will allow us to impact the majority of our black and Hispanic students and our students who are between the ages of 20-29 which are the three groups that have the highest achievement gaps based on the AtD measures of success.

Over the course of the coming weeks and prior to May 15, additional information will be sought from students and faculty to gain a better understanding of what might be impacting the low income group's ability to progress. Interventions will be determined, implementation teams will be identified and a plan will be submitted to AtD that will illustrate how we intend to proceed.

- Title IX – the College is progressing with the SUNY mandates regarding Title IX. There are four committees currently at work: Steering, Policy and Procedure Review, Campus Awareness Planning and the Investigator Training. The Campus Awareness Subcommittee has identified a number of priorities and projects to ensure that all of our College, employees and students are familiar and aware of the breadth of Title IX and our associated responsibilities. One of the strategies that have been recommended is a syllabi statement. It was felt that a syllabi statement is one way to make sure that every student is made aware of Title IX and knows where to go for more information (Hand out the statement). The Senate Advisory Committee was provided with this a week or so ago in advance of this meeting. On behalf of the committee, I am requesting support by this body to have this included in all syllabi effective with the fall 2015 semester.
- The Deans from Academic Affairs and the Associate Deans from Student Affairs have committed to meeting with one another on a regular basis to address shared issues/concerns where that combined team might effect a change. After two brainstorming/priority setting meetings, the first concern that will be jointly addressed is advising. We have a system that we have worked with, attempted to adjust, worked with again and now need to evaluate together. A formalized workgroup charter has been devised by Jennifer Boulanger and Jennifer DeWeerth

and this group will begin its assessment in the coming weeks. Other topics for shared work have been identified and will be discussed when the group gathers again in two weeks.

- Finally, the Intercultural Conversations have progressed. At the meeting this past week, the group proposed a different way of proceeding. What if, collectively, we developed a discussion series based on current and timely events? An “MVCC Talks” type of presentation where we solicit from our faculty and staff facilitators who are adept at managing debate or sparking conversation. The group brainstormed more than several topics that included dismantling racism, the impact of poverty, cultural competency, the Muslim experience, the Refugee experience, and social justice. This came about because people spoke of our College’s quietness on several recent events that included things, like Ferguson and the massacre over free speech and religion - Charli Hebdo. There are less controversial topics too but ones that could broaden our awareness and understanding of our own community and the people that we share that community with, thus the thought about the Refugee Experience. Could we, over time, develop a process whereby MVCC becomes a thought leader and we engage our college community and the greater community in these important discussions? The Intercultural Conversation committee believes that this may be the way to engage in a greater understanding and is looking for people to join the conversation to see if we could bring this to life. The first conversation that we will tackle is dismantling racism. I don’t know that we will dismantle it but we are going to bring a speaker to campus to help us step into it in a way that achieves the goal of the committee, engaging in a conversation that gets people thinking and talking together.