

**MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
Utica and Rome, New York

**COLLEGE SENATE MEETING MINUTES**  
Tuesday, December 1, 2015, IT 225

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

**Present:** J. Baumann, C. Bolton, K. Capuana, L. Charbonneau, A. Doughtie, S. Frisbee, A. Haines-Stephan, K. Hartman, M. Henningsen, L. Kahler, P. Katchmar, D. Kelly, R. Labuz, D. McDermott, M. McHarris, R. Manley, C. Miller, R. Mink, B. Molinaro, S. Myalik, A. Radlowski, J. Roberts, R. Santos, N. Snyder, M. Sykes, T. Townsley, M. Treis, G. Warchol, J. Woodrow, and President R. VanWagoner.

**Student Senators:** J. Lowman and E. Luther.

**Absent/Excused:** J. Brown, K. Capone, E. Chwasik, J. Coleman, S. Dar, D. Elseth, J. Livadas, M. Radlowski, J. Rahn, R. Spetka, and J. Wilcox.

**Guests:** N. Chrisman, D. Katz, S. McCall, J. Maio, C. Plescia, S. Reynolds, M. Snyder, T. Squires, and R. Suhr.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:31 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

L. Kahler moved, and C. Bolton seconded, to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2015, meeting. The motion carried, with none opposed and no abstentions.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

None.

**STUDENT CONGRESS REPORT**

E. Luther reported that Student Congress examined the college's disciplinary appeals process and found that policies and procedures occur that are not in the student handbook. Student Congress therefore drafted two resolutions recommending that the appeals process be updated in the student handbook and that the process be amended so that students are not punished twice for the same thing. D. Kelly will take these resolutions to the Disciplinary Appeals Committee and other affected groups. Suggestions were made to include the Vice President's office, Student Congress, and faculty in any revision of the appeals process. E. Luther, J. Lowman, and E. Chwasik attended the recent SUNY Student Assembly at which many initiatives that community colleges should be doing were discussed. E. Luther reported that MVCC is already doing all of these initiatives, thereby serving as a model whether SUNY knows it or not.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

R. VanWagoner presented an update to the County Board on where MVCC is headed, including information on the Rome Campus project, StrengthsQuest, nanotechnology, Achieving the Dream, the FabLab, and more. He also reported that grant-funded initiatives have increased over the past few years at MV; comprising approximately 10% of the college's budget. The next visit by Middle States will be in 2018. To that end, self-study groups have already been formed, and certain MV representatives are currently traveling to Middle States workshops in preparation.

## **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

VP S. Reynolds thanked all who participated in the most successful Open House to date, with visits from approximately 300 potential students. She encouraged everyone to visit the newly opened Veterans Study Lounge on first floor Payne Hall. Title IX workshops have begun for faculty and staff. MVCC is the beta test site for training students in Title IX. They will do modules. MV's Achieving the Dream coaches paid a visit to our campus in November. The reading and technology teams have been working this fall. The coaches told the tech team that their initiatives were hard to measure and provided other feedback. See the Achieving the Dream page on the college's web site: <http://www.mvcc.edu/atd> The Advise Schedule and Pay (ASAP) initiative has been launched. VP Reynolds also reported that the college had two requests this year for emotional support animals; the residence hall request was approved. The classroom request has not yet been approved pending more information. The Enrollment Management Council will soon unveil a wiki including meeting summaries, retention models, etc.

## **FACULTY COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES REPORT**

R. Labuz presented the FCCC's "Guidelines for Faculty Governance Inclusion in Educational and Grant-Funded Initiatives." The FCCC is concerned with the growing number of SUNY initiatives impacting faculty and curriculum, in effect telling faculty how and what to teach. These guidelines are intended to provide direction on including faculty and campus governance in the development of curriculum and assessment. D. Kelly stated that these guidelines should be discussed in Faculty Caucus and with the academic deans and the Board before being revisited in Senate.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Academic Freedom Statement: The Ad hoc Academic Freedom Committee looked at all the places where academic freedom statements were and should be in MVCC publications. D. Kelly presented the committee's Statement on Academic Freedom. This statement should be included in the faculty and student handbooks, the college catalog, the Senate web page, and other places. It will be discussed in Faculty Caucus. In February the committee will have something drafted for the Senate to adopt. D. Kelly thanked the other committee members (A. Haines-Stephen, J. Brown, M. Radlowski, J. Roberts, and R. Labuz) for their work on this.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Applied Learning: L. Kahler reported on what he learned about SUNY's Applied Learning initiative, which requires that all matriculated students have an opportunity for applied learning within their chosen program. This does not mean that every course must include an applied learning opportunity. The report that must be filled out by May 2017 has seven parts. The first part is due in February, and is a narrative inventory of what MV currently does for applied learning. SUNY now has five criteria for what qualifies as applied learning. L. Kahler will bring this to Faculty Caucus and other groups before writing part 1. Part 2, concerning how MVCC will gather data on applied learning, is due in April. Other parts include a faculty engagement report, to ensure that faculty are involved in this process, a student engagement report, a two-part feasibility study, to determine if the region can economically support applied learning and to determine if the college has the financial resources to give every student an applied learning experience, and a report identifying community partnerships. Ultimately the college will have to decide if applied learning opportunities will be part of graduation requirements.

Tobacco-Free Policy and Procedure: T. Squires reported that in April the Board adopted a tobacco-free campus policy. A workgroup was formed to formulate procedures for implementing this policy, with the campus becoming tobacco free on August 15, 2016. An awareness campaign will begin on January 1, 2016. Emphasis will be on helping smokers quit. Problems resulting in the prohibition of smoking in the dorms and in private vehicles on college property were discussed. E. Luther pointed out that some places have

coordinated with surrounding neighborhoods to make a larger non-smoking area. T. Squires will take this to the Board in December.

Academic Policies and Procedures Committee: C. Plescia presented the revised proposed committee membership, reducing the number of members by one, and keeping the student as a voting member. The new membership would be as follows:

7 faculty (3-year terms): 5 elected (one per Center), 2 appointed by Senate Chair and President

1 Academic dean (3-year term odd)

1 Assistant Dean (3-year-term even)

Registrar (ongoing)

VPSA appointment (3-year term)

Rome campus representative (Rome Dean appointment)

Chair of CWCC or designee

VPLAA (ongoing, non-voting)

1 student (Student Congress appointment, 1-year term)

R. Labuz moved, and L. Kahler seconded, to accept the proposed revised membership. The motion carried, with none opposed and one abstention. C. Plescia stated that the newly-appointed student member of the committee could not make it to the last meeting. E. Luther replied that her schedule next semester will allow her to attend.

C. Plescia also presented the APSC report on recommendations for policy changes regarding curriculum proposals, which are currently being examined by the academic deans and will be discussed at Faculty Caucus.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

M. Henningsen moved, and L. Kahler seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by common consensus at 4:23 p.m.

#### **NEXT MEETINGS**

The next meeting of the College Senate will be **Tuesday, February 2, 2016, at 2:30 p.m. in IT 225.**

The next meeting of the Senate Advisory Committee will be Monday, January 25, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. in PH 304.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Hartman  
Senate Secretary