

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

**COLLEGE SENATE MEETING MINUTES**  
Tuesday, March 7, 2017, IT 225

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

**Present:** J. Baumann, L. Charbonneau, S. Dar, J. Dewan, A. Doughtie, S. Frisbee, D. Gibbons, A. Haines-Stephan, R. Huyck, D. Hydelund, R. Jubenville, P. Katchmar, D. Kelly, S. Kenyon, D. McDermott, S. McGovern, C. Miller, B. Molinaro, S. Myalik, A. Radlowski, J. Rahn, J. Roberts, R. Santos, B. Scantlebury, G. Searles, R. Spetka, M. Sykes, R. VanWagoner, and G. Warchol

**Student Senators:** A. Kalashnik and D. Kulev

**Absent/Excused:** K. Capone, M. Henningsen, P. Lotto, M. McHarris, T. Palumbo, J. Rothrock, N. Snyder, and J. Wilcox

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**REVIEW & APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

M. Sykes motioned and D. Hydelund seconded to approve the minutes of the February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

A. Haines began his report with an update from SUNY regarding micro-credentials. While SUNY provided no official information, the unofficial guidelines included that they should be a campus initiative, "stackable," and should not compromise academic credibility. These guidelines are similar to those recommended by the Faculty Caucus micro-credential team. Additionally, SUNY may be leaning towards a competency-based micro-credential. This approach to micro-credentials had been previously discussed by Faculty Caucus, and was not viewed favorably. A. Haines suggested a next step for the College would be to refer micro-credentials to APSC and ask them for recommendations for policies and a framework to attach micro-credentials to our co-curricular transcript.

Some senators expressed lingering concerns about micro-credentials, including:

- the purpose of micro-credentials, and whether they will actually help students find employment
- how financial aid will work with micro-credentials
- students who enroll in a degree or certificate program with the intent to complete only the micro-credential and not the degree
- the impact micro-credentials might have on programs and the College
- the lack of an official SUNY definition of micro-credentials, and whether SUNY will accept our definition or not
- whether SUNY will recognize micro-credentials as a measure of completion

After some discussion, A. Kalashnik moved (C. Miller seconded) to task APSC with researching micro-credentials further, including a framework for micro-credentials at the College, and how they will fit with SUNY and Middlestates regulations. The motion carried with 19 in favor, 1 opposed, and 9 abstentions.

## **STUDENT CONGRESS REPORT**

A. Kalashnik began her report by stating that the shuttle bus from Utica to Rome had 3,000 students in 2016, and the Student Congress is considering setting the bus as one of the items on the budget. Dylan Bennett, the new Student Trustee, has been working with Facilities to address concerns about hand sanitizer on campus and the availability of feminine products in ladies rooms. Student Congress also piloted a new initiative last year that would allow shared interest groups of 5-9 students to request funds for projects. Such groups would need to complete a proposal to request the funds, similar to clubs, and would be able to receive up to \$250 per project, with the ability to request funds up to 3 times. Student Congress will also be working on a succession plan soon, since some officers are leaving.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President VanWagoner's report was focused on the College's budget. There is a bill in the New York State Senate (Bill S2103), with a counterpart bill in the Assembly, that would require community colleges to submit new program proposals to the Regional Councils, which would both undermine the Board of Trustees' authority and add another step to an already cumbersome process. R. VanWagoner is working with other college leaders to fight against this bill.

R. VanWagoner has been holding campus conversations regarding the College budget, and shared his presentation with the Senate. MVCC saw the fourth largest increase in enrollment from 2007-2012, with an increase of 29% over that time period. Since that enrollment peak, 15 out of 30 community colleges have seen a decline in enrollment of over 20%, with MVCC seeing a decline of 22.4%, ranking 13<sup>th</sup> on the list.

The College's budget is informed by the Strategic Plan, and strives to preserve the core of the College. \$986,013 has been allocated to implement numerous strategies with broad college-wide impact, with 88% of the allocations for the Annual Plan coming from grants. Budget Managers were tasked with being increasingly lean in the budget and to find efficiencies in their areas, bringing their proposed budgets to the Cabinet by March 1<sup>st</sup>. The working budget model has a \$2.8 million budget gap with a 3.7% decline in enrollment, and assumes a \$100 per FTE increase in state aid (which would result in a \$420,727 cut due to declining enrollment). The College is looking to use \$0 from the fund balance.

Currently the budget gap has been reduced by \$1.5 million based on vacancy savings and the initial budget requests. This leaves a \$1.3 million budget gap to address. Additionally, there are several unknowns that will influence the budget, including potential changes to our dual-credit program, which is 12-15% of our enrollment. Any thoughts or comments concerning the budget should be forwarded to R. VanWagoner.

## **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

T. Squires reported on numerous projects in motion and responded to some concerns that had been brought to his attention.

*Signage/Wayfinding Project:* While we were unable to acquire local funding to match state funding, the Signage Project is moving forward with \$50,000 the County allowed us to reallocate from the equipment fund. The next plan is to have architects develop bid specs and have contractors give us prices. The sign on the corner of Sherman Drive and the Parkway recently died, and its replacement is one of the top priorities, as well as placing a similar sign on the other side of campus. Exterior signs (building names, maps, etc.) and interior signage (particularly AB and PH) will follow. The signage will follow the Master Plan developed for the Rome Campus.

*Snow Removal:* T. Squires commented that, in hindsight, we should have delayed opening the College on a recent snowy day. The roads were clear at 5:00am, when the decision to delay needed to have been made, and it wasn't until 7:00 that the snow started falling heavily. The team made the best decision they could at that time, and did their best to keep the campus open and clear.

Based on a complaint she heard from students, J. Baumann asked if it would be possible to put pile rods in parking lots so people know where to park, should similar situations arise.

*Painting in Buildings:* When fertilizer is used in the quad, notifications are put up several days in advance so that people are aware ahead of time. T. Squires is looking to devise a similar notification system if there will be painting or any work done in buildings that has a smell that could bother people. There is a balance to strike between Facilities doing the work it needs to do while also not being disruptive of the day-to-day activities on campus.

*Ladies Rooms:* Faculty Caucus expressed a concern about the number of ladies rooms on campus, particularly on the second floor of AB. Facilities is investigating what, if anything, they can do to help out that situation.

A. Kalashnik commented that students have a complaint that there are vending machines for feminine products, but nothing is inside them. T. Squires responded that when products are placed in the machines, they are often vandalized and the change and products are stolen. We currently provide products free of charge in the Health Center and sell them in the Book Store. T. Squires suggested that faculty and the Health Center can work together to find a place in AB to store products and connect students to the items when needed.

*Hand Sanitizer:* The primary issue with the hand sanitizer dispensers on campus is that most often, the battery is dead and not that they're empty. It costs \$8,000 a year to keep the dispensers filled. To minimize costs, Facilities is working to identify key areas to keep the dispensers, including outside the Health Center and the Dining Hall. Once these key areas are identified, Facilities will commit to keeping the dispensers filled and in working order.

*Summer Projects:* There will be some projects over the summer, including work to the floor, windows, lights, and ceiling of the ACC Commons. The Public Safety space will be renovated as well, and the stairs by the flags in front of Payne Hall will be replaced.

*Questions & Comments:* C. Miller brought up a concern about needing a lactation spot on campus. She currently has a student who pumps breast milk in her office because there isn't a good, private space to go. While the nurse's office can be used, there are often people coming in and out, which doesn't provide appropriate privacy.

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

J. Roberts commented that FCCC opposes the Senate Bill S2103, and requests that we contact our Assemblyman, Anthony Brindisi. Additionally, FCCC is looking for our support of the following two resolutions:

##### **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CHILD CARE FUNDING**

This resolution asks the New York State Legislature for an increase of \$500,000 to offset the declining revenues from past cuts to the Operating Grant and the Child Care and Development Block Grant. We are asked to show solidarity for colleges with a child care center by supporting this resolution. A. Doughtie motioned and J. Baumann seconded to support this resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

## RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT

This resolution asks the state to “hold us harmless” by requesting that community colleges receive no less than the same funding they did in academic year 2016-17, with additional investments for enrollment initiatives for colleges with less than 2,000 FTE students and colleges that increase enrollments beyond the 2016-17 level. D. Kulev motioned to support this resolution, and J. Baumann seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

## FACULTY CAUCUS REPORT

C. Miller reported that the Faculty Caucus had a robust meeting to discuss two primary topics.

Waitlist Discussion: R. Spetka and J. Sunderhaft were present to address many questions about the Waitlist that had come up in the Fall. They answered questions from the Caucus and helped provide insight into what happens behind the scenes when the waitlist period is happening.

Student Advisement Design Team: T. Thomas, S. Crocker, and C. Zupancic presented their current vision for changes in advising. The team is in the early stages of the process, and was looking for feedback on their ideas from faculty to help them move forward. Their presentation focused on ways to reinforce and improve faculty engagement with students, as well as ways to encourage students to seek out their faculty advisors and make connections. For example, the team discussed having students meet with their faculty advisors during Student Convocation (in lieu of holding the first ED100 session). The team is also looking to help students build their vision for their time at MVCC, rather than just pick out classes, and have investigated ways to use the Student Planner in Degree Works to build an individualized completion plan.

Additional Topics: Some of the other topics discussed included issues about bathrooms and snow removal. C. Miller extended her appreciation to D. Kelly for bringing those issues to the Facilities Committee, and to T. Squares for addressing them.

## COMMENTS/QUESTIONS FROM SENATE MEMBERS

S. Dar remarked that there are still some students or faculty/staff who are smoking in their cars on campus or by the door on the other side of AB. D. Hyldelund also commented that there are few signs on campus about no smoking. T. Squires responded that, if you should see people congregating in a certain location to smoke, to please notify himself or public safety. They are regularly patrolling the bus stop behind Payne Hall, as well as over by ACC. T. Squires will talk with Marketing about signs.

## ADJOURNMENT

S. Kenyon moved and D. McDermott seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m. by common consensus.

## NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the College Senate will be **Tuesday, April 4, 2017, at 2:30 p.m. in IT 225.**

The next meeting of the Senate Advisory Committee will be Monday, March 27 2017, at 3 p.m. in PH 304.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anna Radlowski