

MVCC COLLEGE SENATE MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Virtual Meeting

Present: C. Albrecht, E. Bush, S. Crocker, S. Dar, M. Faitell, S. Frisbee, R. Golden, A. Haines, K. Herting, B. Horender, R. Huyck, J. Ireland, M. Kelly, S. Lai, M. LaPaglia, J. Maio, T. Marshall, S. McGovern, M. Miknavich, A. Miller, C. Miller, A. Radlowski, J. Rahn, S. Reynolds, R. Spetka, T. Squires, C. VanNamee, R. VanWagoner, R. Wittenberg J. Woodrow, J. Yager.

Student Senators: K. Birt

Absent/Excused: S. Engram, A. Hazen, P. Kuhn, M. McHarris, A. Simons, S. Selden

CALL TO ORDER: C. Miller

The meeting was called to order at 2:31pm.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE October 5, 2021, MEETING

(S. Crocker, A. Radlowski) (25, 0, 1)

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT- C. Miller

- Attended the monthly pre-Senate meeting with President Van Wagoner. Reported at the October Board of Trustees meeting and attended monthly meetings with VP Squires and the Chair of Caucus.
- Advisory has begun to work on the Senate goals for this year and continued to discuss those goals in our October meeting.
- C. Miller met with L. Kahler to discuss a few items related to the Senate yearly goals.

An accountability item: minutes were missing back to Fall 2020 on the web site. Senate Chair assembled the missing minutes and sent them to Chrono Ho. They are now up to date. Moving forward, K. Herting as Senate Secretary will send minutes each month once approved.

Senate Chair and Senate Vice Chair continue to work on filling vacancies in Senate committees. Vacancies are due to retirements and people moving on from the College.

Comment from S. Dar there is a lack of connection between senators and constituents because there is no mechanism for presenting to constituents. This was brought up years ago, but COVID made it worse. Suggested some frequency of meeting where constituents can meet with senators, encourage people to speak during the meeting. C. Miller responded that this is a focus for senate advisory goals currently.

STUDENT CONGRESS REPORT – K. Birt

Student participation is up. Lots of proposals, trips, cool stuff happening. By-Laws and Constitution changes are progressing well. Executive Board has received training recently. Student congress is forwarding minutes and agendas to Senate and other governing bodies now. (as well as also being available on the Student Congress blackboard site). Receiving increased proposals from students.

S. Dar suggested having folks present at student congress meetings about what each student committee is doing to encourage student participation in committee work.

A. Jackson has been appointed to college senate as student senator.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

The President recognized the fall recipients of the Heart of the Hawk and Pride of the Hawk awards.

Erica Brindisi received the Heart of the Hawk award for her leadership with the Honors program, her collaborative efforts with colleagues in creating engaging remote biology curriculum, and her ongoing commitment to the art of teaching.

Yue Riesback received the Pride of the Hawk for her tireless and innovative efforts in the Career Center, including her leadership and creativity intended to engage students in career services and her efforts in developing a program to get students to actively use the LinkedIn social media platform to establish a professional presence and build social capital.

The President also spoke on Covid issues and policy and protocols including:

- An update on visitor scanning
- Remote work policy: R. VanWagoner is creating a working group to determine best practice and make recommendations for what a remote work policy might look like. The workgroup will make a recommendation to cabinet.
- R. VanWagoner is meeting with K-12 superintendents of local schools, and will be adding the largest local businesses in the area. Goal is to be annually visiting these partners.
- Wellness council is working on initial prototyping for one day “bring your dog to work day” in December.
- A recent news release about agreements with SNHU (accepting up to 90 credits for MV students), Bellevue University (accepting up to 80 credits for MV students).

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: S. Reynolds

At the last Board of Trustees Meeting, a revised medical leave of absence policy was approved. It is now called the College Withdrawal policy and encompasses a College Withdrawal, a medical withdrawal, an emergency medical withdrawal, or immediate mental health assessment. The key changes that were made to this were to reduce punitive academic consequences if an emergency medical withdrawal had to be initiated. You can see the entire updated college withdrawal policy at the following link:

<https://www.mvcc.edu/student-handbook/policies-regulations/college-withdrawal-medical-withdrawal-emergency-medical-withdrawal-or-immediate-mental-health-assessment.php>

Also approved by the Board of Trustees was supplemental mental health services for any of our students through DRN Consulting. The impact of COVID-19 and its connection to more isolation and more mental health concerns has been all throughout the news. We were able to contract with DRN Consulting for supplemental services for our students, especially the longer-term needs that are often encountered by our own clinicians.

Financial Aid has been in a most interesting position in the last year where they have just been provided with piles of money that needed to be distributed to our students. Four distributions concisely summarized, from March 2020 to October 2021 \$8,492,061 has been distributed to our students to assist in their Educational and Living Expenses. Another \$3.486M is set to be disbursed between October 2021 and June 2022.

From the Career Development office: A resource guide for underrepresented and underserved students and alumni. The students and alumni of color and other underrepresented groups often experience unique challenges in the job market and within different work cultures. This guide offers tips for all of us, and I wanted to make sure it was shared here.

The College was notified of the return of the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry grant. Over the coming weeks we are working to staff the grant with services likely to start by the end of the semester.

The Women of MVCC group has met monthly since last January. This semester we have discussed why there are so few women leaders anywhere and listened to Sheryl Sanberg's take on that from Facebook. Our October conversation was on the power of vulnerability and Brene Brown's research on this topic.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION OFFICER REPORT: T. Marshall

- **ATD Equity Assessment completed.** Report sent to Cabinet. Cabinet will review recommendations and decide how we will proceed.
- **MVCC Equity Framework also completed.** Report in process. Report will be sent and discussed in Cabinet. This report informs CDO and Diversity Council and will be a part of future discussions and goals.
- **Collaborative Equity Spring Summit:** MVCC, SUNY Poly, Utica College, AND Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency are collaborating on a summit Spring 2022. Theme: **Quality of Life in our Neighborhood**
 - **Guest speaker TBA**
 - 3 events on each campus
 - Unity March that ends up at City Hall
- **SUNY 2020-21 ESDHSP:** Empire State Diversity Honors Scholarship Program matched around \$7,000 to MVCC's \$10,000.00 for a total of about 17K for the scholarship.
 - Forming a Spring Committee to review scholarship applications
 - Forms are online under Scholarships

FCCC- A. Miller

Fall Plenary was held virtually and A. Miller and M. Barlett both participated. 4 resolutions were passed by FCCC:

- Endorsed Resolution CSL1 System-Wide preferred name, pronoun, and gender identity policy (S. Crocker, J. Maio) (25, 0, 3).
- Endorsed Resolution AAC1: SUNY General Education Timeline (J. Woodrow, R. Huyck) (21, 0, 2).
- Endorsed Resolution G1: Executive Budget (S. Crocker, A. Miller) (24, 0, 1).
 - R. VanWagoner clarified that in the past, the executive budget would cut aid for community colleges, then advocacy effort in the spring was aimed at legislature to restore aid level. Noted that state-operated colleges get around twice as much FTE (though they do not have local support from the county). A new strategy for advocacy efforts is to approach the executive budget in Fall instead of legislative budget in the spring.
- For information only: Resolution G2 Chancellor & Executive Leadership Team searches

FACULTY CAUCUS REPORT- E. Bush

Faculty Caucus Minutes

President R. VanWagoner provided a timeline surrounding the SUNY vaccine mandate. The conversation explained the swift change to these initial decisions which came about so that the college could remain within compliance of SUNY mandate.

VP L. Kahler shared the time-consuming efforts of faculty, administration, and staff, to bring as many students into compliance as possible within the short time frame.

A conversation also took place regarding SUNY's printing mandate. M. Parry reiterated that personal printers would not be allowed in offices.

J. Mihevc spoke about the need for a revised MVCC student class survey. He asked that faculty work together and come to a consensus as to what a new student class survey should encompass.

A faculty member shared two classroom practices that have allowed for a more inclusive classroom environment. The first classroom practice involved a due date range for class assignments. The second classroom practice involved making a 5–10-minute video of the day's lesson.

Discussions on the college's current grading system continued for a second month. A. Fried presented a MVCC Grade System Policy Change Recommendation.

The faculty agreed that further conversation in November would be beneficial followed by a vote during December's Caucus meeting.

A. Miller shared resolutions discussed at the latest FCCC plenary.

The next Faculty Caucus meeting will occur on November 23rd instead of November 16th due to Advising Day.

OLD BUSINESS: N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

- President R. VanWagoner announced that the community colleges will once again be asking for 100% funding of a budget floor – or maintenance of effort – from the State to provide some funding stability for our sector.
- Later this week he will be announcing a few changes to our COVID protocols – particularly related to our visitor's policy.

Key Performance Indicators (KPI) M. Miknavich, R. VanWagoner

Introduced by R. VanWagoner by noting that the institution's core indicators/KPI have changed several times in the past decade in response to shifting organizational priorities. The goal of the discussion is to collect other numbers that may be important at various levels of the institution and produce a set of KPI that can be turned into a regular cycle of data reporting that reflects our most important work. We will be meeting with other groups as well. This is the "spaghetti on the wall" phase – the IEC will be taking all the input and sorting it into the right institutional levels, etc.

Some of the data points discussed included:

- Student barriers to learning- where are the resistance points in the curricular path?
- Make the strategic plan metrics more visible (dashboard) so that we can see them easily.
- Where does the strategic plan data come from? Crossover of data across institutional boundaries seems important.
- Need for smaller, "pulse point" data versus large studies or surveys

Participants should feel free to send other data points/data suggestions to M. Miknavich

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM SENATE MEMBERS:

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn meeting approved (S. Crocker, J. Maio)

NEXT MEETINGS:

Next Senate Meeting will be remote on **Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at 2:30 pm.**

Next Senate Advisory Committee will be remote on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, at 2:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kathe Herting