

MVCC College Senate Meeting

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

2:30pm via Zoom

Attendance

Present: E. Brindisi, E. Bush, K. Cordary, S. Crocker, S. Dar, H. Doty, N. Evanoff, M. Faitell, S. Frisbee, R. Golden, D. Head, C. Hendricks, R. Huyck, J. Ireland, M. Kuczynski, S. McGovern, M. McHarris, K. McNamara, A. Miller, C. Miller, A. Nolan, M. Parry, A. Roy–Small, S. Selden, C. VanNamee, R. VanWagoner, F. Vellone, and L. Williams, R. Wittenberg

Student Senators: Y. Naruse, M. Stevens

Absent/Excused: C. Albrecht, S. Cummings, S. McCall, S. McManus, R. Miller, A. Sandstrom, S. Silverman, D. Stefanovich, J. Wilcox, and J. Wilkie

Call to Order

C. Miller called the meeting to order at 2:32 pm.

Approval of the February Minutes

The minutes from the March 5th meeting were approved (S. Frisbee, S. Seldon) (24, 0, 0)

Student Congress Report | Y. Naruse

Y. Naruse shared that April is Arab American Heritage Month. D. Radeljas will speak at Student Congress to discuss various aspects of Muslim culture. The Student Congress Executive Board has started the process of determining how the student activity budget for next year will be used, and the number of students involved in clubs at MVCC has increased.



The SUNY SA Spring Conference will be held April 19th–21st in Glens Falls, NY. Y. Naruse (president), P. Wah (treasurer), and J. Kobler (student trustee) will attend.

Old Business

Update to General Education Assessment Plan – M. Barlett

M. Kuczynski moved to approve [the plan](#) (E. Brindisi second). (22, 0, 1)

FCCC Wellness Check Report Follow-Up

The comments and questions recorded on [the report](#) were discussed. Board of Trustees meetings are announced in several public forums and are open to anybody who wishes to attend. The Senate Committees & Councils Taskforce will take elements of the Strategic Plan into consideration in their new phase of work, along with inclusion of more junior faculty and methods of maintaining continuity on committees. C. Miller will connect with the Wellness Check Team about a list of colleges that incorporate a College Hour.

New Business

Senate By-Laws Review (Section 3.2 Duties of the Senator, Appendix 1: Operating Rules for College Senate)

Senators split into Breakout Rooms to discuss the highlighted [sections of the By-Laws](#). Highlights of the conversations shared out afterwards included:

- Section 3.2
 - Many had not known to whom to report their meeting absences
 - How do at-large senators connect with their constituencies?
 - What are senate-sponsored forums?
 - An email could be sent to the College with a summary of the Senate meeting and a list of senators, so community members would know who their representative was if they had questions or concerns
 - Some difficulty in finding documents on Teams
- Appendix 1
 - There was a bit of conversation around items 6 (communications) and 3 (waiver of Operating Rules)
 - There was also discussion on how strictly we do and/or should follow Robert's Rules of Order, and whether or not a tutorial could be made available.
 - Receiving documents more than one week in advance would be beneficial.

Chairperson's Report | C. Miller

C. Miller reported that the second iteration of the Senate Councils & Committees Taskforce is in development. Their work will include working with groups that had mergers or membership changes; standardizing charter layout; meeting with Student Congress to determine student representation on the various groups; and discussing term lengths and other matters.

C. Miller also reported that A. Nolan will co-chair the EIT Ad Hoc Committee and Senate Advisory will continue to review the By-Laws and the FCCC Wellness Report.

Those interested in serving as Senate chair or vice-chair should let C. Miller know. C. Miller intends to run again for chair, but R. Huyck has reached his maximum term limit, so a new vice-chair will need to be elected.

Heart of the Hawk & Pride of the Hawk | R. VanWagoner

R. VanWagoner presented the Heart of the Hawk Award to R. Wittenberg and the Pride of the Hawk Award to J. Lewis.

President's Report | R. VanWagoner

R. VanWagoner commented that 84 employees have attended the Budget Conversations so far, and there will be a virtual budget conversation scheduled for those who wish to attend. He summarized the data rankings in his report, sharing his pride and appreciation for everyone's incredible effort in bringing our three-year graduation rate to the top of the list of SUNY Community Colleges (excluding FIT). Where the College needs to improve is in its student loan default rate, which is second highest in the list. Conversations about financial literacy with students are being planned.

Vice Presidents' Report | E. Abreu, L. Kahler, T. Squires

In response to a question, it was mentioned that faculty will be able to see comments and notes in Ellucian Advise, which will be used for advising moving forward. Element451 will be used more for admissions and marketing. The full Vice Presidents' Report is attached.

FCCC Report | A. Miller

A. Miller reported that a current topic of discussion at FCCC is a bill in the New York State Assembly that proposes adding faculty members to the local community college boards as nonvoting members. There is currently no state requirement for faculty to serve on the board, and there may be a conflict of interest, as those with fiscal interests should not serve on the board. Those with feedback, questions, and concerns should contact A. Miller.

Work on the Transfer Taskforce continues, with recommendations wrapping up in the next couple of weeks. The FCCC Plenary will be held next week (starting Wednesday), so those with questions or concerns should bring them to A. Miller soon.

Faculty Caucus Report | S. Dar

S. Dar reported that L. Kahler was present at the last Caucus to address many questions and concerns on topics including the Academic Integrity Policy, impact of AI, and online assessment. There was a Diversity Calendar Walkthrough and a brief conversation about the new Student Class Surveys.

Questions & Open Forum

The College will remain open all day on Eclipse Day (April 8th), but there will be refreshments and glasses available in the Quad. Faculty are encouraged to [attend CCCAT](#) on April 26th, and there is a reminder for students to submit their research papers for the [Library's Research Award](#).

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15pm.

Next Meetings & Routing Sheet Information

The Next Regular Senate Meeting will be: **Tuesday, May 7th at 2:30 PM in WH 225.**

The next Senate Advisory Routing Sheet for applicable Agenda item proposals is **due: Tuesday, April 23rd.**

The next Senate Advisory Meeting will be **Tuesday, April 30th 2:30 PM via Teams.**

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Radlowski

President's Report to College Senate

April 2, 2024

Mohawk Valley Community College

Campus Conversations - Budget 2024-25

Thank you to everyone who attended one of the four Campus Conversations regarding the budget development process for fiscal year 2024-25. While 89 (24%) of our 370 full-time employees attended a session, I intend to schedule one or two additional sessions via Zoom for those that couldn't do so. The phrase I used to describe the budget for next year is *cautiously optimistic* – a phrase I can't say I've ever really used in my 17 years to describe the budget. This view includes new revenue streams identified in last year's most challenging budget process that are coming to fruition and a second consecutive year of enrollment growth, coupled with conservative budgeting due to the nature of these revenue streams being new and somewhat unproven and troubling dynamics at the state level with no real policy direction for public higher education amidst yet another year of projected flat funding in base operating aid from the state. However, we are filling some positions, including four current full-time faculty positions, and looking to add a few new positions to address capacity concerns in key areas.

SUNY Rankings of Note

I review a few data points to illustrate where MVCC sits among the 30 SUNY community colleges each year as part of my budget presentations. A few current rankings of note include: MVCC ranks 2nd (behind Herkimer) with the highest percent of students that are Pell-eligible (i.e., poorest) and 2nd (behind FIT) with the highest three-year graduation rate (For the entering class of 2020 – no one supported the original COVID class better!) Unfortunately, we also had the second-highest student loan default rate that will require us to develop more effective strategies to change this reality for our students.

KPI: MVCC is Committed to Student Success Through Partnerships

For the purposes of measuring partnerships as a KPI, the criteria for relationships with other organizations include shared facilities, shared grants, shared budgets, and/or formal Memoranda of Understanding. With just those few criteria, MVCC manages more than 50 formal partnerships (Some highlighted below.) not including more than 100 transfer agreements with four-year colleges and universities, nor does it include contract training with local employers. Some highlights include:

- 31 Dual Credit school partners
- Offering non-credit ESL classes at The Center
- Subleasing 4,500 square feet of training space to Wolfspeed and 1,500 square feet to Fabmatics within the MVCC Center @ Bagg's Square.
- Hosting the Strategic Horizon Network with 8 other community colleges from 7 other states.
- Partnering with Leadership Mohawk Valley to operate the Center for Leadership Excellence.
- Hosting the Mohawk Valley Institute for Learning in Retirement on the Rome Campus.
- Serving as the New York State headquarters for national FIRST TECH Challenge network.
- Providing clinical education on-site at 15 area healthcare provider locations for healthcare students enrolled in nursing, respiratory care, radiology technology, and surgical technology.
- Facilitating the awarding of credit for hundreds of electrical apprentices from three distinct IBEW locals, spanning NYS and articulating those credits through an extended pathway in partnership with Alfred State College and Syracuse University.
- Early College High School: OHM BOCES brought 60+ Middle Settlement Academy to our Utica Campus last fall and MO BOCES, has 36 students on our Rome Campus through a locally funded program titled, "Providing Regional Opportunities & Pathways for Enhanced Learning" (PROPEL). And the Utica Academy of Science has 40+ of their seniors taking full loads this spring on our Utica Campus.

Vice-Presidents' Report

April 2, 2024

Mohawk Valley Community College

- The Rad Tech Program underwent their accreditation visit on March 3rd and 4th with JCERT, their accrediting body. Though we have not yet received the commission report, the final read out went exceptionally well, and we anticipate a good report from the commission.
- The Center for Inclusive Teaching Excellence (CITE) has a Viva Engage page to post announcements not related to a specific event. We will post opportunities like calls for proposals here.
<https://web.yammer.com/main/groups/eyJfdHlwZSI6Ikdyb3VwIiwiaWQiOiIxODE3MTQzNTQxNzYifQ>
- CITE also has a link to professional development events posted to CITE's calendar which can be accessed at:
<https://www.calendarwiz.com/calendars/calendar.php?crd=mvcc&cid%5B%5D=295218&lid%5B%5D=empty&>
- AIM attended the New York-Quebec Transportation Industry Rendezvous in Plattsburgh, NY. This B2B event brought several hundred people together to discuss NY-Canada supply chain opportunities that would specifically support the mass transportation industry. Along with AIM, the Mohawk Valley had several regional manufacturers attend this annual event.
- Madison Houppert, a Graphic Design student, was selected as a Chancellor's Award winner.
- The School of Art hosted an art show opening at the ThINCubator. The show featured student artwork which was available for sale via donations with a small commission going to art scholarships for future School of Art Students.
- Emeritus status has been conferred on Professors Elin Cormican and Robert Christman. Congratulations to them both on this well-deserved honor.
- Emeritus status has also been conferred on Department of Public Safety Chief David Amico. Congratulations to him on this well-deserved honor.
- Thank you to everyone who completed the graduation regalia survey. We are planning the May graduation now and details will follow.
- We moved the Zen Den into Student Services Office in PC130C. Students can now scan a QR code to reserve the space to use for a sensory break, a mindfulness/chill out space, spiritual practices/prayer meditation or private telehealth appointments and no longer need to ask for access from Public Safety.
- We are doing various testing for the implementation and configuration of the Ellucian Advise platform that will connect with Banner and the new Element 451 CRM that will

combine to transform our communications with students and our overall enrollment management efforts.

- We are managing the transition of the two full-time staff vacancies in the Office of Accessibility Resources and are supporting the nearly 500 individual students that receive services through that office each year with part-time staff while we work to fill the vacancies as soon as possible.
- The College Community Connection Office (C3) recently received a helpful five-year pledge from Scalzo, Zogby & Wittig Insurance to support the areas of greatest need. Additionally, the office recently purchased and installed two commercial freezers that will add capacity for helping distribute more than 25,000 pounds of food every six months through our new partnership with the Central Food Bank.
- We are closely monitoring the changes and troubling delays with the FAFSA forms that are greatly disrupting the ability of colleges and universities to finalize students' financial aid packages for next year. The new guidelines are now expected to be released sometime in April that will likely require MVCC staff to rally and do several months of packaging in a compressed timeframe over the summer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Squires
Lew Kahler
Esmilda Abreu