

MVCC College Senate Meeting

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

2:30PM Zoom

Attendance

Present

E. Brindisi	T. Burke	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. McManus	K. McNamara	A. Miller	C. Miller
R. Miller	A. Nolan	M. Parry	S. Selden	C. VanNamee
R. VanWagoner	F. Vellone	J. Wilcox	J. Wilkie	L. Williams
R. Wittenberg				

Student Senators

O. Green	S. Nakamura	M. Stevens
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Absent/Excused

S. Cummings	T. Locke	S. McGovern	M. McHarris	A. Roy–Small
A. Sandstrom	S. Silverman	L. Warring		

Call to Order

C. Miller called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

Approval of the September Minutes

The minutes from the September 3rd meeting were approved (M. Kuczynski, C. VanNamee) (24, 0, 2)

Student Congress Report

S. Nakamura

Student Congress members held a reception to meet with the administration and academic deans on September 26th. On October 9th, S. Nakamura, A. Dunckel, and M. Stevens will do a “safe walk” with D. Gibbons to identify issues students have with facilities on campus. S. Nakamura and D. Almlead will attend the SUNY Student Assembly in November.

C. Miller welcomed new student congress representative, O. Green.

New Business

Calendar Committee Update

H. Doty

The Calendar Committee has reviewed dates for the 2026–27, 2027–28, and 2028–29 academic years. Additionally, the following requests were discussed:

- The 2026–27 calendar incorporates a requested break in October to help prevent burnout
- The possibility of instituting a common hour
- Whether or not to return to the schedule format from before the post-Labor Day start schedule was instituted
- At the request of the academic deans, Advising Day was removed.

The committee decided to present the 2026–27 calendar for now, and will create a survey to gather information before making decisions regarding the common hour and the schedule format for the 2027–28 and 2028–29 calendars, which the committee hopes to present next year.

S. Crocker affirmed the need for data-driven changes, and requested that data about student success be incorporated into the decisions regarding schedule format and Advising Day. H. Doty agreed to review research on these matters.

The Senate will vote on the 2026–27 calendar to allow senators to connect with their constituents.

By-Laws Article 1 & Article 2 Breakout Session

Senators were divided into Breakout Sessions to discuss Article 1 and Article 2 of the Senate By-Laws. Results of the discussions were stored in a communal [google doc](#). Senators then summarized the comments their group made in the google doc.

Chairperson's Report

C. Miller

C. Miller and S. Dar attended the recent FCCC Governance Leaders Event in Albany and attended sessions on governance leader training, general education, and upcoming initiatives. C. Miller explained the Strategic Doing Project and high impact though relatively easy initiatives that can be implemented.

C. Miller continues monthly meetings with Senate Advisory, R. VanWagoner, T. Squires, and the Student Congress Executive Team. She meets with L. Kahler every other month, and will set up regular meetings with K. Pine.

The committee reviewing committees and councils are meeting with committees to review their charters.

President's Report

R. VanWagoner

R. VanWagoner introduced Dr. K. Pine on her second day as Vice President of Student Affairs and the Senate gave her a warm welcome.

R. VanWagoner recently attended a conference regarding textbook publishers and AI, and summarized how the landscape of academic publishing will be reshaped. It is unknown whether these changes will increase costs to students.

An AI Policy is in development, and volunteers to serve on a taskforce are needed. From the charter: "The purpose of the AI Task Force is to develop a comprehensive board policy to guide related procedures and initiatives that address the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in both academic and operational functions at MVCC." The AI Task Force will:

- Review and discuss the Innovation Playbook for Responsible GenAI
- Research existing AI policies at other colleges and appropriate organizations.
- Engage faculty, staff and students to inventory current AI usage at the college.
- Develop a draft AI philosophy statement to guide the college's approach to AI.
- Develop a draft comprehensive Board policy to guide future related procedures.
- Engage the College Senate and Student Congress in the development work and make a final recommendation for consideration by the College Senate; who will may refine and recommend to Cabinet; who may then refine and recommend to the Board of Trustees for final consideration.

R. VanWagoner is seeking two faculty, two staff, and two other senators to join the taskforce, along with a faculty senator to co-chair with M. Parry.

S. Dar inquired about grants from SUNY to help community colleges develop resources regarding AI, but R. VanWagoner responded that most of SUNY's focus is on AI research in 4-year institutions.

Vice Presidents' Report

L. Kahler, T. Squires, R. VanWagoner

Highlights from the conversation about the Vice Presidents' Report (attached) include:

- At the moment it is unknown whether additional parking will be created for students once the new S&T Building is built. An analysis is being conducted on use of the faculty/staff lot to identify how many reserved parking spots are used by PA members, and some time between March and May 2025, there will be fencing placed around the area where the new building will be built. The reserved parking for PA members may be moved to a different lot, depending on where the building ends up being placed.
- The Rome campus will be open additional hours in order to accommodate noncredit and community courses. The hours the Rome campus is open depends on staffing availability from Facilities and Public Safety.

FCCC Report

A. Miller

A. Miller summarized the survey results on the General Education survey, including the significant concern regarding the timeline for the changes to be implemented. She will attend the FCCC Plenary later this month, so questions and concerns should be sent to her before the 15th. Additional updates from FCCC include:

- Threats are being made against DEISJ leaders and instructors, and faculty have requested SUNY and/or the State Educational Department to provide protections for faculty teaching those courses.
- Unified budget advocacy across SUNY and CUNY is in progress

A. Miller also attended the University Faculty Senate (UFS) meeting in September. There is a request to redefine how internship credits are counted, and the Undergraduate Program Assessment Guide (on which the College's POARs are based) is being revised.

Other topics discussed included:

- The creation of a guide for best practices regarding faculty role in deciding which programs are discontinued
- The effect Excelsior Scholarships have had on retention, enrollment, and other metrics

Faculty Caucus Report

S. Dar

At the September 17th meeting of the Faculty Caucus, T. Marshall and A. Nolan explained Title VI and H. Doty presented the 2026-27 calendar, which resulted in a rich conversation. A. Miller shared the General Education survey, which had a good return rate, and a new initiative of "Burning Questions" was piloted.

Questions and Open Forum

No questions or concerns were raised, but C. Miller will email the charter for the AI Taskforce to Senators.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 PM.

Next Senate Meeting: Tuesday, November 5th at 2:30PM via Teams

Senate Advisory Routing Sheet due: Tuesday, October 22nd

Next Senate Advisory Meeting: Tuesday, October 29th 2:30PM via Teams

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Radlowski

President's Report

AI Influence on Textbook Publishers

Many faculty are likely way ahead of me on this, but I recently attended a conference on forces shaping the future of higher education and was struck by a few things regarding the textbook publishing company. I don't know the full implications and don't have any expectations of anyone with this but am compelled to share what I know here for everyone to integrate into their own individual and collective thinking about how rapidly things are changing with AI.

In the last year or so, ProMetric – the largest adaptive testing company – purchased EdPower, which is the parent company of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH). This feels like a game-changer as ProMetric is going to weave its adaptive assessment tools – now AI-powered – into textbook and related materials at scale. At the conference, I attended a session with the head of AI strategies for Pearson publishing and learned about their platforms like MyLab, Mastering, and Office Hours. These AI tools provide personalized support to students by offering tailored feedback, practice exercises, and study recommendations based on vetted content from Pearson. This approach allows students to receive help directly within their learning materials, without needing to leave the platform.

Implications for Community College Faculty

I had a conversation about this with ChatGPT and got the following response regarding implications for faculty: As AI becomes more deeply integrated into these platforms, faculty can expect significant changes in how they interact with textbooks and online learning resources. One key shift will be the growing automation of administrative tasks like grading and assessment tracking. Additionally, AI-powered platforms will offer more real-time data on student performance, enabling faculty to tailor their instruction to meet the specific needs of their students. For students, personalized learning paths will become more common, allowing for more flexible pacing and targeted support. Faculty should also anticipate that the traditional role of the textbook will change, with AI curating dynamic content that is continuously updated based on student engagement and learning outcomes.

Considerations

With changes such as scaled adaptive assessments and continuously curated content, it can feel overwhelming to consider the changing role of faculty. This is why I felt it was so important to have Todd McLees speak at our fall opening. His message of embracing AI to advance human flourishing serves as a tether for me to focus on what can be automated and augmented by AI to focus us on the more deeply human parts of our jobs.

While I've heard students are more engaged and active with each passing semester beyond COVID, I've also heard their needs are ever more complex and intense. It seems that the influence of AI automating and augmenting parts of our jobs is simultaneously occurring when the need for us to be more deeply human is more critical than ever.

Vice-Presidents' Report

- The design of the new S&T Building is continuing. The anticipated timeline for the project is to release the bid documents in December/January, with construction beginning in May-ish of 2025. We are working to have the project completed to begin the Fall 2026 semester. The building will be located in the Payne Hall parking lot and driveway, closest to the quad. Sometime in April or May of 2025 a fence will be placed in the parking lot to surround the construction area. We do not think it will encroach on the area of the parking lot designated for parking for members of the Professional Association. If we find the project does interfere with that parking area, we will work with the leadership of the Professional Association to find suitable alternative parking.
- Attached is a flyer with information on employee meal plans available for the dining hall. Great food, best deal in town!
- The link to sign up for MV Alerts is located in your MyMV account. You are strongly encouraged to sign up for them. In addition to receiving alerts for emergencies, it will be the quickest way to find out if the College closes due to weather. Snow is not that far off.
- Our Radiologic Technology program recently underwent a JCert Accreditation visit. The Accrediting body recently contacted us to let us know that we have received full reaccreditation for the maximum time allowed of 8 years, Congratulations to the Rad Tech faculty and School of Health Sciences.
- After a brief period of fully restricted night hours on the Rome campus, we have expanded hours two evenings a week. We are offering non-credit programming-both workforce and community classes. Thus far, the offerings have proven to be a success. The classes are running and the offerings are generating revenue beyond the operating cost. The offerings this semester include:
 - CNA
 - Pharmacy Technician
 - Brewing Fundamentals
 - Security Guard (8 hour)
 - Cooking Classes – Zeina's, Karma
 - Cookie Decorating
 - Notary
 - Italian Class
 - Ballroom Dance
- On Saturday, October 26th, over 300 Girl Scouts and 100 chaperones will visit MVCC to enjoy a series of science activities and experiences developed and delivered by MVCC's Women In Science and Engineering group. They will stay with us overnight and enjoy all that the Jorgensen Center has to offer before departing on Sunday morning.

- **Insight into de-registration process:** The Federal FAFSA delays in the new aid year posed significant challenges for students planning to use financial aid for summer classes. To address this, Holistic Student Support collaborated with the Registrar, Financial Aid, and Business Office to review 174 matriculated students at risk of deregistration. Through careful analysis of academic records, financial aid history, and individual circumstances, 80 students were identified as needing additional support to stay on track or graduate. These students were closely monitored and assisted throughout the summer, ensuring they could either access their FAFSA funds, set up payment plans, or pay out of pocket, thus maintaining their academic progress despite the delays.
- **SSA insights on student data analytics:** Sherry Rogge, with support from her colleagues in IR, created data sets for Holistic Student Support to identify patterns in student retention. The analysis focused on 124 matriculated students who did not persist from fall 2023 to spring 2024. Student Support Advisors reviewed case notes for these students to determine likely reasons for non-persistence. The review revealed various circumstances preventing students from continuing their studies. These included transfers, relocations, medical conditions (personal or family-related), pregnancies leading to temporary stops, and decisions that college wasn't the right fit (with referrals to Fast Trac). Surprisingly, few cases were due to insufficient financial aid or inability to pay bills.
- While many of these situations offered limited intervention opportunities, the relationships built by Student Support Advisors provided valuable information not currently stored in the Student Information System. This personalized data allows for more tailored support for each student. The development of the CRM Advise platform will enhance the ability to utilize this information effectively in the future, improving the capacity to provide individualized support and potentially increase student retention.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy VanWagoner
Tom Squires
Lew Kahler