

MVCC College Senate Meeting

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

2:30pm Teams

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. McGovern	M. McHarris	S. McManus	K. McNamara
A. Miller	C. Miller	M. Parry	A. Roy Small	S. Selden
C. VanNamee	R. VanWagoner	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	R. Miller	A. Nolan	A. Sandstrom
S. Silverman	F. Vellone	L. Warring		

Call to Order

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

Approval of the October 1st Minutes

The minutes from the October 1st meeting were approved (M. Kuczynski, K. Cordary) (25, 0, 4).

Heart of the Hawk & Pride of the Hawk Awards

J. Heintz

J. Heintz presented the Heart of the Heart Award to M. Kuczynski and the Pride of the Hawk Award to A. Roy–Small. M Kuczynski and A. Roy–Small will receive their awards from R. VanWagoner in person.

Student Congress Report

S. Nakamura

S. Nakamura reported that he and D. Almleaf will attend the SUNY Student Assembly Fall Conference from November 15th-17th. In October, the Program Board attended the

Association for the Promotion of Campus Conference and MVCC won third place in the Novelty Team Category. S. Nakamura also discussed the Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT), which provides an opportunity for networking, donations, and awards, as well as offering a forum to discuss nationwide concerns.

Old Business

Proposed 2026–27 Calendar & Intersession

H. Doty

H. Doty expressed her appreciation for the feedback on the first draft of the 2026-27 calendar that has been received so far. A discussion continued, with the following highlights:

- There was significant conversation regarding how the calendar will negatively impact lab schedules. Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday labs will have a similar schedule, but Tuesdays will be a week behind and Mondays two weeks behind. This would create challenges for setting up labs, for students making up labs, and for lab and lecture to remain aligned.
- Options for a Fall Break that would not disturb the lab schedule were suggested, including classes on Labor Day instead, holding a Monday schedule on a Tuesday, and referencing how other colleges that have a Fall Break make adjustments. A. Miller shared an [FCCC survey](#) for additional options.
- L. Kahler cautioned that Labor Day falls under contractual details and that faculty would remain under obligation during a Fall Break, even if there were no classes.

H. Doty and J. Dewan discussed enrollment numbers for January Intersession – which have been declining – at Faculty Caucus. In addition to low enrollment, the administrative overhead and the work necessary to complete over the ajar period means that continuing to offer credit-bearing courses during the Intersession is not financially in the College's best interest. As a result, it is proposed that the College eliminates the Intersession courses.

A robust conversation followed, addressing the following concerns:

- Impact on advising (SSAs have not been notified, and there has not been much conversation about it).
- The Academic Deans have shared concerns that the short length of Intersession is prohibitive to offering courses both online and on campus. Additionally, on-campus courses are a financial strain on the College, and students would not have access to the library and tutoring during the Intersession.
- There has been chatter in the SUNY registrar listserv regarding Intersession offerings. Usually all of the courses offered at other institutions are online, with a minimum of 15 days.

- Marketing for Intersession has not been successful.
- Generally only one or two courses have run over Intersession, with the majority of students enrolling from other institutions. While we don't want to limit our students' opportunities, historic data shows that students do not view the Intersession as an opportunity.
- Cross registration across SUNY (which is different from Open SUNY) remains an option for MVCC students.

E. Bush (S. Crocker) moved to eliminate Intersession, and the motion carried (27, 0, 1).

New Business

Use of Wheeled Conveyances on Campus Policy

T. Squires

T. Squires reported that the topic of lithium batteries on transportation devices such as e-bikes and e-scooters was discussed during one of the annual fire inspections. Such batteries are volatile and can suddenly erupt into high flames. Additionally, regular bicycles that are left near building entrances are a hazard to those exiting the building (or first responders entering the building) in case of an emergency. As a result, it was determined that the College should have a policy to address such wheeled conveyances. Existing policies from other businesses and institutions were examined and a policy was written to accomplish the following:

- No lithium batteries in the building
- No large conveyances (such as bicycles) left in places that could cause a hazard
- Restrict the use of regular skateboards to outside of buildings

Exemptions for wheelchairs, strollers, and mobility aids would be permitted, and procedures will be drafted upon approval of the policy.

T. Squires shared that some changes have already been made, including moving bike racks closer to the quad so they're more visible, and also monitoring the bike racks on camera to assist in case of theft or damage. The policy will be brought to the November Board of Trustees meeting for a first reading, with the intent for it to be voted on at the December meeting.

Senators shared their feedback on the policy with T. Squires, and the final draft of the policy will be brought to a vote at the December Senate meeting.

Behavior Evaluation Response Team (BERT) Process Discussion

A. Fried, J. Maio, D. Gibbons, B. Coromato

A. Fried relayed a few experiences from faculty that have revealed some problems with the current BERT process, including a lack of communication throughout and after the process, timeliness of responses, and faculty feeling their concerns were dismissed or that they were expected to work outside of their abilities (such as serve as a counselor to students). A. Fried requested that the Senate endorse a proposal that the President and Cabinet review and revise the BERT process.

J. Maio and D. Gibbons shared an overview of BERT's purpose and processes. In response to the Virginia Tech incident in 2007, BERT was formed as a way to report and track abhorrent behaviors. BERT is an evaluation of behavioral patterns, not a judicial process. It is not a process that should be used in emergency situations, and urgent needs should be directed to the Department of Public Safety.

A passionate conversation ensued, during which faculty expressed a need for a single system that can be used to report concerning incidents. Ideally the recipient of the report would then be able to analyze what was needed and forward it to the appropriate department, whether that were counseling, public safety, or elsewhere. Faculty are not always aware of how these incidents should be addressed, and it is not always clear whether or not a threat is imminent. Although this is not what BERT was designed for initially, that is how it is perceived and currently being used by faculty. With a new Chief in Public Safety and a new VP of Student Affairs, there is an opportunity for fresh eyes to review and streamline the many reporting processes – such as Hawk-eye Tip, Title IX Reports, Public Safety Reports, and 911, in addition to BERT – currently in place.

E. Bush (S. Crocker) made a motion recommending the BERT process be reviewed and revised by the President and Cabinet. The motion carried (27, 0, 3).

Chairperson's Report

C. Miller

Due to the length of the meeting, the Chairperson's Report was tabled for the December meeting.

President's Report

R. VanWagoner

There were no questions about the President's Report (attached).

Vice Presidents' Report

L. Kahler, T. Squires, K. Pine

Highlights from the conversation about the Vice Presidents' Report include:

- When the Payne Hall parking lot is closed for construction of the new building, the electric chargers will also be unavailable. Construction will likely take around a year, beginning in April.
- A. Miller will reach out to L. Kahler and A. Palmer regarding the PLA paperwork.

FCCC Report

A. Miller

Due to the length of the meeting, the FCCC Report was tabled for the December meeting.

Faculty Caucus Report

S. Dar

S. Dar reported that much of what had been discussed at Senate was discussed at the Faculty Caucus meeting, including having a discussion about BERT.

Questions and Open Forum

There were no questions or topics raised during the Open Forum.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 PM.

Next Senate Meeting: Tuesday, December 3rd at 2:30PM in WH 225

Senate Advisory Routing Sheet due: Tuesday, November 19th

Next Senate Advisory Meeting: Tuesday, November 26th 2:30PM via Teams

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Radlowski

President's Report

On-Ramp

You may have heard about the Governor's \$200M "One Network for Regional Advanced Manufacturing Partnerships" (ON-RAMP) initiative. Six of the ten state Regional Economic Development Councils will be eligible for one of four designations to replicate the Northland Training Center in Buffalo – with Syracuse receiving one of the four automatically to support the \$100M Micron investment. We have met with our regional partners and are moving forward with a proposal to put MVCC at the center of the proposal for the Mohawk Valley region in partnership with the Manufacturing Association of Central New York (MACNY).

Many details still need to be worked out as we work with our partners to respond to the Request For Proposals (RFP) process. Depending on the final result, it could mean up to \$20M in capital funding and \$20M in focused operating dollars to fund the work of the Center. Given the magnitude of the project, I wanted to share the general possibilities here at these early stages, recognizing much is yet to be determined in the coming months.

Key Performance Indicator

The Key Performance Indicator that was presented to the Board of Trustees this month addressed the following component of our mission statement:

MVCC provides accessible educational opportunities.

Student Loan Default

Please find below the information regarding the College's default rate. Prior to COVID, our default rate was declining in line with a national trend. During COVID all borrowers had their monthly payment suspended. We do not know what will happen after that suspension ends 9/30/23.

Cohort Fiscal Year	MVCC Default Rate (%)	Published Date
2015	18.0	08/18/18
2016	18.8	08/03/19
2017	17.6	08/08/20
2018	16.2	08/07/21
2019	7.0	01/29/22
2020*	0.00%	9/28/2023
2021*	0.00%	10/10/2024

*For the 2020 and 2021 Cohort Default year, we achieved a 0.0% Default Rate. Though I would love to take the credit for this, the fact of the matter has to do with the calculation of the Cohort. This percentage is based upon the *# of Borrowers who entered into Repayment in 2020 and Defaulted on 2020,2021,2022* **OVER** *# of Borrowers who entered into repayment in 2020*

During the two years noted above, the Department of Education suspended all loan repayments. Thus it was statistically impossible to have a NUMORATOR. In not being able to calculate a NUMORATOR the percentage had to be Zero. Therefore our 2020 and 2021 Cohort Default Rate were impacted by COVID.

The COVID impact will remain with us until the calendar year of 2025. We do estimate that the percentages will slowly increase. Hopefully never reaching the double digits as we had in 2018.

Please find below the steps that are taken to inform students of their responsibility in order to avoid default:

1. Within 45 days of graduation or withdrawal, students are sent an email and letter by US post informing them that they had a student loan and will enter the repayment period six months from graduation or withdrawal.
2. On the fifth month from graduation an email is sent to the students reminding them that their loans are coming due and reminding them to contact their servicer.

Tuition is below the average among SUNY community colleges

Historically MVCC has resisted raising tuition so as to enhance the accessibility of an affordable education and open access mission. The budgeted \$5,266 annual tuition for 2024-25 ranks 21st out of 30 community colleges and is \$140 (2.6%) below the average. This low ranking persists despite nine community colleges holding their tuition constant from last year.

SUNY Community Colleges Tuition Rate Comparison
2023-24 vs. 2024-25

Tuition Rate-Resident

<u>College</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2024/25</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>%</u>
Suffolk County	1	5,640	\$5,830	190	3.4
Orange County	2	5,664	5,808	144	2.5
Nassau	3	5,800	5,800	-	0.0
Corning	4	5,520	5,688	168	3.0
Broome	5	5,472	5,664	192	3.5
Rockland	6	5,472	5,664	192	3.5
Sullivan County	7	5,472	5,664	192	3.5
Jamestown	8	5,440	5,660	220	4.0
Tompkins-Cortland	9	5,570	5,570	-	0.0
Adirondack	10	5,328	5,544	216	4.1
Fulton-Montgomery	11	5,376	5,520	144	2.7
Clinton	12	5,518	5,518	-	0.0
Ulster County	13	5,280	5,480	200	3.8
Jefferson	14	5,304	5,448	144	2.7
Columbia-Greene	15	5,256	5,400	144	2.7
North Country	16	5,280	5,400	120	2.3
Finger Lakes	17	5,280	5,376	96	1.8
Fashion Institute	18	5,290	5,290	-	0.0
Onondaga	19	5,290	5,290	-	0.0
Cayuga County	20	5,136	5,280	144	2.8
Mohawk Valley	21	5,162	5,266	104	2.0
Genesee	22	5,150	5,250	100	1.9
Westchester	23	4,980	5,230	250	5.0
Erie	24	5,200	5,200	-	0.0
Niagara County	25	5,136	5,136	-	0.0
Herkimer County	26	5,116	5,116	-	0.0
Hudson Valley	27	5,056	5,056	-	0.0
Monroe	28	4,900	5,050	150	3.1
Dutchess	29	4,800	5,000	200	4.2
Schenectady County	30	4,824	4,968	144	3.0
Avg of Submitted		\$5,290	\$5,406	\$115	2.2

Line indicates placement of 2024/25 average tuition

Courses Offered How and When Students Want Them

Traditionally, most colleges will establish an academic schedule prior to registration and then allow students to register. They will monitor waitlists (if they have them) to see when opening a new section is warranted. Then, on the date of payment being due, any unpaid student is deregistered. This causes the enrollment in course sections to drop, and courses are cancelled accordingly. Often, this can mean that upwards of 20% of their course sections can be cancelled in a single day causing the “paid students” to scramble to find available sections and leaving fewer seats for the “unpaid students” to find a seat during the few days leading up to class if they are able to secure payment.

MVCC uses a slightly different process. At MVCC we, like other schools, establish the schedule prior to registration and allow students to register, but we monitor those registrations weekly looking for opportunities to “right the schedule” based on student choice of modality and registration trends. MVCC also has created a “Paid/Unpaid” report that allows us to monitor individual student payment by section. This, in turn, makes it possible to anticipate which sections would ultimately cancel on the deregistration date and proactively address those issues by moving “paid students” to open sections (making every effort to match the students’ course time and modality) and removing sections of “unpaid students” triggering them to secure payment and work with an SSA to find an open section while there are still plenty of seats available. This approach has allowed us to maximize our fill rates while meeting student need with minimal disruption. Unlike many colleges who see 20% of their sections cancel on the day of deregistration, MVCC sees fewer than 20 sections cancel on the comparable date, and often these are single digit cancellations as shown in the attached data sheet.

Another way that we are able to see that students are registering for courses when they need them, and that there are available seats, are the “Heat Maps” that we utilize based on AD Astra Data. MVCC’s “Heat Maps” show that there is no time during any operating hours where we have “no seats available” meaning that at every hour of every day we have open seats in classes including the “Heat” times or times of highest student demand.

Class Cancellations During the Last Week of Registration

	Fall	Spring
2024	1	3
2023	0	0
2022	7	13
2021	13	6
2020	9	3
2019	9	7

Spring 2024 Enrollment Total Enrollment Seats Available Fill Rate

Online	4037	26.16%	5276	76.52%
Hybrid	757	4.90%	1198	63.19%
	4794		6474	
Utica	10134	65.66%	14330	70.72%
Rome	506	3.28%	1061	47.69%
	10640		15391	
Total	15434	100.00%	21865	70.59%

Fall 2024 Enrollment Total Enrollment Seats Available Fill Rate

Online	4012	22.83%	4905	81.79%
Hybrid	867	4.93%	1274	68.05%
	4879		6179	
Utica	12335	70.20%	15704	78.55%
Rome	358	2.04%	854	41.92%
	12693		16558	
Total	17572	113.85%	22737	77.28%

Vice-Presidents' Report

- Reminder that we have an Open House on November 15th from 10 am to 1 pm on the Utica campus. At present we have 150 students and guests registered as well as 10 schools who have registered to bring students as well. And there's still time!
- We were pleased to find a decline in the number of students who had 2 or more grades of D, F, or U at midterm this semester. For residence hall students the decline was from 36% with two or more last fall semester to 27% in that circumstance this semester. Expanding to a review of all enrolled students, the percentage fell from nearly 10% last fall to just over 8%. While it is very early, we intend to continue review of this and future cohorts, believing the collective efforts of the College's Guided Pathways framework and implementation seem to be having the desired impact.
- We have been heavily engaged with voter registration efforts guided by #SUNYVotes at the state level. Multiple in-person, social media, and email communications and events have been deployed to assist students with registering and planning to vote. While registration ended Saturday, October 26th, if students have questions about where to vote and want to check their registration, please direct them to #SUNYVotes for additional assistance and information.
- As we continue the work on the new S&T Building it has become clear that the entire parking Payne Hall parking lot will be closed during construction. VP Squires has been in contact with Professional Association President Norma Chrisman and will work to determine the best location for a temporary parking area for Professional Association members. We expect the work to begin sometime around April/May 2025. We will also send information to all students and employees advising them of the change and providing guidance for finding parking spots.
- We are working on updating the interior signage in Wilcox Hall and the Jorgensen Center. This will bring the signage into compliance with ADA standards and conformity with the overall signage plan for the College. As part of this many room numbers will change in those two buildings. We are tentatively planning on installing the new signs over the winter break and will send more information as the timing details become more clear.
- Reminder: 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.
- SUNY is asking each campus to design a PLA Action Plan. We have begun the work of filling out the report, much of which is based on the Guided Pathways Recommendations from the PLA Workgroup. There is still work to be done to complete it, as SUNY has several different priority areas that they want us to address, but we are well on our way and are looking for feedback as we work through the SUNY template. Highlights of the document are below, and the current

draft is attached. Please send any feedback to Adam Palmer, Director of Special Projects.

- **Military and Training Credit:** Rework of college procedure to encourage all incoming veterans to submit military transcripts (JSTs) for advising purposes only, through which it can be used to map out earned credit potential and allow them to make informed decisions about whether or they would want to apply their credit towards their degree (Current policy is that JSTs are not required or overtly encouraged)
- **Professional and Industry Certifications and Licenses or Other Credential:** No major changes, just encourages college to continue cross walking professional certifications with credit-bearing courses where possible.
- **Credit for Experiential Learning:** Follows recommendations made by Guided Pathways CPL Workgroup verbatim - includes the creation of a 1-hour CEL course to help students reflect of prior college level learning experiences. Creates a committee for reviewing CEL.
- **Apprenticeships:** Again, no major changes. Renews commitment to engage with regional employers to expand our current capacity in the SUNY Apprenticeship Program in untapped industries.
- **Standardized Published Exams:** Follows recommendations made by Guided Pathways CPL Workgroup verbatim - Permit non-matriculated students to receive college credit by examination. Make a concerted effort to build out the standardized exam equivalencies. Several other recommendations were made, most of which are procedural.
- **Portfolio Review:** MVCC does not have a Portfolio for Credit Policy but would commit to creating one. Few students historically have utilized this option outside of Art courses, but we can design a process with faculty out of our existing CEL policy.
- **Non-Credit to Credit Pathways:** No major changes - renews commitment to find opportunities where multiple non-credit courses could be combined to align with existing course learning outcomes to create opportunities where credit can be awarded. This will follow the microcredential policy and follow the same CWCC process.
- **Transfer Credit:** Follows recommendations made by Guided Pathways CPL Workgroup verbatim - no major changes except for the following policy change:

The current transfer policy regarding transfer credit at MVCC identifies that "...grades of "P" or "S" are acceptable only for Physical Education courses and for College Foundations Seminar." Given that "...transfer courses are assigned a grade of "T" and are not used in calculating the students' GPA,".

The college, through the PLA committee, recommends a change in policy to allow for the transfer in of "P" and "S" grades for all cases where a transferred "P" is equal to a "C" or higher.
- **Data Collection:** we are currently identifying baseline data for SUNY reporting.