

MVCC College Senate Meeting

Tuesday, February 5, 2025

2:30pm WH 225

Attendance

Present

E. Brindisi	E. Bush	K. Cordary	S. Crocker	H. Doty
N. Evanoff	M. Faitell	S. Frisbee	R. Golden	C. Hendricks
J. Ireland	M. Kuczynski	T. Lock	S. McGovern	S. McManus
K. McNamara	A. Miller	C. Miller	R. Miller	K. Montague
A. Nolan	M. Parry	A. Roy–Small	S. Selden	C. VanNamee
R. VanWagoner	F. Vellone	J. Wilcox	L. Williams	R. Wittenberg

Student Senators

M. Be	O. Green	O. Ma
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Absent/Excused

T. Burke	S. Dar	D. Head	R. Huyck	M. McHarris
S. Silverman	L. Warring	J. Wilkie		

Call to Order

C. Miller called the meeting to order at 2:33 PM.

Remembering S. Cummings

There was a moment of silence in remembrance of S. Cummings.

Award Presentation

R. VanWagoner presented the February Heart of the Hawk Award to D. Sonne and the February Pride of the Hawk Award to C. Ho.

President's Report

R. VanWagoner

R. VanWagoner referenced his recent College Update emails in lieu of a written report this month. He remarked that the Cabinet has been meeting on a daily basis to coordinate the new and existing federal, state, county, and SUNY guidelines and executive orders. His goal is to communicate frequently without over-communicating, as some executive orders are quickly challenged and the balance of the varying levels of legislation is delicate.

R. VanWagoner also expressed his appreciation for those who have volunteered to serve on committees for the upcoming Middle States accreditation visit.

Student Congress Report

O. Ma

In her first report as Student Congress President, O. Ma shared that D. Gibbons and D. Hopkinson are the new and welcoming advisors to Student Congress. The officers of Student Congress are J. Drake (Vice-President of Rome), M. Be (Treasurer), A. Dunckel (Student Trustee), and V. Wiegand (Program Board Director). There will be an election for the Vice-President of Utica via paper ballot and volunteers to serve on the Excellence Award and Judiciary committees are still being sought.

Old Business

Senate Survey Feedback

E. Bush, S. McManus

E. Bush shared an overview of the [survey results](#) from the Fall 2024 semester. She highlighted that regardless of years of service, the biggest challenge for senators is communication with constituents. Additionally, new senators are seeking further guidance and mentoring. Senate Advisory is currently developing a mentoring workshop for the Summer Institute. Senators are most looking forward to the work of the rearrangement and reorganization of committees.

New Business

Electronic Information and Technology Ad Hoc Committee Update

A. Nolan, V. Fuentes

A. Nolan shared an overview of the [EIT Update](#) that had been tabled in December. There was a session about making documents more accessible at the recent January Institute. A. Nolan will meet with T. Coulson and B. Rogan to make changes to the EIT policies and procedures, with an emphasis on increasing education and awareness to make digital content more accessible. The committee's goal is to complete their work and give a final report by the end of the spring semester.

Policies

A. Nolan

A. Nolan shared that in August, SUNY held a series of meetings with diversity officers from each campus, wherein they discussed policies and procedures each campus should have to reflect best practices. Although we have had practices that often align with those discussed, the College has not had formal policies in place.

Three new policies and revisions to a fourth are being shared today. A. Nolan will seek an endorsement of these policies at the March Senate meeting.

New: Identification Card Policy ([read here](#))

The purpose of this policy is to enhance campus safety and security. A. Nolan shared the following key points:

- students must carry a valid MVCC ID
- ID must be presented upon request by authorized personnel
- unauthorized use, alteration, or refusal may lead to disciplinary action
- lost, stolen, or damaged cards must be replaced at Public Safety

There were several questions about the policy, including:

- S. Crocker: What are the consequences to students failing to present their ID?
Answer: It will vary depending on the situation, but generally students are permitted to retrieve their ID from where it was left, or they will working with the student to get one
- S. Crocker: What is the policy regarding religious face-coverings in ID photographs?
Answer: A. Nolan will research SUNY's recommendations
- S. McGovern: When, and for what reason, would safety officers ask for an ID to be presented?
Answer: An ID might be requested if a suspicious person was reported, for example, or if there is a disturbance on campus. Generally it is in an attempt to identify whether the person is a student or affiliated with the College. People will not be stopped without reason.
- A. Miller: Is there a mechanism to offer scholarships to students who cannot afford the \$10 fee to replace their ID?
Answer: Yes, it is possible. The fee serves as a deterrent for students reporting lost IDs that are not actually lost.

New: Camping and Use of Tents on Campus Policy ([read here](#))

The purpose of this policy is to prohibit unauthorized camping and encampments. A. Nolan shared the following key points:

- no overnight stays, tents for living purposes, or temporary structures
- permits are required for tents larger than 400 square feet
- exceptions for approved events, emergencies, or tailgating
- enforced by Student Affairs, Human Resources, and Public Safety

A discussion concerning unhoused students living out of their car on campus followed. If a student discloses they are in such a situation, faculty are not required to report it, but are encouraged to connect the student with C3, the Foundation, or their SSA for resources to aid the student. C3 has helped students obtain housing in the past, including recently over the winter break.

New: Mohawk Valley Community College Posting Policy ([read here](#))

The purpose of this policy is to relegate bulletin board postings for clear, organized communication. A. Nolan shared the following key points:

- flyers/posters allowed only on designated bulletin boards
- must include the sponsoring group and contact information
- no posting on walls, windows, vehicles, or other restricted areas
- violations may result in removal and loss of posting privileges

Highlights of the discussion on this policy include the following:

- advertising personal businesses is not permitted
- in buildings where doors and walls are primarily windows, short-term notices (such as those announcing a cancelled class) can be posted on the frames surrounding the windows
 - o it was suggested that a particle board (such as those at the entries of the Rome building) could be installed in such locations
- the policy does not apply to decorative posters
- an email address for student clubs to use can be created

Revised: Public Order: Assembly, Picketing, and Demonstration Policy ([read here](#))

The purpose of this policy is to support free speech and peaceful assembly while maintaining order. A. Nolan shared the following key updates:

- designated areas for public demonstrations
- 48-hour advance notice is required for approval
- prohibited activities include blocking entrances, unauthorized amplification, and overnight encampments
- compliance will be enforced via ID checks and disciplinary action if necessary

These updates use stronger language to affirm the College's dedication to free speech and public demonstration while maintaining campus order. The College does not issue permits for demonstrations, but rather gives permission. No other person or institution can give permission on the College's behalf.

By-Laws Conversation

A. Miller

The Senate Advisory has been working to update Senate By-Laws. A. Miller reviewed the changes to Article 5 that have been made so far. Senators can view the changes and add their comments by scanning or ctrl-clicking on the QR code to the right.

In March the Senate will discuss Article 4. In particular, should the term and service limits for Senate officers remain three consecutive terms of two years each, or should it be changed to two consecutive terms of three years each?

C. Miller remarked that Senate Advisory will continue to share updates concerning their work on the By-Laws throughout the semester, with the Senate voting on the final version in May.



Chairperson's Report

C. Miller

C. Miller began her report by welcoming the new Student Congress president O. Ma and the other student senators M. Be, and O. Green. Additionally, C. Miller shared her appreciation for the increase in senators reaching out to their constituents and bringing their feedback to Senate meetings. Lastly, S. Frisbee will send an elections email in the upcoming weeks,

Vice Presidents' Report

L. Kahler, K. Pine, T. Squires

Appreciation for the January Training with Jen Adams was shared, and K. Pine thanked A. Roy-Small, J. DeWeerth, and C. Ho for their work on the recent changes to Title IX. The full report is appended to these minutes.

FCCC Report

A. Miller

A. Miller summarized the [restructuring proposal](#) from the SUNY Transfer Task Force. The proposal was approved by the SUNY Board of Trustees at their December meeting. A. Miller also highlighted that FCCC continues to work with college trustees and presidents on budget advocacy, and has sent a letter to Chancellor King, thanking him for his work in shared governance with the inaugural [SUNY Accessibility Advocates & Allies Fellows](#).

To stay in touch with SUNY news, A. Miller recommends visiting the [SUNY Press Releases page](#) on their website. The Public Good U Conference will be held this week and the Spring Plenary is planned for April 3–5. Senators may also be interested in the upcoming online professional development on data literacy for higher education, available at <https://cpd.suny.edu/>.

Questions and Open Forum

There were no questions or comments raised at the open forum.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:49 PM.

Next Senate Meeting: Tuesday, March 4th at 2:30PM via Teams

Senate Advisory Routing Sheet due: Tuesday, February 18th

Next Senate Advisory Meeting: Tuesday, February 25th 2:30PM via Teams

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Radlowski

Vice-Presidents' Report

BERT Review update:

- Thanks to all who attended the Friday, Jan 17 session with Jen Adams. Evaluation still forthcoming.
- BERT Team will begin with training on the NABITA Risk Rubric anticipated Thursday, Jan 31. Subsequent to the training this will be added to the process as the standard tool for the initial screening and evaluation of BERT reports.
- Working with NABITA and Team member schedules to complete the full certification training.

Title IX changes:

Please be advised that on January 9, 2025, the 2024 Title IX Final Rule was vacated nationally in a decision by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky. In this decision, the court stated that the Department of Education exceeded its statutory authority in implementing the 2024 Title IX Final Rule and violated the First Amendment of the Constitution.

- We have been directed to revert to the 2020 Title IX Final Rule and associated policy and procedures.
- We have taken all steps associated with this change and in accordance with SUNY's direction. If you have not received a campus communication from Jen DeWeerth before this Senate meeting, one will be coming to announce the formal posting of the new (old) policy and procedures on our website.

Brief division activity highlights:

Michelle Burdick, Counselor, received the Student Affairs Lighten the Way Award; Rome Student Services hosted the annual Discover Rome program serving 65 area BOCES students with an introduction to Rome campus and their programs; GEAR UP will be completing the application for consideration in their next grant by February 3; College residences met projected targets for spring semester; SPIRE induction ceremony welcomed 17 new members and announced 2 scholarship recipients; Financial Reality Fair brought more than 150 local high school students to campus to complete a highly interactive simulated activity teaching budgeting, economics, and financial management strategies.

Appreciation for the support and kindness extended to our teams and students who are impacted by the passing of Sandy Cummings.

Experience Gourmet Dining at MVCC's Spring Lunch Series!

Join us this spring for an unforgettable dining experience at MVCC's Hospitality Program Wednesday & Friday Lunch Series! Indulge in a 6-course meal, thoughtfully crafted by students from our Restaurant Operations 2, Bakeshop Operations 2, and Dining Room Service classes. This series is a unique combination of student-led learning and real-world experience. Hospitality students are responsible for all facets of the dining experience, from menu creation, recipe testing/costing, preparation, and service. The confluence of the three courses creates an immersive real-world food service operation simulation for the students to demonstrate and hone the skills learned throughout the program.

Dates:

- April 9th, 11th, 16th, 18th, 25th, 30th
- May 2nd

Reserve Your Spot:

Reservations open in mid-March at mvcceats.square.site. Don't miss out – limited seats are available! Treat yourself to exquisite food, great company, and a chance to support our future hospitality stars. We can't wait to serve you!

Ad Astra:

There is new functionality available with our Ad Astra Scheduling software. An implementation team will be working to get set up and maximize the new functionality. This will allow us more data analytics on scheduling, and allow for more ease with booking rooms and managing the academic and room scheduling.

Weather (or other) Closing Information:

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.

3rd Floor Payne Hall Signs:

We are in the final stages of the Utica campus signage project. The project included the outdoor “you are here” maps, the building signs and the signs inside the buildings. The final buildings to be completed are Wilcox Hall and the Jorgensen Center. We are also working on some additional signs on the first floor of Payne Hall for some of the departments located there.

I've had several people ask about the signs for offices on the 3rd floor of Payne Hall. When we did the signs for offices we of course made sure they were ADA compliant. This was one of the major drivers for the project. To be compliant the signs have to be a certain height and a certain distance from the door. The unfortunate down side to this is the signs are difficult to see from the main hallway. To compensate for this people have printed signs and taped them to the walls along the main hallway so people can more easily tell which offices were located in the corridors off the main hallway. As folks have pointed out, they look terrible. They are nowhere close to ADA compliant, but since they are not “official” signs we can get away with that. As we complete the project we are going to work with the designers to see what we can do to put official signs up to replace the printed ones taped to the wall.

Respectfully submitted,

Karey Pine, Ed.D, Vice President for Student Affairs

Tom Squires, Vice President for Administrative Services

Lew Kahler, Ed.D., Vice President for Learning and Academic Affairs