

MVCC College Senate Meeting

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

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	J. Ireland	M. Kuczynski
T. Lock	S. McGovern	M. McHarris	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

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

R. Huyck	S. Silverman	L. Warring	K. Montague	A. Roy–Small
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Call to Order

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

December & February Minutes

The December minutes were approved. (S. Crocker, M. Kuczynski) (25, 0, 0)

The February minutes were approved. (N. Evanoff, K. McNamara) (27, 0, 2)

Student Congress Report

O. Ma

O. Ma announced the newly elected vice president for Utica is P. Pa Pa Moe. Proposals for club funding will be changed to resolutions to better balance the distribution of funds across clubs, and QR codes will be used for voting on proposals and resolutions, as they are more efficient than the paddles currently being used.

Last month O. Ma and M. Be attended the SUNY Student Assembly, where they discussed issues within the community, including increasing funding, the [EOP program](#), and investing in the food pantry and mental health.

Old Business

Policies

A. Nolan

Public Order: Assembly, Picketing, and Demonstration Policy

J. Ireland (S. McManus) moved to endorse the policy and the motion carried. (24, 0, 1)

Camping and Use of Tents on Campus Policy

A. Nolan followed-up on a concern about students or community members sleeping in vehicles or buildings on campus. If you encounter this situation, please contact public safety and they will help the person find appropriate resources. A motion to endorse the policy (R. Wittenberg, C. Hendricks) carried (24, 0, 1).

Identification Card Policy

The following concerns were discussed:

- The \$10 fee for lost or damaged ID cards is built into the tuition/fee schedule and has been approved by the Board of Trustees. Those aware of anybody who hasn't replaced their ID card due to a financial hardship should contact Chief B. Coromato.
- There remains a concern about face coverings for religious beliefs with regards to ID photos. The College is bound by SUNY guidelines, which require faces to be visible in ID photos. Although there are no known such conflicts having occurred, the Department of Public Safety will work with students on an individual basis to handle any situations that do arise in a way that will ensure students are comfortable, such as providing a female security officer to check ID. If anybody is aware that there has been an issue, please let the Department of Public Safety know so they can discuss the issue and come to a resolution. A. Miller will also bring this concern to the FCCC plenary in April to encourage the Student Services Committee to advocate for a better SUNY policy.

M. Parry made a motion to endorse the policy (E. Bush second). The motion carried (22, 0, 3).

Mohawk Valley Community College Posting Policy

In response to concerns raised at the February meeting, A. Nolan specified that fliers cannot be hung on windows or glass, unless they are temporary notices (for example, a notice that the pool is closed today) or directional signs (such as those used for events). Moreover, there are removable bulletin boards in storage that can be used in Jorgenson to allow more room for fliers. Other signs, such as those announcing auditions, can be posted throughout the College, but not on windows.

Discussions that concern enforcing this policy are currently ongoing with Facilities and other departments. However, anybody can remove signs or postings with a past date or fliers for businesses unrelated to the College.

A motion to endorse the policy (S. Crocker, M. Parry) passed (25, 0, 2).

New Business

Applied Learning Workgroup Update & Recommendations

S. Miller, R. Kelly

S. Miller and R. Kelly shared an update from the Applied Learning Workgroup with the following seven recommendations to streamline processes around applied learning, as well as implement high impact practices leading to equitable pathways and upward career mobility for students:

1. Create a shared internship/practicum/clinical onboarding process for students college-wide
2. Expand the Internship Fair to include more academic programs, and expand the Internship Expo, where students share their experiences
3. Create college-wide employer affiliation contracts, completed upon request of employer only
4. Create a system by which all applied learning is tracked across the College
5. Explore an AAS program applied learning requirement and/or expanded opportunities to be implemented college-wide by 2028
6. Use an online platform to track and evaluate students' professional skills development throughout various applied learning experiences
7. Adhere to the [NACE](#) guidelines on paid internships and advocate for students to be paid for internships whenever possible

Questions, concerns, and feedback from senators included the following:

- In response to questions regarding the definition of “internship,” S. Miller replied that an internship differs from an employer site visit, which differs from internal activities, all of which fall under the umbrella of SUNY’s applied learning definition. Programs would require applied learning (recommendation 5) which would not necessarily need to be an internship. Moreover, since students are not all similarly prepared for internships, a course (recommendation 1) would help level the playing field.
- Currently the tracking of internships is being done in Argos. Work is being done to help support equitable opportunities, including for students with unreliable transportation and meals.
- There was further discussion about the addition of a requirement to programs, and senators encouraged the Workgroup to connect with CWCC and faculty in AOS and AAS programs to document what is currently being done in those programs.

The next steps include visiting Faculty Caucus, reviewing the feedback with the Workgroup, and then bringing the recommendations to the vice presidents and assistant vice presidents to determine the best way to implement them.

Those with additional questions or concerns should contact S. Miller or R. Kelly.

AI Guidelines Taskforce Update

M. Parry, F. Vellone

The Artificial Intelligence Taskforce requests feedback on the proposed guidelines. Technology is rapidly changing and the Taskforce does not want to inhibit academic freedom. Senators should share the guidelines with their constituents and send feedback to M. Parry and F. Vellone. An endorsement of the policy will be discussed at the March senate meeting.

Update from Chief Diversity Officer

T. Marshall

T. Marshall shared the charter for the Bias Incident Accountability and Support (BIAS) Team, which will provide a means for students to share incidents of microaggression and bias experiences so that data can be collected and incidents triaged to appropriate departments. There was some discussion about the membership being all male (female members initially discussed for the Team had a conflict of interest, such as being Title IX coordinator), as well as that this team would be for students only. In the future such a team may be developed to whom employees could report. T. Marshall will bring the charter to Student Congress for discussion.

Proposed Amendment to the 2026-29 Calendar

D. Sonne

D. Sonne shared a proposed amendment to the 2026–29 calendar from Faculty Caucus. The Amendment suggests moving the new Fall Break so that it overlaps with Columbus/Indigenous Peoples' Day, rather than at the midterm of the semester. After some discussion of the appropriate governance process, it was decided to bring the amendment to Calendar Committee for review.

Chairperson's Report

C. Miller

C. Miller commented that the elections process is in the early stages, with S. Frisbee and G. Karol reviewing committee members' terms and composing the nomination form. Expect a nomination email to be sent in the coming weeks. Additionally, proposed changes to the Senate By-Laws will be discussed in April.

C. Miller remarked that she and Advisory have adjusted their approach to crafting meeting agendas so that substantial topics will be brought for a first read to Senate meetings, followed by a vote at the subsequent Senate meeting to allow senators sufficient time to report and gather feedback from their constituents.

President's Report & Budget Update

R. VanWagoner

R. VanWagoner shared an update on the budget. He included relevant rankings of MVCC within SUNY with regards to Pell-eligible students, graduation rates, enrollment, and tuition. He also shared that the Climate Survey ranks MVCC as first among SUNY institutions in career planning, college social activities, community service experiences connected to class and independent of class, and access to computers and technology. After providing historical context of the 2023–24 and 2024–25 budgets, R. VanWagoner summarized the assumptions and goals for the 2025–26 budget. The approach to closing the \$2.7 million budget gap is to find efficiencies, invest strategically, and investigate new revenue streams while budgeting conservatively.

Vice Presidents' Report

L. Kahler, K. Pine, T. Squires

Please refer to the attached report. There were no questions or comments on the report.

FCCC Report

A. Miller

A. Miller shared the following updates:

- Tomorrow, March 5th 9:45am–10:15am
Transfer Town Hall: SUNY Transfer Initiative: Advancement of SUNY Transfer Task Force Recommendations

Online Town Hall Format, Hosted by the Office of SUNY Student Success
Opening Remarks from Chancellor John B. King

Join us for the kickoff of the SUNY Transfer Initiative, which will advance the recently approved recommendations of [the SUNY Transfer Task Force](#). Learn more about upcoming projects, technology, tools, new communities, professional development, and overarching goals, all designed to dramatically improve the SUNY transfer landscape and outcomes of students who transfer within the system. All members of the SUNY community are invited to attend. [Register for the Session](#)

- A. Miller appointed to serve on the SUNY Transfer Advisory Council (TAC)
 - Charge meeting held 2-26-25
 - Top priority is a more visible, collaborative transfer appeal process and rebooting transfer path development.
 - Oversees 4 subcommittees being organized now (SUNY Transfer path, Student Transfer Services, Transfer Data & Communications, and Student Advisory)
- The Department of Education published FAQ clarification of their February 14 "[Dear Colleague letter](#)" with additional guidance [here](#).
- Upcoming dates:
 - President Candice Vacin visiting our campus on her campus tour March 25 (including faculty open forum)
 - FCCC plenary at Columbia-Greene Community College April 3-5

Faculty Caucus Report

S. Dar

S. Dar shared that the BIAS Team charter and the Academic calendar were discussed. A resolution on MVCC's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion was passed. In the future, parking and electric car chargers will be discussed at Faculty Caucus.

Questions and Open Forum

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

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Next Senate Meeting: Tuesday, April 1st at 2:30PM via Teams

Senate Advisory Routing Sheet due: Tuesday, March 18th

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

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Radlowski

Vice-Presidents' Report

Legal and Policy Changes

- Title IX: Jen DeWeerth and Amanda Roy-Small continue to work with Chrono Ho to ensure the update to our webpage and policy communications are completed and accurate.
- Title VI: Conducting a review of current protocols to determine alignment with other conduct processes as appropriate.
- Reviewing all Title VI and IX policies and procedures per the Dear Colleague letter of February 14 including NYS and community of practice reviews and recommendations.
- Once Title IX website update is completed, College community can expect that a communication regarding several policy updates will be shared. (e.g. Title IX, Campus Hazing, and Wheeled Recreational Vehicles).

Behavioral Intervention and Care Team Training Update

- 6 team members are registered to complete full Behavioral Intervention Team Best Practice and Risk Rubric trainings online in March from NABITA.
- Scheduling joint session with Care Team from SUNY Poly.
- Planning to host a campus session (perhaps spring institute?) to review behavioral intervention best practices and campus modifications.

Brief Division Activity Highlights

- Hosted inaugural Path to Poly resource and recruitment fair; VPSA hosted first pop-up Munchkin Mondays to meet and greet more than 100 students, sharing introduction of position and information about Inspo/Agile Brain; continued refining to launch several student and data management platforms in OAR, Holistic Student Support, and Admissions; established and hired 10 new student assistants participating in paid Applied Learning experiences while supporting Pre-ETS planning and programming; Fall 2025 Housing solicitations sent to all who indicated an interest in housing during application acceptance process; Career Services hosted a Health Sciences Career Fair bringing 51 registered employers and BSN programs – and included the LifeNet helicopter landing at the Utica campus; Rome Campus hosted BOCES staff for NYS Distance Learning event Jan 9 & 10 (40 attendees) and a Jan. 30 leadership training for Lowe's teams. (70 attendees).
- Seventy-one students accepted membership into PTK this semester and will be recognized at an induction ceremony on Feb 24th where Dean Jess Wilkie served as the keynote speaker.
- MV Empowers has announced that MVCC will be the recipient of \$2.3M for CCED to work with Herkimer College, Fulton Montgomery Community College and SUNY Oneonta to replicate Fast Track.
- MVCC Athletics Update: Postseason is officially here for Winter Sports. The Bowling team will be heading to the NJCAA National Championships, hosted by Erie Community College. Men's and Women's Basketball will be entering the NJCAA Region III

Tournament. The Women are seeded 6th and will take on 11 seeded Genesee Community College at 7:00pm on Tuesday, 2/25 at MVCC. With a win, the women will advance to the final 8 which is hosted this weekend at Jefferson Community College. The Men received the #1 seed after finishing the regular season with a 23-1 record and will take on winner of the #8/#9 match up in the final 8 which is hosted at Herkimer College.

- We will host its annual STEM Fest, a celebration of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics for all ages, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 29, 2025, in Francis A. Wilcox Hall at the Utica Campus. Admission is free.
- Corinne Wilson and Chelli Kaufman will be doing a training session on Business Office forms and process on Wednesday March 19 in Payne Hall 102 from 11 am to noon. The session is titled "Business Office-What the College Needs to Know" and will cover how to prepare purchase requisitions, purchase orders, payment vouchers, travel vouchers and other related topics. If you or someone you know or work with is interested in attending, please RSVP to Tania Bader at tbader@mvcc.edu.

Upcoming:

- March 14: OHM BOCES School Counselor Summit hosted at the MVCC Utica campus.
- April 16: Student Affairs Institute focused on Student Affairs today: Care for students, professionals and our communities.
- Spring Institute: Look for planned update and information about Ellucian Advise implementation from Holistic Student Support.

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