

# MVCC College Senate Meeting

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

2:30pm Teams

## Attendance

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### 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	J. Ireland	T. Lock	S. McGovern
M. McHarris	S. McManus	K. McNamara	A. Miller	C. Miller
M. Parry	S. Selden	C. VanNamee	R. VanWagoner	F. Vellone
J. Wilcox	J. Wilkie	L. Williams	R. Wittenberg	M. Kuczynski

### Student Senators

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

C. Hendricks	R. Huyck	R. Miller	K. Montague	A. Nolan
A. Roy–Small	S. Silverman	L. Warring		

## Call to Order

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

## Review of the March 4<sup>th</sup> Minutes

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The minutes from the March 4<sup>th</sup> Senate Meeting were approved (E. Brindisi, M. Parry) (24, 0, 1).

## Pride of the Hawk and Heart of the Hawk Awards

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*R. VanWagoner*

R. VanWagoner presented the Heart of the Hawk Award to J. Krohn and the Pride of the Hawk Award to D. Gallagher.

## President's Report

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*R. VanWagoner*

R. VanWagoner reported that about half of the Budget Forums have been completed, and that the virtual session has been rescheduled for later in April. R. VanWagoner also commented that though he will be present at the upcoming hiring forums from human resources, he will only be there to introduce the forums, and he will not be present for the full discussion in order to allow for an uninhibited exchange of ideas.

## **Student Congress Report**

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*O. Ma*

O. Ma reported that there is just over \$10,600 in the Student Congress account. Student Congress T-shirts will be ordered for students (logos are currently being explored), and professional attire for the executive team is also being ordered. O. Ma will attend the Student Assembly on the 26<sup>th</sup>–27<sup>th</sup> of this month and will report back next month. Elections and interviews for all positions are in progress for the Fall Semester.

## **Old Business**

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### **Proposed Amendment to the 2026-29 Calendar from Faculty Caucus**

*H. Doty*

The Calendar Committee was reconvened to discuss the amendment submitted by Faculty Caucus that the Fall Break be aligned with Columbus/Indigenous Peoples Day. Ultimately the committee decided against the amendment for several reasons, including:

- the upcoming Middle States review will include examining that we adhere to the rules and processes of shared governance policy
- aligning the Fall and Spring calendars to have mid-semester breaks that separate the A– and B– Term classes is better for the student experience
- low attendance at physical education classes when breaks are at the end of the term
- Columbus/Indigenous Peoples Day is just one of many days that public schools are not in session

The Committee appreciates the feedback and will consider it in the creation of the next calendar. S. Dar thanked H. Doty and the committee for their willingness to review the amendment.

### **AI Guidelines Taskforce Recommendations (2nd Reading)**

*M.J. Parry, F. Vellone*

M. Parry outlined a few changes that had been made based on feedback that was received throughout the last month. E. Brindisi (S. Bush) moved to endorse the recommendations. The motion passed unanimously (29, 0, 0).

## **New Business**

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### **Overview of New Academic Integrity Tutorial in Brightspace**

*J. Ireland, C. Ehrlich, J. Wilkie*

There has been a drastic increase in the suspected use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and related functions in student work over the past two years, and it is clear that a new definition of academic integrity is needed. The former tutorial in Blackboard was reviewed and heavily updated and revised for Brightspace. The new tutorial is intended for students who have been caught in violation of the Academic Integrity Policy, and may be used preemptively in CF100 in the future.

An overview of the Brightspace site was shared, highlighting that the material has been chunked into four modules. Each module includes videos and an assignment (such as a

reflection or a quiz). Faculty can view the videos [here](#). Topics addressed include misconceptions about plagiarism and academic integrity. Assessments and reflections are reviewed by those with administrative access to the course site, including J. Wilkie, N. Chrisman, T. Carter, C. Ehrlich, and J. Ireland.

The site will be more regularly maintained in the future to remain relevant to changing technologies, and data is being more intentionally collected and reviewed by the academic deans. In response to a request from APSC, a dynamic form has been created for faculty to report violations of academic integrity (available on MyMV soon) and future goals include establishing a system to track patterns across classes.

### **Credit for Experiential Learning Fee**

*H. Doty*

In response to new SUNY requirements, H. Doty is proposing that the current fee structure for credit for experiential learning (CEL) be changed to a flat fee. Currently students pay two-thirds of the cost of a course for such a credit. Since the majority of applications are for a 3-credit course – resulting in a fee of \$438 – the new proposed flat fee is \$500.

E. Brindisi expressed concerns about potential conflicts with the Professional Association (PA), which includes language concerning CEL in the contract. L. Kahler responded that the payment to faculty is based on the fee that is charged and there is no contract violation. However, the PA can reach out to human resources and L. Kahler for further discussion.

S. Dar asked what other colleges are charging. H. Doty replied that there is a lot of discussion among colleges about prior learning assessment (PLA) and that there is a wide spectrum of responses. For example, fees across institutions vary widely. There are policies in place to prevent students from “shopping around” to get credit from a cheaper institution just to transfer it elsewhere. A. Miller shared that one such policy is to require students be matriculated for credit evaluations. H. Doty agreed that is a common practice.

A. Miller asked how many students will be impacted. H. Doty responded that since the dynamic forms were launched about a year ago, there have been 89 forms.

Though the Board of Trustees ultimately sets prices, H. Doty is looking for an endorsement of the fee change from the Senate. S. Crocker commented that much of the discussion at Faculty Caucus and Senate over the past year has centered around ensuring senators have enough time to review materials and consult their constituents prior to voting. Best practices would have a first read of this proposal at this meeting, with a vote in May. After a conversation regarding budget and timeline, E. Bush (S. McManus) motioned to postpone a vote to next month. The motion carried (24, 0, 4) and the fee will be discussed again in May.

### **Senate By-Laws Revisions (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)**

*A. Miller*

The current draft of the Senate By-Laws includes major revisions to Article 3. The Senate spent time in Breakout rooms discussing the changes and recording the results [here](#). Senators are asked to provide comments and feedback to the By-Laws by April 15<sup>th</sup> so that the document can be properly revised. Next month the Senate will be asked to vote on the By-Laws.

## **Chairperson's Report**

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*C. Miller*

C. Miller reported on the status of Senate elections. Tomorrow an email will be sent requesting nominations for Senate committees. Nominations will be accepted for two weeks and after the form is created, there will be a week and a half for the election. Results will be shared towards the end of April.

Plans for a New Senator Mentoring Program are in development. Ideally there will be a session for Summer Institute for newly elected senators, as well as all senators who would like to provide or receive support.

S. Frisbee and C. Miller will meet this month to adjust the form for committee and council reports based on feedback from the Senate Advisory retreat last summer. Reports will be due at the end of the semester.

The May Special Senate meeting will likely be held on May 13<sup>th</sup> or May 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be a vote for Senate Advisory members at that meeting. At the end of this week, C. Miller, A. Miller, S. Dar, M. Barlett, and R. VanWagoner will attend the FCCC Spring Plenary.

## **Vice Presidents' Report**

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*L. Kahler, K. Pine, T. Squires*

No questions or concerns were shared regarding the attached report.

## **FCCC Report**

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*A. Miller*

A. Miller will have much to report on next month after the Plenary. Those with questions or concerns for A. Miller should email or talk with her before the Plenary. Current items of note include:

- The FCCC Executive Committee has written a [letter](#) and [resolution](#) that will be distributed to congressional representatives, calling on the NY State delegation to support the United States Department of Education.
- SUNY has issued a document highlighting their budget priorities, available [here](#)
- A survey regarding the use of AI in tutoring is available [here](#), with preferred completion by April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- A "Civic Learning Through a Lens of Racial Equity Workshop" will be held on Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Those interested in attending can find more information [here](#).

## **Faculty Caucus Report**

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*S. Dar*

S. Dar shared that at the March Meeting, L. Kahler reported on his conversation with the SUNY Chancellor and gave several updates on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). L. Kahler also encouraged faculty to attend the budget forums. T. Marshall also discussed concerns related to DEI, especially in the current political climate. The Applied Learning Workgroup and General Education gave updates, and the redesign of WH 150 was discussed.

## **Questions and Open Forum**

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C. Miller reminded the Senate that the next meeting will be held in person, in WH 225. R. Wittenberg also shared a reminder that a Middle States representative will be on campus on Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, with an open forum from 1:00–1:50pm in the Schafer Theater (streamed to the Rome campus in PC 129).

## **Adjournment**

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The meeting was adjourned at 4:23 PM.

**Next Senate Meeting:** Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:30PM in WH 225

**Senate Advisory Routing Sheet due:** Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Next Senate Advisory Meeting:** Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> 2:30PM via Teams

Respectfully submitted,  
Anna Radlowski

## **Vice-Presidents' Report**

- The Academic Integrity tutorial was first created prior to COVID and has been a step deans could use in response to instructor-reported incidents of Academic Integrity concerns. The old tutorial was text heavy, not interactive, not comprehensive, did not mention AI (as it did not widely exist at the time), and had no accountability measures built in. When created, the old tutorial represented a reasonable package for addressing incidences of plagiarism, and some other forms of dishonesty. The new tutorial includes in-house made videos, opportunities for students to reflect on the actions that have led them there, multiple “quizzes”, and connection to related MVCC support services. Thank you to the team that designed the new package:

Co-leads: Jocelyn Ireland, Claire Ehrlich

HUMT- Dave Nackley

HOBS- Ross Wittenberg

PAHS- Katey Cordary AND Dina Radeljas

STEM-Career- Jeff Birt

STEM-transfer- Nick Gioppo

Health- John Ringlehan

ART- Jerome Lalonde

Learning Commons/Writing Center- Danielle Del Giudice

The tutorial was presented to HSS last week. If anyone else would like to view the new tutorial, please let Jess Wilkie know. You will need a Brightspace account to view the tutorial directly.

- The School of Art hosted more than 50 arts educators on the Utica Campus for our Professional Development Day on 3/14. The day was a great success for us and our K-12 partners. Congrats to Dean Behrendt and his team in the School of Art.
- At the recent Phi Theta Kappa NY Regional Convention 2025, the Lambda Beta Chapter received several recognitions:

Five Star Chapter – Lambda Beta

Regional Leadership Award – First Place

Regional Community Service Award – First Place

Regional Fellowship Award – Third Place

Regional Edgiest Chapter – First Place

REACH Award for Membership Development

Honors in Action Project – First Place in Theme 1

Honors in Action Project – Top 3 in New York State

Most Distinguished Chapter – Third Place

Most Distinguished Chapter Officer Team – Janell Smith, Haf (Win) Sar, Patrice Flowers, Yu Nadi Mon, Hay Marn Lwin, Ben Ruszala, and Shuya Nakamura

Jodi Oriel Leadership Scholarship Recipients – Janell Smith and Haf (Win) Sar

Most Distinguished Advisor Team – Liz Doherty, Steve Frisbee, Sam McManus, Lorin Williams, Erin Severs, and Danielle Del Giudice

Horizon Award for Advisor – Steve Frisbee

Liz Doherty – Fifteen years of service as Advisor

Sam McManus – Five years of service as Advisor

Danielle Del Giudice – Five-Star Advisor

- The President is holding Campus Budget Conversations to update the College community on the overall financial status of the College and the 2025-26 budget development. The next two are scheduled as follows:
  - Wednesday, March 20 – 3:35-4:30 p.m. AB 173
  - Thursday, March 21 – 10:30-11:30 a.m. WH 225
- **Policy communication:** A communication to all campus employees and students was shared the week of March 24, 2025 highlighting the new *Use of Wheeled Recreational Equipment Policy*, and announcing modifications to both *Title IX* and *Anti-Hazing Policies* due to federal regulatory changes.
- **Behavioral intervention:** Seven members of the behavioral intervention team (currently BERT) have completed NABITA's national training. Two additional members will complete the training this summer. Current practices have already been modified to include use of NABITA's national risk rubric to evaluate referrals for students of concern. Additional updates to our team are expected to include a name change, clarification of mission and operations, and revised communication practices and education activities (including campus meetings and presentations).
- **Division highlights:** The Division of Student Affairs hosted a myriad of educational, cultural, and wellness events in support of student involvement and holistic development. Notable highlights include the Health Sciences Career Fair, the Upward Bound program's college schedule planning workshop, support for the Women's History Month luncheon (with special thanks to Shahida Dar), a women's empowerment day expertly hosted by STEP, and a campus send-off as our men's basketball team headed out on their journey to their first national championship! In addition, our Rome campus hosted Black History and self-care awareness events, providing students with resources for both cultural enrichment and personal well-being.

Student success initiatives also progressed, particularly in enrollment and financial aid. The Spring 2025 class was officially enrolled with a 4.9% increase over last year, and financial aid disbursements and appeals processing were successfully completed. Career and transfer support remained a priority, with events such as SUNY Poly Day and a financial literacy workshop on taxes and W-2s. Meanwhile, Residence Life focused on academic and personal development through programs like "Don't Wing It!", which helped students build study schedules ahead of midterms. The C3 Pantry continued to provide essential support, serving over 1,800 visits in February.

*Looking ahead*, we are preparing for the upcoming Student Affairs Institute (April 16, 2025), student staff selection process, summer programs, and expanded peer mentoring initiatives. Thank you for your ongoing support of Student Affairs programs and services.

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