

**MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
UTICA AND ROME, NEW YORK**

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Mohawk Valley Community College Board of Trustees held in the Stetson Boardroom, Payne Hall, Room 300, Utica, New York was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Waters on Monday, November 18, 2024.

Members Present

Wendy Waters
Dana Jerrard
Anna D'Ambrosio
William S. Calli, Jr.
Elaine Falvo
Frank Dubeck, Jr.
Anthony (Tony) Colón
David Mathis
Camille Kahler
Student Trustee Alex Dunckel

Members Excused

Motion for an executive session to discuss contracts was made by Trustee William Calli and seconded by Trustee Frank Dubeck.
Unanimously approved.

The Board of Trustees entered into executive session at 4:01 p.m.

Motion to end executive session and resume the Board meeting was made by Trustee Frank Dubeck and seconded by Student Trustee Alex Dunckel.

The meeting reconvened at 4:12 p.m.

2. Chair's Report

Chair Waters highlighted several recent achievements and accolades. Four new members were inducted into the MVCC Hall of Fame. Associate Professor Mary Kate LaPaglia received the Pride of Workmanship award from the Rotary Club of Utica. The men's soccer team won their first-ever national championship, defeating the six-time defending champion. The women's soccer team finished as national runner-up. Two cross country students, Katie Buaer and Kaylee McQueenie, competed at nationals while maintaining high GPAs throughout their careers. Ross Wittenberg, Jenny Lewis, and the Fast Track Program will be recognized by the Genesis Group for outstanding education contributions later this week. Sarah Lam did an outstanding job presenting the Fast Track model to NYCCT during a panel presentation recently held.

3. Treasurer's Report

Vice President Squires presented the financial reports and noted that the revenue was slightly less than budgeted, but expected to event out by the end of the year due to grants and

reimbursements. He also pointed out that expenses were slightly higher than last year, mainly due to increased salaries and a change in the health insurance model. Vice President Squires further went on to report that the auditors have completed the fieldwork on campus and will continue to work on the audit of federal funds and financials. The College is waiting on a few more reports from the retirement system which are needed to complete the audit financials.

4. Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Alex Dunckel reported on a number of recent student events and initiatives. The 24-hour gaming club was a success, with over 80 students participating. The Residence Halls are holding a 'Battle of the Halls' which is currently on-going with Butterfield in the lead. The Film Club is making a movie which they hope to premier on campus. The student leadership LEAD program has met with several community leaders, most recently Frank DuRoss, and took a tour of the ThINCubator. Student Congress is focusing on recruitment efforts for Resident Assistants and Student Congress Officers which include a VP of Rome, President and Program Board Director. The Trustee Idea Box included several suggestions that he is working with the Vice Presidents on including a music room, a Club Invention Fair, and gaming room. Further, Student Trustee Dunckel has been gathering feedback from students around updated menu options for the Snack Bar and has been meeting regularly with American Dining and Auxiliary Service Director Jim Suriano. His report concluded with updates around the auditors meeting with Student Congress Officers to review the financials of the Student Congress budget and his major takeaways from the recent ACCT Leadership Congress.

5. Committee and Affiliation Reports

Audit & Finance Committee

Committee Chair Trustee Falvo reported that the Audit & Finance Committee convened on October 22 for the annual pre-audit meeting with D'Arcangelo. During the meeting, the auditors outlined their planned process, the programs they intend to review, and the updated accounting standards that will guide the College's audit.

Dormitory Corporation (DC)

DC Chair Trustee D'Ambrosio reported that the DC Board of Directors met on November 14. During the meeting, the Board reviewed the Fall and Spring occupancy reports, two policies, and investment reports, which highlighted a 12% return on investment. Trustee D'Ambrosio also noted that the residence halls will remain open during the Thanksgiving break.

The DC Board approved two appointments: Savannah Sherman as Residence Hall Housekeeper and Dr. Karey Pine as Assistant Secretary to the DC Board of Directors. Trustee D'Ambrosio concluded by announcing that a special meeting has been scheduled for December 16, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., to review the proposal and funding for the brick restoration project.

Foundation

Executive Director Deanna Ferro-Aurience reported significant progress in updating and enhancing MVCC's alumni records. Since MVCC's first graduating class, there have been over 52,636 unduplicated alumni. Utilizing AlumniFinder data, the Foundation has updated records for 41,377 alumni, with 81% residing in New York State and 62% located within Oneida,

Herkimer, and Madison counties. This updated data will support efforts to strengthen alumni relationships, grow the Alumni Annual Fund, and re-engage both new and lapsed donors.

The MVCC Foundation Board has recently welcomed two new members, Claire Parisi and Amy DeMetri, both with extensive experience in their respective fields. Claire, an engineer, has led research and collaborations, while Amy, with 40 years of financial industry experience, has served in various senior roles. Looking ahead, the Foundation's Governance and Nominating Committee is actively recruiting three new Board members to replace long-serving members concluding their terms in December. Updates on this effort will be shared at future meetings.

Executive Director Ferro-Aurience concluded her report with a Foundation financial update stating that the Foundation has approximately \$9,995,106 in the Strategic Financial Services portfolio. Upcoming Foundation meetings include:

- Annual Board Gathering at Fort Schuyler Club – December 3
- MVCC Foundation Board – December 12

ACCT/NYCCT

Trustee Colón reported that MVCC was well represented at the recent ACCT Leadership Congress. He shared key takeaways, including his re-election to a full term on the ACCT Board and the celebration of President VanWagoner's receipt of the ACCT Northeast Region CEO Award.

Chair Waters, who currently serves as NYCCT's Chair-Elect, provided an update on NYCCT activities. She discussed the Chancellor's Presidential Oversight and the proposed \$30 million spending plan. Updates on NYCCT advocacy efforts included a standing monthly meeting with Governor Hochul's office and the \$100 million funding request for community college budgets.

Chair Waters also noted that the Chancellor has been reopening lines of communication by reaching out to individual Trustees, and all Trustees are maintaining a consistent and united advocacy message. Trustee Mathis, who was selected by NYCCT to represent them, has not yet received any communication regarding the search for the SUNY Senior Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges.

SUNY/NYCCAP

There was no SUNY report.

6. President's Report

President VanWagoner shared his key takeaways from the recent ACCT Leadership Congress which included the success of the Agile Brain Emotional Assessment session lead by himself, Trustee Colón, and Lisa King with Leading Indicator. The ACCT session garnered significant interest from Trustees and Presidents in attendance.

He then reported on this month's Key Performance Indicator (KPI), which focused on how MVCC meets the diverse needs of its students. He highlighted metrics from the student profile, noting that the average age of the student body is 24 years old and that 55% of students are Pell-eligible. MVCC's student profile has remained comparatively consistent over the last five years with the shift in student course-taking behavior being the most dramatic shift from online hybrid

back to on-campus preferred post COVID. President VanWagoner noted that the college's mission to meet the diverse needs of students is a priority, and plans to develop a student survey to capture data around if students feel their needs are met at MVCC.

College Senate

There was no College Senate report.

7. **Vice President Reports:**

The Board had no questions regarding the written reports submitted by the Vice Presidents. Vice President Squires provided additional context to his report, highlighting key data points from the Lightcast Survey, which was distributed to the Board at the start of the meeting. He outlined next steps, including determining how and when to share the survey findings with the County and incorporating the data into ongoing advocacy efforts.

8. **Discussion Items:**

First Reading: Board Policy Use of Wheeled Conveyance on Campus

A first reading of the above policy was presented to the Board. The Board had no further questions or discussion around the proposed policy. The policy will move to the Consent Agenda at the next Board meeting.

Student LEAD Program

The Board had an opportunity to engage with students from our LEAD program, which focuses on student leadership development. LEAD students attended the Board meeting to gain insights into the functioning of a professional board. Trustees shared advice on the value of civic engagement for personal growth and community impact, emphasizing challenges and rewards of involvement. The students also provided an overview of the LEAD program and shared their key takeaways from the experience.

9. **Consent Agenda**

Attachment a. Minutes of October 21, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting

Attachment b. Treasurer's Report

Attachment c. Food Service Kitchen Equipment Donation: MVCC Auxiliary Services Corporation to Mohawk Valley Community College

Attachment d. Revision to 2024-25 and 2025-26 Academic Calendars:
Discontinuance of Intersession

Attachment e. Amend Staffing Plan: Crystal Lewandrowski, Assistant Controller

Attachment f. Kayla Merrill, Community Coordinator

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 9a-9f was made by Chair Wendy Waters and seconded by Trustee Elaine Falvo. Unanimously approved.

10. **Adjournment**

Motion was made by Trustee William S. Calli and seconded by Vice Chair Dana Jerrard to adjourn the meeting at 5:13 p.m. Unanimously approved.