

**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 4:03 p.m. by Chair Waters on Monday, December 16, 2024.

**Members Present**

Wendy Waters  
Dana Jerrard  
Anna D'Ambrosio  
William S. Calli, Jr. (arrived 4:18 p.m.)  
Frank Dubeck, Jr.  
Anthony (Tony) Colón (arrived 4:08 p.m.)  
David Mathis  
Camille Kahler

**Members Excused**

Elaine Falvo  
Student Trustee Alex Dunckel

**2. Chair's Report**

Chair Waters extended heartfelt gratitude to all who attended the recent graduation ceremony, celebrating a significant milestone for 50 students. This graduating class was noted as one of the most visually diverse in the college's history, reflecting the inclusivity and strength of the MVCC community. The ceremony not only marked a moment of pride for the graduates and their families but also underscored the importance of such events in fulfilling the college's mission.

In alignment with the college's focus on Community College 3.0 and post-graduate outcomes, Chair Waters highlighted the success of MVCC alumnus Nazaria DeLoach, Class of 2020, whose story exemplifies the transformative power of an MVCC education.

She concluded her Chair's Report by recognizing recent accolades that demonstrate the college's impact:

**National Apprenticeship Week and Salute to Manufacturing:**

MVCC hosted the Manufacturers Association of Central New York's inaugural *Salute to Manufacturing* event during the 10th annual National Apprenticeship Week. This gathering celebrated apprentices and the businesses supporting apprenticeship programs across New York State, showcasing the importance of partnerships in advancing regional workforce development.

**National Recognition of MVCC Alumnus Landon Malanoski:**

MVCC alumnus Landon Malanoski received national recognition at the White House as part of the National Apprentice Trailblazer Program, which highlights the achievements of youth apprentices aged 16-24. The program, spearheaded by the U.S. Department of Labor, aims to expand and diversify apprenticeship opportunities. Landon was one of only three

apprentices from New York State and 57 nationally selected for this honor. The event, attended by Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su and Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training Jose Javier Rodriguez, emphasized the critical role apprentices play in strengthening the national workforce.

**SPIRE Honor Society:**

Congratulations to the 17 MVCC students who were recently inducted into the SPIRE Honor's Society. The SPIRE Honor Society celebrates the academic achievement of our non-traditional student population.

**3. Treasurer's Report**

Vice President Squires presented the financial reports with revenue and expenses tracking within budget. He then went to provide business office updates on equipment purchases, overage check disbursements to students, and the ongoing audit process. Draft financial statements are expected in early January for review by the board in March.

**4. Student Trustee Report**

There was no Student Trustee report.

**5. Committee and Affiliation Reports**

Governance & Personnel

Committee Chair Trustee Camille Kahler reported that the Governance and Personnel Committee met on November 26. The committee reviewed and endorsed proposed changes to the Board By-Laws which appear later on the agenda under discussion items. The committee also reviewed and discussed turnover rate and employee profile data. The committee also received an update to negotiations and concluded with a legal update.

Auxiliary Services Corporation (ASC)

Vice President Squires reported that the ASC Board met on November 26. ASC Director Jim Suriano and Vice President Squires met with the Regional and General Store Managers of Barnes and Nobles to discuss renewal of the bookstore contract which expires in June 2025. The College is weighing its options and the ASC Board reviewed a few options being considered for the bookstore moving forward.

Foundation

Executive Director Deanna Ferro-Aurience began by providing an update on current campaigns. The five-week Faculty Staff Campaign recently concluded and raised over \$39,293 from 159 donors seeing a thirteen percent increase with 18 new donors over last year. The Year-End "Brighten the Season" campaign is currently underway and includes mailings, emails, and social media focus that will run through the end of the year.

The 2025 MVCC Alumni Award nominees were approved by the MVCC Foundation Board last week and include: Taryn Rackmyer receiving the Young Alumni Award; Monalisa Fermin-Fenell receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award; and James Engler, Jr. being named as the 2025 Alumnus of Merit.

Executive Director Ferro-Aurience concluded her report with a Foundation financial update stating that the Foundation has approximately \$10,341,342 in the Strategic Financial Services portfolio. Upcoming Foundation meetings include:

- January 30 – Foundation Board Meeting

### ACCT/NYCCT

Trustee Colón reported that much is happening in the higher education sector with significant legislative and policy priorities including WIOA and the FAFSA Deadline Act. ACCT encourages participation at the 2025 National Legislative Summit coming up in February to federally advocate legislative priorities.

NYCCT Chair-Elect, Chair Waters reported on a recent meeting with the Chancellor and Chair of the SUNY Board of Trustees held in Rochester on December 6. She further went on to report on developing partnerships and collaborations with the New York State Association of Counties. Advocacy continues with a unified message from NYCCT and developing partnerships and collaborations.

Chair Waters requested that an emergency Board meeting be scheduled within the next two weeks, if necessary, as NYCCT finalizes details to retain special counsel. NYCCT is still finalizing the logistics, and once a resolution is completed, a special meeting of the Board will be arranged if it falls outside the Board's regular meeting schedule.

David Mathis concluded by reporting that he was notified today that the SUNY Vice Chancellor Search Committee will meet in January for the charge meeting with the Chancellor.

### SUNY/NYCCAP

President VanWagoner reported that he plans to attend the upcoming SUNY Presidents' Meeting later this week, as well as the New York State Governor's State of the State Address in January.

## **6. President's Report**

President VanWagoner reported that MVCC, in collaboration with its partners, submitted the ON Ramp application this past Friday. During the application process, data was collected from Franca Armstrong and Sarah Lam to estimate potential usage and capacity for an ON Ramp center. At the application meeting, President VanWagoner highlighted that in the past fall alone, MVCC served 350 free Fast Track students, including 50 students in apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship programs in Advanced Manufacturing and Construction Trades. Additionally, MVCC's unduplicated headcount stands at 8,700 students, and its Community Education and Workforce programs served 18,000 individuals during 2023-2024.

### College Senate

College Senate Chair, Professor Christine Miller reported the progress of various committees and council, including the completion of work by the committees and councils taskforce and the electronic information technology ad hoc group. She concluded by reviewing continuing work of the Senate which includes ongoing work on bylaws and the development of the new senator onboarding and mentoring process.

President VanWagoner continued his report on this month's Key Performance Indicator (KPI), which focused on how MVCC provides accessible educational opportunities. He highlighted the importance of improving the communication pipelines and the focus on student success through career pathways. He reviewed metrics on postgraduate outcomes, emphasizing the need for further work in this area.

President VanWagoner concluded by reviewing the JFF 75 Million Network, MVCC's role as one of the six founding members, and the direction, goals and benefits of being a part of the Network.

#### **7. Vice President Reports:**

The Board had no questions regarding the written reports submitted by the Vice Presidents. Vice President Kahler and Executive Director Todd Marshall provided an overview of the Center for Inclusive Teaching Excellence (CITE).

#### **8. Discussion Items:**

##### **First Reading of Board Policy Revision 1001. Members of the Board**

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 and the website updated to reflect trustees' appointment date and type and remove term expiration.

##### **Middle States Update**

Executive Director Jill Heintz and Middle States Co-Chairs Anne Nolan and Ross Wittenberg provided an update on the Middle States Self Study and priorities. The self study design document is due February 14 and the visit is scheduled for spring 2027. The team outlined their institutional priorities and communication plan. The team emphasized the importance of feedback from faculty, staff, students, and the board throughout the process.

#### **9. Consent Agenda**

*Attachment a.* Minutes of November 18, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting

*Attachment b.* Treasurer's Report

*Attachment c.* New Board Policy: Use of Wheeled Equipment on Campus

*Attachment d.* Amend Strategic Framework: Operational Excellence

*Attachment e.* Phantom Pro Drone Donation: MVCC Foundation to Mohawk Valley Community College

*Attachment f.* 2023-2029 Academic Calendars

*Attachment g.* Jessica Amerosa, Coordinator of Accessibility Resources

*Attachment h.* Amend Staffing Plan: Nathan Edwards, Workforce Navigator

*Attachment i.* Amend Staffing Plan: Danielle Kall-Marrone, Workforce Navigator

*Attachment j.* Amend Staffing Plan: Erin Rooks, Instructor Health Sciences

*Attachment k.* Amend Staffing Plan: Kristen Weiss, Instructor STEM Transfer

#### **Consent Agenda Item 9d Discussion**

The addition of a fifth pillar, Operational Excellence, to the Strategic Framework was discussed

and recommended for approval. To ensure consistency with the phrasing of the other pillars, the action wording for the Operational Excellence pillar will be formally ratified in January.

A motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 9a–9k was made by Trustee Anna D’Ambrosio and seconded by Trustee Frank Dubeck. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### **10. Adjournment**

Motion was made by Trustee William S. Calli and seconded by Trustee Tony Colón to adjourn the meeting at 5:44 p.m. Unanimously approved.