

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Utica and Rome, New York

COLLEGE SENATE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 2 & Tuesday, October 9, 2007, PH 300

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Present: S. Bice, D. Bogan, A. Broski, T. Capraro, C. Domser, A. Doughtie, T. Fournier, K. Hartman, D. Hoffman, D. Katz, J. Maio, A. Marchio, W. Perrotti, R. Pucine, T. Schink, S. Selden, J. Smrtic, R. Spetka, J. Wells-Tsiatsos, D. Willner, and J. Zegarelli.

Excused: D. Boyce, E. Dailey, D. DiGiorgio, S. Engel, R. Feola, R. Jubenville, B. Judycki, S. Senior, R. Stempien, R. Thomas, and R. VanWagoner.

Absent: F. Armstrong, D. Ianno, M. Kohl, A. Salisbury, and N. Lawrence.

Guests: D. McDermott, M. Pearson.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The consent agenda included changes in Senate and Senate Committee membership, the minutes of the September meetings, the Chairperson's report, eight (8) Senate Committee reports, and special reports. W. Perrotti announced that Brian Judycki has agreed to be the College Senate representative to the Strategic Planning Committee. C. Domser moved, and A. Doughtie seconded, to approve Brian's appointment. The motion carried with none opposed and no abstentions. W. Perrotti also announced that the Student Congress President has stepped down, and that a new President would be elected on October 5. T. Capraro pointed out that Jean Wagner's retirement has created a vacancy on the Academic Policies Committee. W. Perrotti will seek a replacement. J. Maio moved, and D. Katz seconded, to approve the items on the consent agenda. The motion carried, with none opposed and no abstentions.

OLD BUSINESS

Senate Bylaws: Vice Presidents: R. Spetka moved, and J. Maio seconded, to change the Vice Presidents from Senators to non-voting guests who will report to the Senate on updates in their departments as needed, effective as soon as the Board approves. The motion carried, with none opposed and no abstentions. W. Perrotti will forward this change to the President for Board approval.

S. Bice moved, and R. Spetka seconded, to make the three (3) seats formerly held by the Vice Presidents into at-large seats, which cannot be held by the President, Vice Presidents, or faculty. The motion carried, with none opposed and no abstentions. W. Perrotti will forward this change to the President for Board approval. It was decided that, after Board approval on October 15, a special election will be held in November to fill these positions, which will be valid until May. These positions will then come up for election via the normal election process in the spring.

S. Bice presented the proposed changes to Appendix I: College Senate Operating Rules. W. Perrotti suggested that, in rule #1, the word “must” be replaced by “should”. S. Bice moved, and J. Wells-Tsiatsos seconded, to accept the revised Appendix I, as amended by W. Perrotti. The motion carried, with none opposed and no abstentions.

College smoking policy: K. Hartman reported that the Safety and Security Committee is working on this.

College Senate-Sponsored Forums: It was agreed that, because there are so many forums already planned concerning the Self-Study, it may not be necessary to have any Senate-Sponsored Forums at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

New Institutional Research Data Request from SUNY: Due to the absence of M. Radlowski this will be postponed until the rollover meeting. However, W. Perrotti indicated that the proposed additional information that SUNY would like to collect from community colleges regarding faculty and students is very intrusive into student records. R. Spetka reported that the registrars objected to this proposal when it was first presented three years ago.

OTHER BUSINESS

K. Hartman asked if the Board has approved the cell phone use policy which the Senate approved of back in May. W. Perrotti replied that he would look into it.

ADJOURNMENT

D. Katz moved, and J. Maio seconded, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned by common consensus at 3:25 p.m.

Tuesday, October 9, PH 300

Present: F. Armstrong, S. Bice, D. Bogan, A. Broski, T. Capraro, D. DiGiorgio, A. Doughtie, S. Engel, R. Feola, T. Fournier, K. Hartman, D. Ianno, R. Jubenville, B. Judycki, D. Katz, M. Kohl, J. Maio, W. Perrotti, M. Radlowski, T. Schink, J. Smrtic, R. Spetka, D. Willner, and R. VanWagoner, President.

Student Senators: N. Lawrence.

Excused: D. Boyce, E. Dailey, C. Domser, A. Marchio, R. Pucine, S. Selden, S. Senior, R. Stempien, R. Thomas, and J. Wells-Tsiatsos.

Absent: D. Hoffman, A. Salisbury, and J. Zegarelli.

Guests: J. Andrek, R. Cantor, S. Frisbee, N. Rosero, and E. Searles.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:38 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Van Wagoner stated that he would like one Vice President to report per Senate meeting. He reported that he met with the Affirmative Action, Staff Development, and Employee Recognition Committees concerning their new charges. He hopes to have a web site up on which information from these committees can be posted. He also met with the Strategic Planning Committee during a two-day mini-retreat; the draft of the work done during those days will be forthcoming. W. Perrotti asked if a change in the College's mission

and vision will be needed. The President replied that a change is not yet needed, but may be down the road. The core staff development classes suggested by the President this summer for all full-time employees, so that all have an understanding of the Self-Study, will likely be implemented in February and March. Facilitators will be carefully chosen. The President sees the Self-Study/accreditation process as a potential morale booster, in that focus will be on the positives from the past and possibilities for the future. President VanWagoner also announced that he is ready to send out a draft charter and call for volunteers for an organization he would like to meet with on a quarterly basis, consisting of the College Senate Chair and representatives from the PA, AMVA, Student Congress, and other organizations. Lastly, the President mentioned his hopes that faculty and staff will come to the inaugural event on Friday, October 26, at 7:30 p.m., for which invitations have been sent out.

Vice President Feola's report: R. Feola stated that the county released bids for the College's landscaping project last week. A pre-bid meeting will be held next week, with the bid opening on Tuesday, October 23. No work will take place until next spring. The county has also allowed the College to purchase a new parking gate for the Payne Hall faculty lot, for which new key cards will need to be issued. He also announced that designing for the new field house will begin in 2008, with funding to begin the project being sought in 2009.

STUDENT CONGRESS REPORT

N. Lawrence reported that Student Congress held a campus-wide barbecue to welcome the President last week. Amber Rudwall was elected the new President of Student Congress. Nominations will be taken on Friday, October 12, for the position of Vice President of Governance. Student Congress meetings are held on Fridays at 1:00, and are open to the campus community.

OLD BUSINESS

2008-09 Academic Calendar: S. Engel explained that currently the College has two 8-week terms, labeled A and B, within the semester, which are mostly used for physical education courses. In order to accommodate students who may transfer after classes start, the College-Wide Calendar Committee is proposing a third, 10-week term, which would begin after Labor Day, in which students could take something such as English or Math to get them started full-time. S. Bice moved, and B. Judycki seconded, to endorse the idea of a creative, shorter-length semester starting after Labor Day within the regular semester. The motion carried, with none opposed and no abstentions. Because the Senate was not provided with the correct version of the Academic Calendar, it could not be voted on and was tabled until next month.

Senate Bylaws: Article 6.2: S. Bice reviewed the reworking of Article 6.2, on Senate Committee charges and compositions. D. Katz moved, and R. Spetka seconded, to approve the revised Article 6.2. The motion carried, with none opposed and no abstentions.

NEW BUSINESS

New Institutional Research Data Request from SUNY: M. Radlowski reviewed the new data that SUNY proposes to collect from community colleges, specifically Section Data Elements #43-55, 62, 63, and 67. These involve names and identification numbers of faculty, their academic ranks, tenure statuses, and highest degrees attained. Question was raised as to the reason for needing this information, as well as for needing student ID numbers and grades. The general feeling of the Senate is that this information is invasive and a violation

of privacy. R. Jubenville said there would be a viewpoint forthcoming from the Faculty Council of Community Colleges.

Self-Study Draft review of College Senate: S. Bice reported that the analysis of the College Senate contained factual errors and was overall an unfair reflection of the Senate. Specific issues of concern to Senator Bice were, under Analysis, in paragraph 3, the statement that faculty is more than sufficiently represented and all other constituent groups are insufficiently represented on the Senate. In fact, membership is currently one third faculty and two thirds other constituencies. In addition, Senator-at-large positions have recently been opened to non-faculty constituencies. If anything, the tendency recently has been to expand membership rather than to limit it. In paragraphs 4 and 5, specific examples should be provided. In paragraph 6, concerning the Spring 2007 Senate election, S. Bice said that the ballot situation did not intentionally exclude anyone. Problems arose because of ambiguously defined compositions in College Senate Committees. In addition, some people seemed to be unsure of what constituency they belonged in, and therefore failed to vote in the correct category. The fact that 52 ballots were cast out of the over 300 mailed is the bigger issue, because it indicates an apathy toward participation.

T. Capraro pointed out that the College was warned not to “sugar-coat” situations and conditions. Senators S. Bice, W. Perrotti, and R. Jubenville were all part of the work group to determine the issues concerning the College Senate for the Self-Study, but stated that what is in the Self-Study does not match their findings. W. Perrotti stated that there should be an acknowledgement of the fact that some of the problems named have been and are currently being addressed. The facts should be accurate and the tone should be dispassionate. M. Radlowski pointed out that this draft was written in the summer, before many of the changes in the Senate had been made. S. Bice recommended that the work group reconvene to reword the analysis so that it accurately reflects the findings of the group. W. Perrotti stated he would contact Norayne Rosero about this.

Cell phone use policy: W. Perrotti reported that the cell phone use policy approved by the Senate in May will be discussed at next week’s Executive Team meeting and then will move on to the Board for approval in November.

ADJOURNMENT

J. Smrtic moved, and S. Bice seconded, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned by common consensus at 4:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the College Senate will be Tuesday, **November 6**, 2007, at **2:30 p.m.** in PH 300.

The next meeting of the Senate Advisory Council will be Monday, October 22, at 3:00 p.m., place TBA.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Hartman
Senator and Recording Secretary