

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Utica and Rome, New York

COLLEGE SENATE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 18, 2010, IT 225

Present: D. Boyce, K. Capuana, L. Charbonneau, M. Chauvin, S. Cummings, D. Elseth, S. Frisbee, E. Hantsch, D. Katz, A. Light, M. McHarris, C. Miller, J. Palmer, M. Parry, C. Plescia, R. Pucine, B. Quist, M. Radlowski, D. Skibitski, J. Smrtic, M. Sorrentino, R. Spetka, D. Thomas, C. Way, J. Yager, and President R. VanWagoner.

Absent/Excused: T. Barber, N. Chrisman, S. Dar, J. DeWeerth, D. Hydellund, D. McDermott, and W. Zogby.

Guests: R. Cantor, T. Capraro, D. DiGiorgio, P. Fox, W. Hysell, J. Maio, N. Rosero, and E. Searles.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

D. Boyce moved, and D. Elseth seconded, to accept the minutes of the May 4, 2010, meeting. The motion carried by common consensus.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

D. Katz welcomed the new Senators Louise Charbonneau, Michael Chauvin, Sandy Cummings, Shahida Dar, Emily Hantsch, Doug Hydellund, Cheryl Plescia, and Mike Sorrentino. He reviewed their role in the Senate and reminded them that their focused attention is needed, since they are models of responsible representation to the student representatives. D. Katz then welcomed Beverly Quist as the new representative to the Faculty Council of Community Colleges (FCCC).

D. Katz attended the May Board of Trustees meeting in Rome, at which the Board agreed to allow the Senate Chair to report to them at each meeting starting in September.

STUDENT CONGRESS REPORT

None.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

R. VanWagoner reported that next year's budget is still being put together. The Board approved a \$50 per FTE increase in tuition. The campus master plan will be brought to a close at the end of June; then it will be taken to the county. R. VanWagoner thanked the Senate in advance for deliberation on future Board policies. Lastly, he urged everyone to sign up for Summer Institute workshops.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

VP D. DiGiorgio announced that the proposed 2010 student activity fee budget was approved by the Board of Trustees. The residence halls are full, with over 300 on the waiting list to get into them. Best Western Motel will house some students again this year, as it did this past year. Considerations are being made for either building a new residence hall or refurbishing the old ones. She also announced that, with the presence this past semester of the Utica Police Department on campus, the incidence of

theft and vandalism seems to have gone down. She concluded by inviting everyone to attend the reception in IT 225 for Dennis Kennelty, who is retiring after 37 years at MVCC.

FCCC REPORT

B. Quist reported that an ad hoc committee on placement testing was being formed.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Senate officers and Senate Advisory Committee: J. Yager nominated D. Katz as Senate Chair; K. Capuana seconded. D. Katz nominated N. Chrisman for Vice Chair; R. Spetka seconded. Both were elected by common consensus. D. Katz then asked for seven volunteers to serve on the Senate Advisory Committee. The seven were: S. Frisbee, D. Boyce, M. Parry, B. Quist, J. Yager, R. Pucine, and M. Radlowski. K. Hartman will remain on as Senate Secretary but not as a Senator.

Underprepared Students Design Team Report: W. Hysell reported that the disconnect between high school learning and what is expected in college is a national concern. The team looked at best practices and drew heavily upon the findings of the National Association for Developmental Education and similar organizations. The team looked specifically at MVCC's developmental math program and at the college's Learning Center, which is used heavily. There should be a seamless transition from high school to college, but high schools focus their teaching on getting answers, not on the process. C. Miller added that she has noticed that her students have trouble solving problems. The team came up with 6 recommendations. 1) Hire a full-time instructor to teach developmental courses in each subject area. Most developmental courses are taught by adjuncts who are not trained in developmental education and who cannot provide office hours. 2) Increase the number of learning communities on campus. Learning communities are groups of students all taking the same classes, where students can connect and study together. 3) Redesign the developmental math course so that it is self-paced but with more structure. 4) Expand and redesign the Learning Center. 5) Establish a professional development program for developmental teaching faculty. 6) Explore developmental summer programs.

Board of Trustees policies: P. Fox presented three Board of Trustees policies for Senate input.

A) *Information Technology policy and procedures*: D. Katz felt that this policy is in too much of a formative state to review in detail in the Senate meeting. He asked Senators to read the policy and give suggested changes to Patty Fox and Paul Katchmar. S. Frisbee commented that the language of the policy pointed out what can't be done as opposed to what can be done. P. Fox stated that currently the college has no IT policy/procedures. J. Yager asked where the final policies will be located. P. Fox replied that they would be posted on the new MVCC web site.

B) *Code of Professional Ethics*: B. Quist felt that it read like a code of conduct rather than a code of ethics, and that it lacked a connection to the college's mission and vision statements. Some of the points therein are legal points. D. Boyce felt that moral ethics and legal ethics should be kept separate. C. Plescia felt that a code of ethics shouldn't cover legal matters. P. Fox stated that there is a difference between moral ethics and fiduciary (legal) ethics, and that work on this policy might be postponed until the fall.

C) *Whistleblower policy*: This is a new policy that the college has never had before. It comes from SUNY. C. Plescia asked where the procedures are. P. Fox pointed out that the last statement in the policy implies the procedures. T. Capraro asked if "whistleblowing" refers to reporting a violation of the code of ethics only. P. Fox replied no, that it refers to all policies and procedures, including legal.

ADJOURNMENT

R. Spetka moved, and R. Thomas seconded, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next Senate meeting will be Tuesday, September 7, 2010, at 2:30 p.m., room TBA.

The next Senate Advisory Committee meeting will be Monday, August 30, 2010, at 3:00 p.m., place TBA.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Hartman
Recording Secretary