

**MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**Utica and Rome, New York**

**COLLEGE SENATE MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, February 1, 2011, IT 225**

**Present:** D. Boyce, K. Capuana, L. Charbonneau, N. Chrisman, S. Cummings, S. Dar, J. DeWeerth, D. Elseth, S. Frisbee, E. Hantsch, D. Hydelund, P. Katchmar, D. Katz, D. Kelly, A. Light, D. McDermott, M. McHarris, C. Miller, J. Palmer, M. Parry, C. Plescia, B. Quist, M. Radlowski, G. Searles, D. Skibitski, M. Sorrentino, R. Spetka, M. Syed, C. Way, J. Wilcox, J. Yager, and President R. VanWagoner.

**Student Senators:** none.

**Absent/excused:** M. Chauvin, E. Griffith, D. Horton, R. Pucine, J. Roberts, J. Shumway, J. Smrtic, M. Vogt, and W. Zogby.

**Guests:** J. Bullis, M. Buttenschon, R. Cantor, R. Decker, A. Doughtie, M. Eannace, P. Fox, L. Kahler, J. Lynch, J. Palmer, M. Reilly, N. Rosero, M. Snyder, and D. Willner.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:31 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

S. Cummings moved, and J. Wilcox seconded, to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2010, meeting. The motion carried with none opposed and no abstentions.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

D. Katz attended the Cabinet meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup>. He brought to the Cabinet the Senate-discussed issues of student access to an outside phone line and professional development education on textbook options. He also told the Cabinet that the Senate would be discussing content control on computers.

D. Katz also attended the Board of Trustees meeting on December 20<sup>th</sup>, at which he updated them on the main Senate action from the December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Board passed the proposal to name the A & P Lab after Sam Drogo, and is awaiting a uniform naming policy before proceeding further. As of December 20<sup>th</sup>, the intercession enrollment was up 6.8% and spring enrollment was up 8.6%. There has been a 46% increase in foot traffic to advising. A need for more off-site outreach into the community to teach classes has been suggested. The Board encourages everyone to give feedback on the new website.

D. Katz also reported on the Board of Trustees retreat with the Senate Advisory Committee, the Cabinet, members of Student Government, and the Strategic Planning Steering Committee on January 11<sup>th</sup>. The group shared information and commented on the 2011-12 priorities of the Strategic Plan, the 2011-12 enrollment analysis, and the 2011-12 budget assumptions. They also discussed bringing these things to the entire Senate for input in September and October 2011 before it is finalized.

D. Katz introduced Munir Syed, who will be replacing Ted Barber on the Senate as the representative from adjunct faculty.

## **STUDENT CONGRESS REPORT**

None.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President R. VanWagoner handed out the Heart of the Hawk Award for teaching excellence to Pattina Kenniston and the Pride of the Hawk Award to Bob Decker.

The President reported that the shuttle bus between the Rome and Utica Campuses is operating four times a day on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and that the students using it are grateful. D. Katz remarked that he has heard less complaining from the students. The President would like feedback from our constituencies as to the parking situation this semester.

President VanWagoner announced that MVCC was a finalist for the Gates Foundation/SUNY Consortium proposal, but we were not selected.

The governor's budget proposes a 10% cut in aid to community colleges. President VanWagoner would like all budget requests completed by March 1.

The Marketing and Communication Office will be mailing out a magazine called *Career Focus* to some 50,000 area households.

The new campus peace officers have had a meeting with the students in the dorms and will have one during March Institute for employees.

## **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Vice President Eannace announced that enrollment is up 4.36% FTE and there is an 83% fill rate. The Heart and Run Walk, on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, will be in honor of Sam Drogo. Work is being finalized on an academic strategic plan, a 3-year plan, and a 5-year plan. VP Eannace thanked Joyce Baumann and Jim Fiore for their communications concerning the pros and cons of SmartBoards. Jim Lynch will work to determine what faculty really need in classrooms; therefore, no more SmartBoards will be installed until after his survey. V.P. Eannace explained the Sunguard error that affected the grades for fall 2010 for as many as 1400 students. Faculty members are working to compare their records with what is stated online to identify students affected. The education center on Elizabeth Street will have a second semester of courses taught there. A cohort of late start students has started taking classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Stanley Theatre and on Wednesdays and Fridays at Utica Public Library. A course in American government is being taught at Trinity Church. A sociology course is being taught at the Cornell Cooperative Extension. Policies developed by the Committee on Academic Policies and Standards will be coming to the Senate for feedback. The placement testing policy will be coming up for revision. The college will be hosting visitors from Vietnam and Ireland this spring, and Larry Migliori is working on a community photo project.

## **FACULTY COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

B. Quist stated that the FCCC is surveying community colleges on academic freedom, transfer within SUNY, and other issues.

## NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Senate Ad Hoc Nominations and Elections Committee: N. Chrisman, Senate Vice Chair, will chair this committee. D. Katz called for volunteers. D. Skubitski, K. Capuana, D. Boyce, M. Syed, S. Frisbee, and M. Sorrentino volunteered to help.
- 2) Auxiliary Service Corporation appointment ratifications: These positions should have been approved by the Senate every fall, but this hasn't been done in years. D. Katz presented a list of the following people to be approved:

Professional	Gary Broadhurst
Professional	Morris Pearson
Professional	Ron LaBuz
Professional	Mary Jane Parry
Professional	Sue Smith
Professional	Patty Fox
Administrative	John Bullis

K. Capuana moved, and C. Plescia seconded, to approve the appointments. The motion carried, with none opposed and 2 abstentions.
- 3) Safety issues and peace officers: Joe Palmer, Director of Campus Safety & Security, was on hand to answer questions. He explained that the Utica Police Department will still be present on the Utica Campus from 8:30 to 12:30 Mondays and Wednesdays plus other times on campus. Joe explained that if you are a police officer you're automatically a peace officer. If you are not a police officer, you need 336 hours of police training to become a peace officer. Question was raised as to what kind of activity is occurring on campus to warrant this upgrade in security personnel. Joe replied that there is some gang activity and alcohol abuse in the dorms, and that drug activity is increasing. The nature of the calls being received is getting more serious. G. Searles pointed out that increasing violence in the community is bound to be reflected on campus. Further, he stated that more security decreases fear, rather than increases. D. Boyce pointed out that she has noticed people on the third floor of Payne Hall that don't belong. Joe responded that unless they create a problem, we can't do anything. P. Katchmar commented that asking for ID cards doesn't prove anything, because MVCC ID cards never expire and therefore are no proof that a person is currently a student. K. Hartman suggested doing as Griffiss AFB used to do—require all outgoing employees to turn in their ID cards and peel the parking stickers off their cars and turn those in as well. J. Bullis said there would be a workshop on peace officers during the March Institute.
- 4) Open Computer Lab: Non-academic versus academic uses is the issue. Students wait for an available computer in the labs while students on the computers are playing games or watching YouTube videos or on Facebook. It was felt that banning Facebook would not be appropriate, as many MVCC faculty, staff, and offices have Facebook pages. Similarly, faculty members are now assigning YouTube videos to their students, so that cannot be banned. Computer Services can put blocks on specific sites. M. Syed proposed that laptops be lent out to needy students via Student Services. G. Searles felt that this is a generational thing, that perhaps laptops should be given out and paid for as part of tuition. B. Quist preferred the idea of timed use of computers as opposed to content policing. J. Palmer commented that some colleges make students reserve time. C. Plescia proposed a dedicated room for people who want to do non-academic activities. J. Yager stated that a designated game room/internet café has been discussed, but space is the issue. J. Bullis recommended creating an Ad Hoc Senate Task Force on this. D. Katz called for volunteers. M. Parry, D. McDermott, J. Wilcox, S. Dar, D. Elseth, and D. Hydellund volunteered. J. Wilcox commented that a student should be on the task force as well.

- 5) Classroom usage and assignment: B. Quist felt that classroom assignments are being poorly aligned with the needs of the instructors. In addition, some rooms can't be taught in due to poor acoustics and other problems. M. Eannace stated that the Scheduling Design Team recommended a software package that will make room assignment easier/better. The Facilities Committee is also discussing it. One room with very bad acoustics will be redone; if it goes well, three more will be done. Instructors need to give feedback! D. Kelly volunteered to collect complaints and comments. M. Eannace recommends that instructors carry chalk, an eraser, and markers with them to classes, as these items are often missing from classrooms no matter how often they are supplied. J. Lynch recommended going the week before to check out your assigned classroom. C. Miller recommended art on these blank white walls. M. Eannace replied that that is coming.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

K. Capuana moved, and R. Spetka seconded, to adjourn. The motion carried by common consensus at 4: 29 p.m.

#### **NEXT MEETINGS**

The next Senate Advisory Committee meeting will be Tuesday, February 22, at 3:30 p.m. in PH 304.  
The next Senate meeting will be **Tuesday, March 1, 2011, at 2:30 p.m.** in **IT 225**.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Hartman  
Recording Secretary