

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

**COLLEGE SENATE MEETING MINUTES**  
Tuesday, April 3, 2012, IT 225

College Senate web page: <http://www.mvcc.edu/senate/senate-home>

**Present:** L. Charbonneau, N. Chrisman, J. Dewan, J. DeWeerth, D. Elseth, S. Frisbee, L. Flynt, E. Hantsch, D. Hyldelund, P. Katchmar, D. Katz, D. Kelly, R. Labuz, A. Light, D. McDermott, M. McHarris, G. Melendez, J. Mihevc, B. Molinaro, M. Parry, R. Pucine, M. Radlowski, G. Searles, J. Smrtic, R. Spetka, C. Way, J. Wilcox, J. Woodrow, W. Zogby, and President R. VanWagoner.

**Student Senators:** J. Coleman, C. Sleys.

**Absent/Excused:** J. Constantine, S. Cummings, S. Dar, D. Horton, L. Kattato, J. Livadas, M. Sorrentino, and J. Yager.

**Guests:** A. Doughtie, M. Eannace, S. Engel, R. Feola, P. Fox, K. Hartman, E. Myatt, J. Myers, D. Nicholls, W. Perrotti, R. Quest, J. Squire, N. Thong, and D. Willner.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m.

**SPECIAL INTRODUCTION**

D. Katz introduced and welcomed visiting Vietnamese professor Mr. Nguyen Van Thong.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

M. Parry moved, and G. Melendez seconded, to approve the minutes with one correction in wording. The motion carried, with none opposed and no abstentions.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

D. Katz reported on Senate activities to the Cabinet on March 13 and to the Board of Trustees on March 19<sup>th</sup>. The Board members reacted with interest to the smoking issue and wanted to discuss it in their April retreat. D. Katz also attended the Faculty Council of Community Colleges Spring Plenary on March 29 and 30 in Syracuse. MVCC is ahead of many other colleges in having a governance structure integrated into the college administration. D. Katz also announced that Senate elections have begun.

**STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT**

J. Coleman announced that there is an intergenerational cleanup coming up at the end of April. He also announced that the Civility Forum would be held on April 24 at 3:00 and invited everyone to attend.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

R. VanWagoner thanked everyone who worked on the Spring Meltdown, which was a great success. He stated that the issue of smoking on campus would be taken up at the Board retreat in April. He and R. Feola plan to attend the Safety and Security Committee meeting just prior to the retreat in order to become fully advised of all aspects of the issue. President VanWagoner also stated that more work will be done on the budget this week, as budget requests are being reviewed.

## **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

R. Feola reported that all the new cameras in the field house have been installed; the Rome campus cameras will then be replaced/updated. IT has updated all the PCs in the open labs. The master clocks for the new clock system have been installed on both campuses. WiFi on campus is being upgraded. New software has been installed to contact students for notification of signing up for classes and other important news. IT along with Cathy Glod and Rosemary Spetka are working on a change of major form. Over the summer new bleachers will be installed in the gym, and repairs to the soccer field will be made. Another parking lot will be created behind the Jorgensen Center. S. Frisbee added that library renovations have been completed, with an open house scheduled for National Library Week (April 9-15).

## **FACULTY COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES REPORT**

R. Labuz reported that a survey of smoking policies on community college campuses resulted in 20 responses, of which 4 indicated that smoking was banned from their campuses. The rest indicated that smoking is restricted to specific areas on campus; about half of those indicated that the restriction was limited to the parking lots. In most cases the impetus for the limitation came from campus governance; in some cases it came from the students.

He also reported that a vote of no confidence in the President was made by the faculty at Nassau Community College; a team chosen to mediate between the President and the college's governing body will include retired MVCC faculty member Bob Jubenville. The FCCC ruled in favor of a Distinguished Librarian Award and an Early Career Award. The latter would be for new faculty members who have served two years but no more than four. The SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher is in favor of shared governance (one governing body for multiple institutions) as a cost-saving measure and performance-based rewarding. A task force will be discussing the \$70 million per year spent on remediation. The high school graduation rate has gone up, but only 41% are college ready. Chancellor Zimpher wants to fix this problem by pouring money into K-12 schools. W. Perrotti commented that many of our students are returning adults, so remediation in K-12 won't affect them. He also stated that one problem in trying to implement changes in the K-12 schools is that parents run interference for their failing students, resulting in an attitude of passing a student to satisfy the parent rather than because the student has a passing grade. G. Searles added that many parents care nothing at all about how their students are doing in school. R. Labuz stated that the Chancellor is in favor of examining the 12<sup>th</sup> year to have courses offered in place of study halls.

R. Labuz stated that Chancellor Zimpher is in favor of "strategic enrollment management," which would eliminate the number of unique programs spread out over multiple campuses and instead offer them in fewer campuses. SUNY is also working on transfer mobility in the belief that all the 4-year schools should seamlessly accept 2-year school credits in the system.

D. Katz added that the SUNY system is the system from which solutions may come for other states to follow. Many other states have systems that are financially broke or that are decentralizing.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Senate elections: N. Chrisman announced that a call for nominations to the Senate and Senate Committees has gone out. You can self-nominate or nominate someone. Norma will contact those who are nominated by someone else to make sure that the nominees agree to run. Online voting starts on April 16<sup>th</sup> and runs through the 27<sup>th</sup>. The results will be announced on the 27<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>.

Pets on campus: The Safety and Security Committee presented its pets on campus policy recommendation. G. Searles suggested one change in wording: "...for any damages incurred caused by their animals..." J. Dewan moved, and D. Elseth seconded, to accept the policy recommendation as amended. The motion carried with none opposed and one abstention.

Ad hoc Textbook Committee: K. Hartman presented the committee's findings and recommended actions. After reviewing the various aspects of the issue that the committee investigated, she stated that the best solution to the problem of textbooks is better marketing of the choices, pros, and cons to both the students and the faculty. The committee is working on a redesign of the bookstore web page that will include more of the information students need to determine whether to purchase new or used textbooks or whether to rent. D. Elseth stated that students would like textbooks to be used for more than one course. Earl Myatt commented that the number one complaint received by the bookstore from students is that the instructor never used the required text. W. Perrotti stated that instructors should not use the textbook as a reference, but should make them read it if they have to purchase it. C. Sleys stated that one professor only uses the problems out of the textbook and not the text itself. Earl Myatt felt that departmental decisions about textbooks are now moving toward individual instructors. Some faculty members order textbooks without knowing how much they cost. D. Katz indicated that the committee was welcome to continue its task of updating the bookstore web page and implementing other marketing solutions, which they would like to have in place by the fall 2012 semester.

Classrooms: M. McHarris from the Facilities Committee presented recommendations regarding classrooms. R. Spetka moved, and E. Hantsch seconded, to accept the recommendations. The motion carried, with none opposed and no abstentions.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Internship Design Team report: Doreen Nicholls and Jennifer Squire gave a PowerPoint presentation summary of their report and recommendations. They recommended a central internship office with a coordinator, perhaps part time, to oversee the process and the recommended accompanying web site. They also recommended an internship fair, an internship orientation for employees, paid internships (which SUNY supports), standardization of hours, both credit and non-credit internships (SUNY gives 1 credit for every 45 contact hours), a standard legal contract with a universal liability contract, internships offered all year around, and college-wide contracts.

Dual credit and EN 101: M. Eannace updated the Senate on the status of the dual credit program and EN 101. She stated that in 2008 MVCC's dual credit program earned national accreditation. In order to take dual credit courses students must have at least a B average and also must be placement tested. The program is doing well. A stipend is available for college instructors who are working with school teachers. Those students who qualify can take MVCC dual credit courses for free. A plan to offer one section of EN 101 at Proctor High School in Utica and one section at Holland Patent High School has been made as a pilot program, but with uncertain budgets this may not happen. G. Searles expressed opposition to dual credit on the basis of the dual credit courses not being the same as regular MVCC college courses. M. Radlowski stated that about one third of dual credit students end up coming to MVCC.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

D. Hyldelund moved, and D. Elseth seconded, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m. by common consensus.

**NEXT MEETINGS**

The next meeting of the College Senate will be **Tuesday, May 1, 2012, at 2:30 p.m. in IT 225.**

The next meeting of the Senate Advisory Committee will be Monday, April 23, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. in PH 391.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista E. Hartman  
Recording Secretary