

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

**COLLEGE SENATE MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, September 4, 2012, IT 225**

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

**Present:** J. Baumann, J. Brown, K. Capuana, L. Charbonneau, N. Chrisman, S. Cummings, S. Dar, J. Dewan, D. Elseth, S. Frisbee, E. Hantsch, J. Hicks, D. Hyldelund, D. Ianno, P. Katchmar, D. Kelly, R. Labuz, A. Light, D. McDermott, G. Melendez, J. Mihevc, B. Molinaro, S. Myalik, W. Perrotti, M. Radlowski, G. Searles, J. Smrtic, M. Sorrentino, R. Spetka, J. Wilcox, and President R. VanWagoner.

**Student Senators:** A. Rudder.

**Absent/Excused:** L. Flynt, J. Livadas, M. McHarris, R. Pucine, C. Pulquerio, C. Sleys, J. Woodrow, J. Yager, and W. Zogby,

**Guests:** D. Bogan, J. Bullis, A. Doughtie, M. Eannace, S. Engel, R. Feola, L. Kahler, J. Myers, M. Pearson, R. Quest, M. Reilly, S. Reynolds, N. Rosero, R. Santos, and T. Schwaner.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:33 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

G. Melendez moved, and R. Spetka seconded, to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2012, meeting. The motion carried by common consensus.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

D. Kelly welcomed and introduced new Senators Joyce Baumann, Jerry Brown, Jody Hicks, and Albert Rudder. He reported that Senate Committee Chairs training was held on Wednesday, August 15. He also met with the Board in August and with the Senate Advisory Committee, and will be attending the Faculty Council of Community Colleges conference at the end of September.

**STUDENT CONGRESS REPORT**

A. Rudder thanked those who supported the Barbecue and Club Day, which were both well attended. He announced that they will be interviewing for the positions of Vice President of Marketing and Promotions and Program Board Director.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The President will meet next week with the Safety and Security Committee concerning the arming of peace officers, in order to obtain their feedback. He would also like feedback from faculty, staff, and students on how the new smoking policy is working out. He stated that SUNY has introduced legislation to ban smoking on all SUNY campuses. He also announced that the Calendar Work Group has proposed a 15-week calendar similar to what we have now and a 14-week calendar. A calendar needs to be in place by November for the next academic year.

## **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

R. Feola announced that three new campus peace officers were hired, and that there has been less trouble with suspicious vehicles on campus. He is wrapping up the 2011-2012 budget and stated that our proposed 2012-2013 budget is currently in Albany now. Two new parking lots have been built—one in Rome and one in Utica. An audit funded by National Grid was completed to upgrade campus lighting. The Airframe & Powerplant building has also been upgraded, and the heating system in the Academic Building will be upgraded. R. Feola also announced that the second shift of maintenance workers would begin at 5:30 and work until 1 a.m.

## **FACULTY COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES (FCCC) REPORT**

R. Labuz announced that the next FCCC conference will be held at Monroe Community College at the end of September, and that he will be attending. The FCCC would like the FCCC alternate delegate from each community college to get involved by serving on a committee. MVCC does not currently have an alternate delegate. Such a delegate would not have to be a Senator and could be a faculty or non-teaching faculty member. This will be a joint appointment by the Senate Chair and the President. The FCCC meets twice a year at various community colleges, usually upstate. The chair of the FCCC is a member of the SUNY Board. Anyone with an interest in this position is encouraged to submit their name to D. Kelly or President VanWagoner.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Employee Recognition Council report on emeritus/a status: J. Bullis reviewed the findings and recommendations on emeritus/a status. G. Searles pointed out the lack of the feminine emerita in the report. S. Engel asked about the status of the idea of emeritus/a and the Hall of Fame. J. Bullis responded that the Council felt that emeritus/a should be the pinnacle of recognition, and that is in line with what the Board wants. The Council recommends the creation of a Distinguished Retiree title to enable all college employees to be eligible for distinction after retirement. R. Labuz felt that full professors and level IV non-teaching professionals should automatically get emeritus/a status. J. Bullis stated that currently one needn't be a full professor, dean, or level IV to get emeritus/a status. Anyone can nominate a retiree (who must be age 55 or older and have worked for the college for 10 or more years) for emeritus/a status. Nominations then go to the nominee's supervisor and on up the chain; at any point the nomination can be nixed. J. Brown suggested that the person's promotion status be part of the consideration, which it currently is not.

S. Frisbee moved to support recommendations 2 and 3, below:

2. The Board of Trustees should charge the College Administration with establishing a list of all positions within the College eligible to receive Emeritus status upon retirement, nomination, and selection.
3. Once this list is established, the Board of Trustees should create a separate honorary title (Distinguished Retiree), with similar criteria to Emeritus, making eligible all other positions for similar recognition upon retirement, nomination, and selection.

R. Labuz seconded. The motion carried with one opposed and no abstentions. The Senators could not support recommendation 1, below:

1. The Board of Trustees should maintain the high standard associated with this program by continuing to exert its proper authority over the Emeritus titling process and setting whatever standards and policies it deems appropriate to uphold the importance and exclusivity of the title(s) it confers on retirees of the College.

President VanWagoner agreed to take this to the Board for a policy/procedure change.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Administration of the CCSSE: M. Radlowski, representing the Enrollment Management Council, asked the Senate's opinion on giving the CCSSE (Community College Survey of Student Engagement) again. It is the only survey that attempts to focus on student engagement. The CCSSE was last given at MVCC in 2009, and funded by SUNY. The Senate later favored an FCCC resolution not to administer the CCSSE because of privacy issues--the organization publishes the results on its web site, and it was felt that the results could be used to compare colleges. M. Radlowski stated that, despite the resolution, a third of the community colleges subsequently administered the survey anyway. R. Labuz added that SUNY guaranteed complete anonymity with the results, but such is not the case; therefore, the FCCC is angrier at SUNY than at the test and the process themselves. G. Searles asked that, even if MVCC did badly, who would care to take the time to look? If we administered the survey, it would provide us with valuable data to help us improve ourselves. S. Frisbee moved, and R. Spetka seconded, to administer the CCSSE. The motion carried, with 27 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention. M. Radlowski added that the survey is administered in the spring, and that it has already been included in his budget for spring 2014.

Civility Design Team Report: M. Pearson and D. Bogan presented the recommendations of the Civility Design Team. D. Bogan reviewed the research and resources that the Design Team used. Four recommendations were made. First, the college should adopt a civility statement, and the Design Team provided one that they had formulated, as follows:

Mohawk Valley Community College is committed to civility in and out of the classroom. MVCC believes everyone has the right to an environment that creates the safe opportunity for educational, professional, and social development. MVCC recognizes its responsibility to model and encourage a culture of civil behavior.

M. Pearson stated that the Board has already approved the civility statement. W. Perrotti moved, and K. Capuana seconded, to approve the civility statement. The motion carried with 28 in favor, none opposed, and 1 abstention.

The second recommendation was for the college to continue to support the Student Civility Club. Third, the Design Team felt that a Civility Committee should be established as a standing Senate Committee, preferably with a budget, and with at least one member of the Student Civility Club as a member. After discussion as to the makeup of the membership, it was felt that both students and faculty/staff must work together on this. W. Perrotti moved, and S. Frisbee seconded, to form a Civility Committee. The motion carried with 28 in favor, none opposed, and 1 abstention. A charter and charge will need to be created for this committee.

The fourth recommendation was for the college to continue to develop programs to educate and assist faculty and staff. M. Pearson stated that the Design Team's report was presented to the Cabinet a month ago.

College Credit Card: W. Perrotti expressed his dismay upon learning that the college has a Walmart credit card. He stated that MVCC is an institution in which we have good benefits and relatively good wages. Walmart, on the other hand, provides poor wages, treats its employees badly, and teaches them to take advantage of social services. Walmart gets tax cuts for establishing itself in communities and end up costing those communities more. W. Perrotti felt that Walmart is anti-union and, as a college, MVCC should not support it. B. Molinaro responded that the Walmart card was established in order to facilitate the purchase of some things. The college also has a Visa and a Mastercard. P. Katchmar asked that, if we don't purchase items at Walmart and pay more for them elsewhere, are we, as stewards of public funds, advocating paying more for

things? S. Engel inquired if the college has a policy on credit cards. S. Cummings stated that Student Congress has a credit card, as do a few other offices on campus. S. Myalik asked if Walmart is aware that MVCC is concerned. B. Molinaro stated that the state would notify the college if there were a problem with Walmart. S. Dar responded that we don't need the state to tell us about Walmart's negative practices. D. Kelly suggested that W. Perrotti and B. Molinaro develop some criteria for credit cards and business in general and present it at the next Senate meeting.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Dean membership in the Senate: D. Kelly stated that this item does not appear on the agenda, and will be addressed in a future meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

J. Wilcox moved, and D. Elseth seconded, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. by common consensus.

#### **NEXT MEETINGS**

The next College Senate meeting will be on **Tuesday, October 2, at 2:30 p.m. in IT 225.**

The next Senate Advisory Committee meeting will be on Monday, September 24, at 3:00 p.m. in PH 391.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Hartman  
Recording Secretary