

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Utica and Rome, New York

COLLEGE SENATE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 7, 2006, PH 300

Present: S. Bice, A. Broski, T. Capraro, N. Caputo, E. Dailey, D. DiGiorgio, R. Feola, A. Glidden, K. Hartman, D. Katz, B. Kurtz, D. Larson, D. McDermott, J. Maio, M. Pearson, W. Perrotti, B. Quist, N. Rutishauser, B. Scantlebury, S. Selden, S. Senior, M. Sewall, G. Slade, R. Spetka, R. Thomas, and J. Zegarelli.

Student Senators: N. Kotary and P. Malinowski.

Excused: G. Donato, W. Hysell, W. Lewis, M. Schafer and R. Stempien.

Absent: J. Farrell and K. Mokry.

Guests: J. Brown, R. Cantor, P. Fox, R. Jubenville, A. Lattuca, R. Patterson, M. Radlowski, N. Rosero, and D. Willner.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Dan Larson moved, and Nelissa Rutishauser seconded, to approved the minutes of the December 6, 2005, meeting. The motion carried by common consensus.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Bice:

- attended Executive Committee meetings;
- attended the November, December, and January meetings of the Board of Trustees;
- met with the Senate Advisory Committee;
- forwarded to SUNY Administration and to President Schafer the revised Strengthened Campus-Based Assessment resolution passed by the College Senate in December;
- forwarded to the Vice President for Instruction the three proposals (transfer credit, dual credit, and change of major) submitted by the Academic Policy Committee and approved by the College Senate in December;
- held the first meeting of the Promotion Review Task Force on Tuesday, November 29th;
- facilitated the Senate-Sponsored Open Forum on Distance and Online Learning on November 15th;
- reported that as of December 5, \$520.00 has been collected for the Faculty and Staff Memorial Fund drive, and noted that she will be sending out thank you notices shortly;
- invited Claudia Hartz to today's meeting to continue the discussion on dual credit; unfortunately, Claudia is no longer with CCED, so this discussion has been tabled until a later date;
- attended the Legislative Reception on February 1st, which was well attended. The questions some of the legislators raised about the future directions of MVCC were impressive. A bit of trivia picked up: 80% or more of full-time faculty on all the SUNY campuses is over 50 years old!
- dialogued with President Schafer on SUNY IT, the budget, the status of the Presidential search, and mission review.

Dick Thomas moved, and Dave Katz seconded, to approve the Chairperson's report. The motion carried by common consensus.

REPORT BY PRESIDENT SCHAFFER OR DESIGNEE

Eileen Dailey presented President Schaffer's report.

SUNY IT collaboration: So far not many task forces have been able to come up with ways to collaborate in order to cut costs. The student services thinks that mutual programming could be done, and some suggestions for collaboration have been made on the part of distance learning.

College Senate resolution on Strengthened Campus-Based Assessment: President Schaffer reports that MVCC has been heard.

Impact of the Executive Budget on the College: It looks promising. \$100/full-time student has been put into the budget. Aid for technology is being urged.

Mission Review's on-site visit: The College has received no word from them as a follow-up to their visit. The impression is that it was a positive outcome.

Presidential search: The search will begin in March. The Board of Trustees has selected Mr. Yaghy as their representative on the Board Committee to determine how the search process will commence. He will act as chair. Sue Bice added that the President says the Board is aware of the faculty's desire to be involved in the search.

Sue Bice summarized the confidential draft by the Association of Presidents of Public Community Colleges of a statement which basically supports the College Senate's resolution on Strengthened Campus-Based Assessment.

REPORT BY STUDENT CONGRESS

Nikki Kotary reported that there is a focus on recruitment and retainment in the clubs, of which there are now almost 50 on campus but whose membership is suffering a bit of a decline. Since the Student Congress budget has remained the same for the past 10 to 15 years, the increase in the number of clubs means each club will receive less money. Student Congress is looking for ways to deal with this. Nikki also reported that Student Congress passed a resolution stating that students from SUNY IT are welcome at MVCC events, and events are advertised on both campuses. Fall programming is being planned now.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There are no committee reports at this time, though about half of the Senate Committees have sent in their fall reports.

OLD BUSINESS

Promotion Review Task Force: Sue Bice reported that they have divided up into three subgroups: faculty (chaired by Mildred Treis), AMVA (chaired by Celia Domser), and non-teaching faculty (chaired by Rose Patterson). Last Friday was the deadline for their preliminary reports. Each subgroup is recommending documentation supporting denials on the Presidential and Vice-Presidential levels. Finals reports from these subgroups should be available in March.

College Senate-Sponsored Open Forum on Distance & Online Learning: Sue Bice reported that this forum was not as well attended as had been hoped, although several students were present. The Senate Advisory Committee has endorsed more open forums on this topic in the future with the director of distance learning.

General Education Committee proposal on Strengthened Campus-Based Assessment: Mark Radlowski summarized the history of SUNY's assessment process. First SUNY devised a standardized test, but this was given up on. Next they tried value-added assessment, which was nixed by the MVCC Senate and other College Senates. Now they are trying Strengthened Campus-Based Assessment. Currently the College is on a three-year cycle of assessing ten areas, including the three covered by Strengthened Campus-Based Assessment (math, writing, and critical thinking). For critical thinking and writing MVCC is currently using its own rubrics. SUNY is asking us to choose one of four ways to assess math, writing, and critical thinking: 1) a standardized test, 2) our own test, 3) rubrics devised by a panel of SUNY experts, or 4) our own rubrics. The General Education Committee recommends that MVCC adopt the rubrics devised by the SUNY experts, because they are better than ours. (Our humanities faculty find the SUNY rubric for writing to be excellent, and we will have to change our math rubric anyway because next year the state will be changing the outcomes for math.) Question was raised as to whether this assessment can also be used for Middle States. Dr. Larson responded that Middle States says that MVCC can do assessment however it wants to. Dr. Larson felt that we should adopt the SUNY experts' rubrics for the sake of Middle States. Tom Capraro moved, and Rosemary Spetka seconded, to pass the recommendation by the General Education Committee to adopt the rubrics created by the panel of SUNY experts. The motion carried with 16 in favor, 6 opposed, and 4 abstentions. Dr. Larson will take this decision to SUNY with our comments.

Continuing Appointments Committee: Norayne Rosero reported that the Committee would like a task force to be formed to develop a set of written criteria for evaluating continuing appointments. Bill Perrotti moved, and Eileen Dailey seconded, that a task force be established to develop these criteria for both continuing and career appointments. The motion carried with 23 in favor, none opposed, and 2 abstentions. As no Senators volunteered to serve on this task force, Sue Bice will put out a call for volunteers.

NEW BUSINESS

Academic Calendar proposals for 2006-2007 and 2007-2008: Angelo Lattuca presented the College-Wide Calendar Committee's proposal to change the date of faculty return in Fall 2006 to Monday, August 21, and the date of the beginning of instruction that semester to Monday, August 28. This change will allow the easier scheduling of labs. A comment was made that the final exam period was getting increasingly shorter. Rosemary Spetka pointed out that the closer to Labor Day that the academic year begins, the more the final exam time has to be squeezed. Sue Bice said that the Executive Committee would not endorse any changes to the 2006-2007 calendar because dates have already been advertised and sent out for printing in College publications. Bob Jubenville said that the College administration asked the Committee to look into this last change last fall. Bill Perrotti moved, and Dick Thomas seconded, to accept the proposed changes. The motion carried, with 10 in favor, 8 opposed, and 4 abstentions.

Angelo then presented the proposed calendar for 2007-2008. Dr. Larson felt that faculty should return on January 8th, 2008, and instruction should begin on January 15, 2008. Bill Perrotti said that the real problem is the 15+1 schedule that MVCC is on, as opposed to the 14+1 or 15+0 schedule that all the other colleges are on. Our students get out later than students from other colleges and therefore are left out of summer jobs. Eileen Dailey felt that President Schafer would consider a different calendar. Mike Sewall proposed that a special Senate meeting, hearing, or open forum be scheduled to discuss it. Bill Perrotti

moved, and Dr. Larson seconded, that the decision on the 2007-2008 calendar be tabled until the regular March Senate meeting. The motion carried, with none opposed and no abstentions. Denise DiGiorgio advised that the College-Wide Calendar Committee should make an alternate 14+1 calendar to be available for comparative reference at the special hearing/open forum.

College Senate meetings open to the public: Sue Bice presented a communication from President Schafer about a legal decision made in New York State concerning making College Senate meetings (and, therefore, by extension, College Senate Committee meetings) open to the public. This legal decision does not impact us at this time, but may be adopted by SUNY in the future. It would mean that all College Senate and Senate Committee meetings would have to conform to the open public law. President Schafer requested the Senate's feeling on this matter. Rosemary Spetka moved, and Gloria Slade seconded, to table this matter until the March meeting to give Senators time to get input from their departments. The motion carried with none opposed and no abstentions.

OTHER BUSINESS

It was suggested that the tables in the Board Room should be arranged in future so that all the Senators can sit around the table, instead of some of them having to sit in the back of the room. Sue Bice said she would look into this or into using a different room in the IT building.

ADJOURNMENT

Gloria Slade moved, and Dawson McDermott seconded, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned by common consensus at 4:32 p.m.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the College Senate will be Tuesday, March 7, 2006, at 2:30 p.m., place TBA.

The next meeting of the Senate Advisory Committee will be Wednesday, February 22, at 2:00, place TBA.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista E. Hartman
Senator and Recording Secretary