

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Utica and Rome, New York

COLLEGE SENATE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 4, 2005, PH 300

Present: S. Bice, A. Broski, T. Capraro, E. Dailey, D. DiGiorgio, G. Donato, R. Feola, K. Hartman, D. Katz, B. Kurtz, D. Larson, D. McDermott, M. Person, W. Perrotti, B. Quist, N. Rutishauser, B. Scantlebury, M. Schafer, S. Senior, M. Sewall, G. Slade, R. Spetka, R. Stempien, and R. Thomas.

Student Senators: J. Farrell, N. Kotary, and P. Malinowski.

Excused: N. Caputo, W. Hysell, W. Lewis, J. Maio, S. Selden and J. Zegarelli.

Absent: A. Glidden and K. Mokry.

Guests: S. Frisbee, M. Radlowski, N. Rosero and E. Searles.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Dan Larson moved, and Paul Malinowski seconded, to accept the minutes of the September 6, 2005, meeting. The motion carried by common consensus.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Bice:

- met with the Executive Committee;
- attended the Board of Trustees meeting;
- met with the Senate Advisory Committee;
- received 25 volunteers to serve on the Promotions Review Task Force, and recommended that all who volunteered be appointed (Mike Sewall moved to approve, and Barbara Scantlebury seconded; motion carried with none opposed and no abstentions);
- reported that the changes to the Bylaws were approved at the September 19 Board of Trustees meeting;
- reported that the College Senate public folder has been divided into 3 subfolders: College Senate Minutes, Other Documents, and Safety and Security Committee;
- announced that all committee appointments have been made with the exception of students
- put out a call for Open Forum topics, and received several from students (those not appropriate Forum topics were forwarded to Nikki Kotary, Student Congress President);
- proposed that the next Senate-Sponsored Open Forum topic be on distance/online environment (including issues of copyright, academic freedom, direction of the college); Beverly Quist moved, and David Katz seconded, to accept this topic. The motion carried with none opposed and no abstentions.

Sue also sent out an allusers email regarding donations to the Memorial. She has had requests to publicize the names of those who are to be memorialized, of which Jerry Brown has confirmed seven, but cannot do so until the Senate approves. A question was raised with regards to including someone who retired because she knew she was terminally ill—should that person be included, as she was not employed by the college at the time of her death? Dave Katz felt that she should because it was in the spirit of what the Senate is trying to do. The Senate approved by common consensus. Sue also said she had a request

to establish an honor roll for people who used to be employed by the college and who died after leaving. After discussion, the common consensus was that there was no need for an honor roll.

Dick Thomas moved, and Bill Perrotti seconded, to accept the Chairperson's report. The motion carried with none opposed and no abstentions.

REPORT OF PRESIDENT SCHAFER OR DESIGNEE

President Schafer reminded the Senate that if there are topics the faculty or staff would like him to address they should email either Chairperson Bice, one of the Senate Advisory Committee members, or himself.

President Schafer reported that the Senate has been allocated \$500.00 from the operating budget and that Chairperson Bice has been given a budget code. Because this money comes from the operating budget, it should be used for business expenses, such as business lunches, and not for refreshments at the Open Forums.

President Schafer reported that, after meeting with SUNY IT representatives, it was decided that a closer working relationship would be pursued, and not a merger of the two institutions. SUNY IT is encouraged to provide new junior- and senior-level programs that our students can transfer to, especially in the areas of criminal justice, secondary education, human services, graphic design, and general liberal arts. A series of task forces will be established to explore ways to combine administrative efforts.

President Schafer also reported that the Board of Trustees will now resume its search for a new College President, and that a new chairperson for the Strategic Planning Committee is being sought, as John Rosicky has left the college. Since there has been some question as to the Committee's effectiveness, and given their past difficulty in getting a quorum, the Committee may end up being restructured.

REPORT BY STUDENT CONGRESS

Nikki Kotary, President, reported that

- only 18 people have signed up for the Blood Drive on October 5; they need 53.
- Chrono Ho Ka Man has been hired as the Student Congress web specialist.
- President Schafer, Denise DiGiorgio, and Executive Committee members have been invited to a Student Congress meeting on Tuesday, October 11.
- a concert to benefit the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita will be held at MVCC on Friday, November 11, and is sponsored by MVCC, Utica College, SUNY IT, and Munson-Williams-Proctor Art Institute.
- students are preparing to attend a conference in Plattsburgh on student assessment and the academic bill of rights (not popular among students).
- student trustee nominations will be called at the October 24 Student Congress meeting. Student Congress meetings are held at 3:30 in the distance learning lab on the second Tuesday and fourth Monday in each month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The spring 2004 Traffic Committee report was presented by Chairperson Bice. Dick Thomas moved, and Nelissa Rutishauser seconded, to accept the report. The motion carried with none opposed and no abstentions.

OLD BUSINESS

International Initiatives Committee: Chairperson Bice reported that the ballot for elections to this Committee has been completed and will be distributed shortly.

NEW BUSINESS

General Education Committee concerning Strengthened Campus-Based Assessment: Mark Radlowski reported that SUNY is requiring all campuses, as of Fall 2006, to administer assessment tests in the areas of writing, critical thinking, and math, for those enrolled in General Education courses. The college can choose one of four different ways: 1) to adopt SUNY-developed rubrics; 2) to develop our own rubrics; 3) to administer a national standardized test; or 4) to develop our own standardized test. The General Education Committee recommends adopting the SUNY-developed rubrics. The general consensus of the Senate was that there is too much assessment, and that it begins to encroach on academic freedom because standardizing curriculum means less freedom to teach. Bill Perrotti moved to table this issue and Dick Thomas seconded and volunteered to draft a resolution from the Senate to be given to President Schafer to be presented at the next SUNY Presidents meeting. David Katz and Bill Perrotti offered to help draft the resolution. The motion carried with 19 in favor, 2 opposed, and no abstentions.

Synchronized clocks: Bill Perrotti suggested that a single time standard be adopted by the College instead of having many clocks on campus reading different times. President Schafer replied that a coordinated clock system hardwired together has been looked into, but the cost is about \$200,000 to install. Radio-controlled clocks set by a signal from Wyoming did not work because the radio signal will not penetrate the structure of our buildings. President Schafer said he will look into it further.

ADJOURNMENT

Dick Thomas moved, and Dawson McDermott seconded, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned by common consensus at 4:15 p.m.

The next Senate meeting will be: Tuesday, **November 1, at 2:30 p.m.** in PH 300.
The next Senate Advisory Committee meeting will be: Friday, October 21, at 10 a.m. in PH 391.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista E. Hartman
Recording Secretary and Senator