

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Utica and Rome, New York

COLLEGE SENATE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 23, 2006, PH 300

Present: S. Bice, A. Broski, T. Capraro, E. Dailey, D. DiGiorgio, C. Domser, G. Donato, A. Doughtie, R. Feola, A. Glidden, K. Hartman, D. Katz, B. Kurtz, D. Larson, J. Maio, D. McDermott, M. Pearson, W. Perrotti, B. Quist, N. Rutishauser, M. Schafer, S. Senior, M. Sewall, G. Slade, R. Spetka, R. Stempien, R. Thomas, and D. Willner.

Excused: D. Boyce and J. Zegarelli.

Absent: T. Haroon and S. Selden.

Guests: G. Aylesworth, J. Brown, C. Busic-Snyder, R. Cantor, D. Caruso, M. Czarnecki, F. Elias, S. Frisbee, C. Harrington, R. Jubenville, J. Kimball, K. Lynip, M. Radlowski, N. Rosero, E. Searles, and S. Zohne.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:36 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Bill Perrotti moved, and Beverly Quist seconded, to approve the minutes with one minor amendment. The motion carried by common consensus.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Bice:

- attended the Executive Committee meeting and retreat;
- attended the May meeting of the Board of Trustees;
- met with the Senate Advisory Committee;
- contacted the following newly elected Senators, whom she welcomed to the Senate: Tanweer Haroon (Engineering, Computer & Physical Sciences), Alison Doughtie (Humanities), Deborah Boyce (Business & Information Technology), Celia Domser (Department Head), Don Willner (Department Head), and Dawson McDermott (VP for Instruction's Office);
- completed follow-up items from the April & May 2nd Senate meetings;
- consulted with Maria Ramos regarding +/- grading, with David Katz concerning Emeritus Status, with Beverly Quist regarding Distinguished Faculty Rank, with Christine Miller regarding Continuing Appointments, and with Celia Domser regarding the Promotions Review Task Force, and invited Frank Elias from CCED to discuss Gatlin Education with the Senate;
- continued to notify those who were elected to Senate Committees;
- sent thank you notes to those Senators whose terms had expired;
- prepared the meeting dates and listing of new College Senators;
- thanked the College Senators for affording her the opportunity to serve as the Chairperson for the past 5 ½ to 6 years, during which time she strove to remain neutral and act as facilitator, and, as a member of the Executive Committee, tried to ensure that the faculty's perspective was not overlooked.

REPORT BY PRESIDENT SCHAFER OR DESIGNEE

President Schafer commented that this year's commencement was exceptional, and that the speaker was one of the best the College has had. Mike Sewall interjected that the college also recently received \$118,000 for high-cost, high-needs programs such as allied health, nursing, business information technology, and engineering technology.

REPORT BY STUDENT CONGRESS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Promotion Review Task Force: Celia Domser reported that she asked the chairs of the three subcommittees to consider changing the timeline so that the whole review process would be finished by April instead of before the March Board of Trustees meetings. The three chairs replied that they would like to leave the timeline as it is and revisit it at some point in the future. Celia also reported that the academic promotion application has been changed to parallel the evaluation application. After brief discussion, Bill Perrotti moved to accept the application as modified to this point with a view to continuing modification. Nelissa Rutishauser seconded, and the motion carried, with none opposed and no abstentions.

Continuing Appointments Task Force: Sue Bice announced that the committee has met a second time and have completed their task, but have no final report formulated at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Emeritus Status: Dave Katz presented a revised criteria #8 to the Emeritus Status recommendations presented at the May 2, 2006, Senate meeting. Richard Thomas moved, and Don Willner seconded, to accept the revised #8, and the rest of the Emeritus Status draft. The motion carried with one opposed and no abstentions.

Distinguished Faculty Rank: Beverly Quist reported that the committee has received more information from SUNY and are continuing to work on it.

Election of Classified Staff to Senate: Sue Bice announced that, due to classified staff being overlooked on the Senate ballot, a special call for classified staff nominations will be put forth and a consequent special election will be held to fill the two needed positions on the Senate.

Dual Credit: Tabled (on hold).

NEW BUSINESS

Academic Policy Committee proposal on +/- grading: Maria Ramos presented the results of a study the Committee conducted in which they proposed three different systems of grading (current system, +/- grading, and plus only grading) to 12 academic departments. Five departments voted for the current system; four favored the +/- grading system; two preferred the plus only grading system, and one department was divided between the current system and +/- grading. After discussion, Richard Thomas moved to keep the current grading system. Bill Perrotti seconded. The motion carried, with three against and one abstention.

CCED Certificate Programs: Frank Elias was invited to explain how the Gatlin Education Services and Education to Go certificate programs worked. Frank explained that the College's contract with Education to Go started about five years ago, and with Gatlin about six months ago. Education to Go provides stand-alone courses. Gatlin provides non-credit online courses that lead to a certificate not approved by SUNY or reviewed and approved by the MVCC College-Wide Curriculum Committee. It is hoped that the Gatlin courses will serve as leaders into MVCC courses. It is also hoped that monitoring interest in Gatlin certificate programs will give MVCC an idea as to what non-credit courses need to be created by the College to lead into credit courses, and it is further hoped that these courses will be created by the time the Gatlin contract expires (18 months). Frank reported that in New York State 80% of SUNY Colleges offer Education to Go and 20% (including SUNY IT) offer Gatlin. Rosemary Spetka expressed concern that, because the certificates of completion that students receive for Gatlin courses look so similar to credit certificates MVCC offers, this may lead to confusion among students. Cynthia Busic-Snyder pointed out that some students may try to gain employment using a Gatlin certificate from MVCC, and get into trouble with employers when it is discovered that the certificates are non-credit. This could hurt the College's reputation and possibly result in a lawsuit by the former student. Cynthia also raised some other points and concerns. Gatlin courses are not necessarily taught by people with appropriate credentials, and some seem to be using outdated practices. If non-credit leader courses are being developed at MVCC, the Distance Learning Committee has not been consulted about them, and no one from CCED is currently a member of the Teaching and Learning Cooperative, although invitations to join have been issued. Anyone logging into the Gatlin web page from the MVCC web site would get the impression that the courses were endorsed by MVCC. The Gatlin pages need to be clearly marked as being non-credit and not endorsed by MVCC, and a link from those courses to the credit MVCC courses should be created. After other discussion, Denise DiGiorgio suggested that a task force or committee be created for resolving these issues. Chairperson Bice asked Dr. Larson to put a committee together.

Committee Operating Procedures: Tabled due to the lateness of the hour.

Election of College Senate Officers: Bill Perrotti was nominated as Chair. The motion carried with one opposed and one abstention. Nelissa Rutishauser was nominated as Vice Chair. The motion carried with none opposed and one abstention.

Election of College Senate Advisory Board: Sue Bice, Krista Hartman, and Beverly Quist were nominated as Senate Advisory Board members. The motion carried with none opposed and four abstentions.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairperson Bice distributed handouts on the College Senate meeting dates for the 2006-2007 academic year and on the new College Senators. These will also be included in the College Senate public folder.

ADJOURNMENT

Mike Sewall moved, and Gideon Donato seconded, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned by common consensus at 4:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next College Senate meeting will be **Tuesday, September 5, 2006**, at **2:30** p.m. in PH300.

The next College Senate Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 22, at 2:00 p.m., place TBA.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista E. Hartman
Senator and Recording Secretary